

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 14, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

“Due to the Corona-COVID19 crisis, the public was not allowed to attend this meeting. The meeting was conducted by phone and was also broadcast live on Face Book: Lee County Government.

Roll call of Councilmembers present: Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Charles Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member.

Others present were Alan Watkins, County Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Paul Fata, Dwayne Huggins.

FOIA

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, all individuals requesting notifications were so notified.

OPEN MEETING AND INVOCATION

Chairman Windham opened the meeting and thanked the Council for their participation in this meeting and thanked the public for following the meeting on Facebook. Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

Mr. Watkins said that the agenda should be revised to include 7A Administrator’s Report. Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the agenda with the revision. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2020 AND CALLED MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2020

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the minutes from regular meeting of June 9, 2020 and called meeting of June 23, 2020. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON FIRST READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. SALE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

Mr. Watkins said this was a tract of land of 1.55 acres of county property being pursued by a retail company for a commercial purpose. He said the County is in the process of finalizing the sale of the property. Mr. Watkins said there will be a public hearing at second reading, which will be the August meeting and also said more detailed pertinent information such as purchase price will be given at that time.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the sale of County property for first reading. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

B. EASEMENT FOR CITY OF BISHOPVILLE SEWER LINE ON COUNTY PROPERTY ADJACENT TO LEVY PARK

Mr. Watkins said that Council received a letter detailing the information about a sewer line coming down Lee Street noting they had experienced issues and had requested an easement which would allow them to take sewer into Levy Park. Mr. Watkins said this would greatly assist the City, creating additional sewer capacity. He said the easement would be for 30 feet, which would give them a buffer for trees. Mr. Watkins said the fence line that separates the Levy Park from the City Nursery property the County purchased is the line the sewer easement will follow.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the easement for City of Bishopville Sewer Line on County Property adjacent to Levy Park. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham said that Council will have two more readings and a public hearing.

APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF ORDINANCE 5-20 COVID19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Mr. Watkins said the County did this in March, and this allows the Administrator to make decisions to better protect the citizens and employees. He said the Ordinance is only good for 60 days at a time.

Page 3, Lee County Council Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2020

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the extension of Ordinance 5-20 COVID19 State of Emergency. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote and motion carried. All voted in favor.

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING LEE COUNTY RESIDENTS TO WEAR FACE MASKS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID19

Mr. Watkins said that he met with a number of county administrators about this matter. He also said the City has a mandatory face mask requirement within the city limits and surrounding cities have done the same. He said that none of the primarily rural counties in our region have done a mandatory face mask requirement. Mr. Watkins said that counties have done a resolution, however, to strongly encourage people to wear face masks, especially while shopping in retail stores or gas stations.

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the resolution encouraging Lee County residents to wear face masks. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that as of yesterday, July 13, 2020, there were 344 cases from DHEC with 32 deaths. He said that he has been asked about why the number of cases have been different. He said that DHEC told us that some cases may be assigned to the wrong county, based on zip code.

As far as operational level, the courthouse is open. He said that if you can handle your business over the phone, you are encouraged to do that. He said that temperatures are taken at the back door. He also said the Magistrate Court is open. Mr. Watkins said that Parks and Rec facilities are not open. Mr. Watkins also said that Veterans Affairs Office is only open by appointment only. He said that library is closed to the public but is providing curbside service.

Mr. Watkins said the number of people being tested have increased and the positivity rates have increased. He said that people need to practice safety guidelines.

He said there is an upcoming testing site on July 24 at New Zion AME Church. Mr. Watkins said that Care South is continuing to do drive through testing.

Mr. Watkins said that site pad development was continuing to be done at I-20 Industrial Park. He said the County received an additional grant for additional improvements to the park in the amount of \$1.5 million.

He said that the census response rate for Lee County is at 49.8% and the state response rate was 56.3%. He said that the County obtained a grant to promote the census in Lee County. He said a TV commercial was done with local pastors, mayors and other local representatives.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON A PROPERTY MATTER

Council entered Executive Session at 9:57 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilperson Caughman.

Chairman Windham said the face book portion will be turned off and then cut back on when Council gets out of Executive Session.

Executive Session was closed at 10:07 a.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Caughman, seconded by Councilman Beasley. No votes were taken and a property matter was discussed.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED

