

LEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020
LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

“Due to the Corona-COVID19 Emergency, 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.

Other members 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

Councilman Fountain made the motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Councilman Beasley 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 NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Councilperson Josey 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.

REQUEST FOR MOTION ON THIRD READING APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE

A. LEASE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR EMS

Mr. Watkins said that Tim DuBose gave a presentation for the second reading and briefed Council. He said this will provide three additional life packs for a total of 6, and these will be placed on all ambulances. Mr. Watkins said these devices will allow EMS to perform EKGs to patients in transit and send the information to the hospital prior to their arrival. Mr. Watkins said the cost for these devices was \$76,959, and two payments of \$11,000 will be made with restricted funds and the balance will be paid by the bond.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the lease purchase of equipment for EMS for third and final reading. Councilman Beasley 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 that E911 was purchasing software that will prompt a series of questions that acts as a script for the dispatchers to ask each caller. The information they provide will be captured in real time and help provide better assistance to the caller.

The purchase price of this equipment is \$57,454, and the county is utilizing state money, which is generated on every phone bill. Mr. Watkins said this money can only be used on upgrades on E911, and 85% of this money is reimburseable. The final cost for this equipment is \$11,496.

Councilperson Caughman said she was excited, and she thought this would make things much safer.

Councilperson Caughman made the motion to approve the purchase of equipment for E911 Dispatch for third and final reading. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

APPROVAL TO INSTALL FENCING AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE LEE COUNTY AIRPORT

Mr. Watkins said the county receives \$150,000 per year for airport improvements. He said the money was suspended because the airport did not have 10 aircraft based there. Mr. Watkins said the County currently has 10 aircraft based there and the funds are available again. Mr. Watkins said there is a list of improvements that have been approved, and the next one is the wild life containment fence.

Mr. Watkins said the initial estimate was \$26,000 for engineering and bidding of project. He said the FAA would pay \$23,400 and the state and the county would each pay \$1300. Mr. Watkins said the county's portion would be paid for with hospitality funds. He said the budget for this project was \$500,000.

Councilman Beasley made the motion to approve the installation of fence around the perimeter of the Lee County Airport. Councilman Fountain seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Chairman Windham commented that this will not include the access to the Animal Shelter but will tie in to Public Works but will not block entrances.

Mr. Watkins said the pilots will have to have access to get in hanger.

APPOINTMENT OF MATT HICKS TO THE LEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilperson Josey made the motion to approve the appointment of Matt Hicks to the Lee County Planning Commission. Vice-Chairman Eckley seconded the motion. Chairman Windham called for the vote, and motion carried. All voted in favor.

Councilperson Josey thanked Mr. Hicks for accepting this position.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins said that as of yesterday, December 8, 2020, there were 852 cases with 46 deaths since March. He said that the County has seen an uptick in cases. He encouraged everyone to be diligent and wear masks, limit gatherings, and wash hands. He said all county offices are open except library. He said there was a positive case in the library.

He said that temperature checks and masks are mandatory in county buildings. Mr. Watkins said that testing is available every Tuesday at Chappell Gym and said this is a saliva test, with results within 48-72 hours. He said that testing is also available at DHEC Monday through Friday and CareSouth Monday through Friday. He said that you can be tested, regardless if you have symptoms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. COUNCIL WILL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION ON A PROPERTY MATTER

Council entered Executive Session at 2:20 p.m. on a motion made by Councilperson Josey and seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Council came out of Executive Session at 2:35 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilman Fountain. No votes were taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Beasley, seconded by Councilperson Josey.

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

MINUTES APPROVE