

**LEE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2020  
MAIN COURT ROOM – SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE**

Members present were Travis Windham, Chairman; Gordon Eckley, Vice-Chairman; 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, Tim DuBose

**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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Eckley 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. Vice-Chairman Eckley 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 OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Councilperson Josey said that she had a correction on the minutes that were mailed out. The correction was actually under Administrator's Report in the general discussion about the request to remove the statute in her comments under Health, Education and Welfare Committee report. The minutes stated "Councilperson Josey said that the Confederacy is part of history and caused harm and killed people of color. She said she respectfully thinks the statue be removed and understands the 2/3 vote involved by Council." Mr. Watkins said that the 2/3 of the General Assembly is required to move forward with removing statute.

The correction to the minutes should read: "She understands the restrictions of the Heritage Act on Council action regarding statute."

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020 with the correction. Councilperson Josey seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

## **REQUEST FOR MOTION ON SECOND READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE**

### **A. LEASE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR EMS**

Mr. Watkins said this equipment was cardiac monitors for the ambulances. He said these would allow the EMTs to perform EKGs on patients and have the reading transmitted to the hospital prior to their arrival. He said the County currently has three and they are getting three more so that every ambulance will have one.

Mr. Watkins said there will be two payment of \$11,000 each and bond will pay balance.

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

### **B. PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR E911 DISPATCH**

Mr. Watkins said this is a software that will assist the dispatchers with asking questions to the people who call 911. He said this software will prompt the same questions to each dispatcher and will capture information in real time. Mr. Watkins said the county gets E911 funds, and this equipment will be paid for from the E911 Reserve, and the state will reimburse 85% of the cost. The net cost of the program after reimbursement is \$11,000.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve for second reading. Vice-Chairman Eckley 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. LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE RADIOS FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. Watkins said that the Sheriff's Office is purchasing 30 new radios to replace current radios that were purchased in 1995 because as of December, Motorola will no longer service the current radios.

Mr. Watkins said that the County had funding on hand through the sale of equipment, which would make the first of three equal payments. He said the 2022 bond will pay off the balance. He said the cost of the radios would average \$3,000, and with other fees, would total approximately \$97,000.

Vice-Chairman Eckley made the motion to approve for third and final reading. Councilperson Caughman 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 allows the Administrator, along with the Chairman, to make decisions for the Courthouse and employees in regards to COVID19. This extension would be good for 60 more days.

Chairman Windham said that the County has seen an increase in cases recently.

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the extension of Ordinance 5-20 COVID19 State of Emergency. Councilman Beasley 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 did not have a report.

##### **B. PLANNING, TAXES & PERSONNEL**

Councilman Beasley did not have a report.

##### **C. BUILDINGS, LAND & PROPERTY**

Vice-Chairman Eckley said the County continues to work on site ready pads and said they are currently working on third pad. He said the Health Department is offering drive-through COVID testing 5 days a week.

##### **D. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilperson Caughman did not have a report.

Tim DuBose thanked Council for approving the equipment for EMS. He said they received the new ambulance and hopefully it will be in service soon. He said they were waiting on DHEC for final inspection. He said that Lee County received a grant to initiate "community paramedicine, which will educate the community and this will enable EMS to drop patients off at CareSouth and Dr. Pate's office for non-emergent cases.

##### **E. RECREATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Mr. Addison was not present. Mr. Watkins said the Parks and Rec were still not renting facilities out right now and were not doing basketball.

Mr. Watkins said the County could lose \$15,000 in PARD funding if we do not use by May 31, 2021. He said that he recommended to the Delegation that we add to the project to help use

the funds. He said that he has not received permission from the delegation, so the County may have to amend the application.

Mr. Watkins said that the laws have changed in the legislature that there is no time limit on using PARD funds, so the County will not have to worry about the danger of losing funds due to time restraints in the future.

**F. WAYS AND MEANS**

Councilman Fountain had no report.

**G. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Watkins said that he wanted to recognize the Voter Registration Election Commission. He said that 70% of registered voters participated in the election. 8,509 ballots out 12,016 registered voters cast ballots. Lee County was the first county to have all of the results reported to the State. Our Elections Director, Stan Barnhill, was not able to work the week before the election due to having COVID. Mr. Watkins said that he wanted to recognize the staff and poll workers for their hard work and for a very smooth election.

Mr. Watkins said that a Stormwater Committee was formed at the last meeting. He said they have met two more times and are making great progress. He said they are identifying problems areas and said that DOT has addressed several small problems.

Mr. Watkins said the County will be closing out the first capital penny on 4/30/21. He said the collection of the renewed penny will begin 5/1/21 and address the 11 projects that were voted on. The total sales tax in Lee County will not change.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Vice-Chairman Eckley.

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CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
CLERK TO COUNCIL	MINUTES APPROVED

