

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023. 9:30 A.M.
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Keel Addison, member; Charles A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Paul Fata, County Attorney, Michael Davis. Others present were Mattie Mack, Andre Laws, Nathaniel Best, Carrie Gass

FOIA

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

OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Windham called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Councilman Addison seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 11, 2023

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the minutes as mailed. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Councilperson Josey said she had one correction relating to the recognition of Ms. Liu Pu. She said the minutes stated that she was recognized but did not state that she was recognized with a proclamation.

Vice-Chairman Eckley amended his motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON THIRD READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

- A. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR CLOSING ON SALE OF PROPERTY TO HOGSLAT THAT AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY

Mr. Watkins said the County authorized the sale of the property a year ago and now we are authorizing the closing of the sale of the property. He said the County is selling 1.47 acres of land adjacent to the James Park in the amount of \$40,000 to Hog Slat.

Chairman Windham said this will help with the tax base for the county and the school.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the ordinance for third and final reading. Councilman Addison seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

AWARD OF BID FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT EMS HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Watkins said work has been taking place at the EMS facility and the County was going to replace the roof, also. He said this work was being done with the proceeds from a reimbursement under a USDA grant. We were able to be reimbursed for the amount of the roof in the amount of \$236,000. Gardner Roofing was awarded the bid.

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve the bid from Gardner Roofing in the amount of \$236,000. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF JACKIE JOSEY TO THE SANTEE WATEREE RTA BOARD

Chairman Windham thanked Councilperson Josey for her willingness to serve on this board for a four-year term.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the appointment of Jackie Josey to serve on the Santee Wateree RTA Board. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

Councilperson Josey had no report.

B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL

Councilman Beasley had no report.

C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY

Vice-Chairman Eckley said the Link was working with three prospects.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilperson Caughman had no report.

E. RECREATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Councilman Addison had no report.

F. WAYS AND MEANS

Councilman Fountain said the Department Heads were working in their new budgets now.

G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said he was planning to meet with Planning, Taxes & Personnel Committee to start working on Comprehensive Plan and work with committee on recreation.

Mr. Watkins said he hopes to finish EMS soon and have a ribbon cutting. He said this was an intense project with lots of subcontractors but were putting furnishings in now.

He said the tennis court are coming along. He said the asphalt has been poured, the electric has been roughed in, and the fencing will start next week.

Mr. Watkins said the Coroner's Office is doing an addition to give additional room for coolers to provide additional capacity.

He said the lights are on at Exit 116 and the sidewalks are in. He said the County is working with DOT to get on a regular schedule as far as the maintenance of the sidewalks.

Mr. Watkins said that he attended an SCAC conference and said he received good information.

Mr. Watkins said there has been three broadband training sessions where the state is training people in the community to show how broadband works. He said there are currently approximately 5,000 people who do not have broadband access and said that by next year, there will only be approximately 2,000 that will not have access to broadband. He also said there is a program that will pay \$30 towards an internet bill if certain criteria are met.

Mr. Watkins also said the Lucknow Fire Station was fully operational now and the dedication was held on July 20. He also commented that the fire station that will be located on Swimming Pen Road is in the process and we are waiting on attorneys to close on land transaction.

He also attended the Clemson Extension Annual Board Meeting and said it was a very informative meeting and said they have a number of programs they provide.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carrie Gass asked about the name of Hog Slat and wanted to know if it was a person's name. Mr. Watkins said that it was the company's name.

She said that she knew that the city had been tearing down abandoned houses, and she said that there was a house on Church Street that had been torn down and the debris had been left.

Mr. Watkins responded that the city was partnering with Santee Lynches to tear down about 25 houses. He said the original contractor had to be terminated and they had to rebid the job. He said they should see better results.

Ms. Gass also said that the new dentist in town only take Medicaid and that still leaves a lot of people without dentistry.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER

The Council entered Executive Session at 9:58 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Beasley. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fountain, seconded by Councilperson Josey. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Addison, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED