

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member.

Others present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk To Council; Dwayne Huggins

FOIA

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

OPEN MEETING AND INVOCATION

Chairman Windham welcomed everyone and thanked the Council as well as the people watching on Facebook. Vice-Chairman Eckley gave the invocation.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

The agenda was approved as mailed on a motion made by Councilperson Josey, seconded by Councilman Beasley. Chairman Windham called for the vote and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 11, 2020

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2020. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION ON FIRST READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE RADIOS FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Watkins said there was a memo of explanation in the packets regarding the purchase of the radios. He said that he met with Sheriff Simon and got prices on the radios. He said that the current radios use the PAL 800 System which uses relay towers to allow us to communicate. He said these radios were purchased in 1995-1996. Mr. Watkins said that the County upgraded Fire and EMS radios a few years ago. Mr. Watkins said that the County has been informed that Motorola will no longer service those radios after December, 2020. He said the County met with Motorola and determined that the radios can be purchased on state contract. The purchase price for 30 radios is approximately \$3,000 each plus taxes and other charges for a total of \$97,599.00. These would be purchased through a lease purchase for 3 years. He said the County currently has money in Sheriff's budget and these funds would pay the first year's lease proposal, in where there would be no local operating money and balance would be paid with bond proceeds.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve lease purchase agreement to purchase radios for Sheriff's Office. Councilperson Josey 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. SALE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

Mr. Watkins said this is a 1.55 acre parcel that the county is selling that is adjacent to the James Industrial Park. He said the lot measures 225 ft x 300 ft. Mr. Watkins said the sales price is \$30,000 per acre, which would be a total of \$46,500 total.

Hog Slat, a producer of parts for hog and poultry production is purchasing this parcel from the County. He said that this company produces \$1.3 million in retail sales at the existing location. Mr. Watkins said this company hopes to be in operation by January, 2021. He said this business will be 100% retail and will create a few jobs but will bring in tax revenues.

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve for third and final reading. Vice-Chairman Eckley 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 he was contacted by City of Bishopville about doing a major upgrade of sewer lines and increasing the sewer capacity. He said that as part of the sewer line and upgrade, the City is asking for an easement along the fence line that separated City Nursery and Levy Park. He said the City will remove trees on property line.

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Councilperson Caughman made the motion. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

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

Mr. Watkins said this ordinance was enacted in March and said this State of Emergency ordinance gives the Administrator to make decisions if we need to alter county operations or rotate employees and schedules, etc.

He said there is a 60 day limit and our current Ordinance will expire on September 15. He said this Ordinance will extend for another 60 day term.

Mr. Watkins said the numbers are getting better. He said we may see some additional spread with the flu season coming in. He said that he is currently making decisions with Council and Chairman. The Ordinance will expire on November 15, 2020.

Councilperson Josey 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.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that last month we had 113 more cases, with a total of 679 cases, and 39 deaths. He said the rolling 14 day numbers have dropped to 60 and the County has seen an improvement, which is a result of wearing masks and social distancing.

Mr. Watkins said that visitors coming in the courthouse have to get their temperature checked and wear a face mask, as with the Magistrate Court.

He reported that Parks and Rec are not doing any rentals and not registering youth activities. He said that VA Office are taking appointments. The library is reopening today from 10-3 p.m. with a limited number of people.

Mr. Watkins said that pop-up COVID19 testing will be available each week in September. The scheduled is as follows:

September 9 – CareSouthSeptember 16 – Lee County ChamberSeptember 23 – Care South.....September 30 – Lee County Chamber

He also noted that anyone can go to CareSouth for drive-up testing Monday – Friday.

Mr. Watkins said that on August 29, Major James Capers was honored with a bronze relief on Main Street. He said that Capers was a highly decorated marine, who was born in Lee County.

Mr. Watkins said that census self response should finish up in September. Lee County is currently at 51.8%. He said that anyone call go online or call 844-330-2020. He said the County has the potential to receive \$1500 per person in per capita funding, which equals \$15,000 over 10 year period per person.

Chairman Windham said that effective August 20, the guidelines for tire disposal have changed that would allow a county resident to take up to 5 tires per day to four manned sites, which are Airport Road, Bradley Road, Springhill and Lynchburg on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He also noted that Airport and Bradley Road will accept TVs.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED