

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, 9:30 A.M.  
MAIN COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE**

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Keel Addison, member; Charles A. Beasley, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator ; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Paul Fata. Others present were Milton Wilson, Carrie Gass, Andre Laws, Nathaniel Best, Mattie Mack, Gee Whetsel.

**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 Councilman Beasley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA**

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Councilperson Caughman 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 AUGUST 8, 2023**

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilperson Caughman seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF FIRST READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE**

**A. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DUKE ENERGY FOR INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING FOR THE ON AND OFF RAMPS AT EXIT 116**

Mr. Watkins said this is the second phase of the effort to enhance the 116 Exit. He said that we recently completed the TAP grant that was awarded by SCDOT to install sidewalks and lighting, and Mr. Watkins said this was done with state and federal funds.

Mr. Watkins said this second phase will be like Camden, Exit 98 in which they have installed lighting on exits.

He said that the County will be working with Duke Energy and SCDOT to install lighting. They are looking at accommodations and hospitality taxes and utilizing those proceeds. He said there will be 27 light fixtures on the on and off ramp, and the County will pay approximately \$800 a month. He said the County is working between Duke and SCDOT for permitting but that will take some time. Mr. Watkins said this will be attractive to I-20 Industrial Park for economic development.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the lease agreement with Duke Energy for installation of lighting for the on and off ramps at Exit 116. Councilperson Josey seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

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

**APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Mr. Watkins said this is an annual document that the County approves, and the terms have not changed. He said that youth aged 17 and under cannot be housed with adult inmates. Department of Juvenile Justice houses youthful offenders at a rate of \$50 per day.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Department of Juvenile Justice. Councilman Beasley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE**

Councilperson Josey said that she attended a ground breaking at Pee Dee Math & Science on August 11.

**B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL**

No meetings.

**C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY**

No meetings. Vice-Chairman Eckley not here.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY**

No meetings.

**E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No meetings.

**F. WAYS AND MEANS**

No meetings.

**G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Watkins updated Council on the EMS project and said that sleeping quarters and accommodations, etc. had been updated and the final inspection would be in the next couple of weeks.

He also reported that the Coroner's Office was getting an addition to expand the cooler capacity and said this project was near completion.

Mr. Watkins also reported that the wildlife perimeter fence at the airport was 70% complete.

He also updated Council on the Railroad Depot, which is joint project with the City, and said that renovations are underway. He said that asbestos had to be removed and said that project would hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Watkins said that EFP, which is the new industry located in the old Ahlstrom building, are starting to hire. They are now hiring top management and hope to be operational by December. They will be hiring for 53 jobs.

He also said that the spec building has had a couple of prospects.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Douglas Mixon, of SC Department of Mental Health, was present soliciting funds for Lee County to support the effort of mental health and said they need a larger building and ask if Council would consider helping them.

Carrie Gass said that Dennis Community Center is now on the historical register.

Mattie Mack asked about the 53 jobs that EFP will be hiring for and asked if these jobs had been advertised and how do people from Lee County get hired.

Mr. Watkins responded that the advertisements for the jobs are handled through their website.

Mr. Nathaniel Best applauded Council for their efforts to encourage growth in Lee County and said he would to see lighting at Exit 120 also.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Council entered Executive Session at 9:53 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

Council came out of Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Addison. No votes were taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Addison, seconded by Councilman Beasley.

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CHAIRMAN

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

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MINUTES APPROVED