

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
FAMILY COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE**

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; Charles A. Beasley, member; Alexander Boyd, member; Jackie Josey, member; Johnette Caughman, member; Ron Fountain, member. Staff present were Alan Watkins, Administrator; Julie Stokes, Assistant Administrator/Clerk to Council; Teresa Brown, Michael Davis, Leroy Durant, Daniel Simon, Tim Clavon. Others present were Molly Fortune, Ora McNeil, Nathaniel Best, Carrie Gass, Mattie Mack and husband, Gloria Lewis, Delores Wright and other members of Election Commission.

FOIA

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

OPEN MEETING, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGENDA

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the agenda 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 MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2022

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the minutes as mailed. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUES TO LEROY DURANT AND TIM CLAVON

Chairman Windham presented Leroy Durant and Tim Clavon with retirement plaques and thanked them for their service.

PRESENTATION MADE BY MOLLY FORTUNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICAN REVOLUTION SESTERCENTENNTIAL COMMISSION.

Ms. Fortune made a presentation and made Council aware of establishing a Lee County 250 Committee, which focuses on important events, people, and places during the Revolutionary Era within Lee County to promote, observe and celebrate Lee County's role in the American Revolution by educating, engaging, and inspiring South Carolinians and visitors.

Chairman Windham thanked her for coming and sharing information with Council.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FORMATION OF THE LEE COUNTY 250 COMMITTEE

Vice-Chairman Eckley read the Resolution approving the formation of Lee County 250 Committee and put it in the form of a motion. Councilman Boyd seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

MATTIE MACK , OF LEE COUNTY NAACP, WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION ON HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES

Ms. Mack said she had a grant through United Way that would help people with rental assistance and wanted to get the word out.

She also said that DHEC had some funding to promote health in the community. She said she was inquiring about an old house in the Cedar Creek area and was asking for assistance in obtaining it. She thanked Council for their support.

Mr. Mack said that he was from North Carolina and thought that walking trails could be very therapeutic and could attract people to Lee County.

Chairman Windham thanked her for the presentation.

RENEWAL OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEE COUNTY AND DJJ FOR FY 22-23

Mr. Watkins said the County renews this agreement with DJJ and said this is where any youthful offenders are housed. He said the rate is \$50 per day and is very rare that any County youth offenders are sent there.

Councilman Boyd made the motion to approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement between Lee County and DJJ. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

Councilperson Josey said that she and Mr. Watkins attended ribbon cutting at Lee State Park.

B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL

Councilman Beasley said that he nothing to report.

C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that a new door had been installed at the back door of the courthouse that would help with security.

He also reported that work had been started at the City/County Complex. He said that painting has been finished and now flooring is getting ready to be installed.

Vice-Chairman Eckley said that the remodeling has begun at EMS.

D. PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilperson Caughman had nothing to report.

E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Councilman Boyd said that he had nothing to report. He did thank Sheriff and two retirees for their work and wished them well in their retirement.

F. WAYS AND MEANS

Councilman Fountain had no meetings and nothing to report.

G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that some of the bigger projects are happening right now. He said that the playground equipment should be installed in about 3-4 weeks. He said that he attended the ribbon cutting at Lee State Park and said they have great walking trails and people can now kayak.

Mr. Watkins also said that he attended the Transportation Coalition meeting and said they are working on strategic plans. He also said participated in a webinar on September 1 with the SC Southeast Crescent Commission, which is a federal effort to address poverty in the Southeast, including Lee County. He said that resources over the next five years should be infrastructure, workforce, healthcare and housing, and other resources to help community.

Mr. Watkins also said that FTC and Charter Communications are both applying for broadband services and extensions for fiber optic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheriff Simon said that Lee County is a pilot County regarding a mental health program in which the State will be involved in the care and transport of mental health patients who are suffering mental health crises through a third party, as opposed to law enforcement.

Sheriff Simon said he also visited the past Sheriff Odell Corbett and said that Mr. Corbett was on hospice and not doing good.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m. on a motion made by Vice-Chairman Eckley, seconded by Councilman Boyd.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVED