

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL "SPECIAL CALL" MEETING

**R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex
1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC
Thursday, April 9th, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Shane Stuart, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Pete Wilson, Councilman Alex Oliphant, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Mike Vaughn, County Attorney Joanie Winters and Clerk to Council Karen Lee.

1. Call to Order-Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order.

2. New Business

a. Discuss EMS Operations Going Forward Under the Coronavirus Crisis. -Chairman Stuart

Britt Lineberger, EMS Director, stated with MUSC closing to new patients would require EMS to transport them out of the County to Lancaster or York County Hospitals. He stated fifty seven percent of transports went to MUSC, moving them to other hospitals would double the time. It takes thirty minutes to transport to MUSC but transporting to other counties could be up to two or three hours. He asked Council if they would amend his budget so he could hire twelve certified temporary part time employees and unfreeze the EMS operations officer position temporarily that is currently on his organization chart.

Treasurer Tommy Darby stated a cap of \$250,000 dollars could be added, he estimated for twelve certified temporary part time people over a three-month period was around \$110,000.00 dollars including around \$12,500 for the temporary EMS operation officer position for one quarter. Chairman Stuart motioned to amend the EMS budget for \$250,000 dollars from the general fund for the next three months to include twelve certified part time positions and the operation officer when needed and bring the salaries up to the standard because of the COVID-19 emergency, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

b. Discuss Budget Impact Going Forward Under the Coronavirus Crisis. -Councilman Jordan

Treasurer Tommy Darby stated currently there was a lot of uncertainties but looking three months ahead he thought the current revenue could be short by \$750,000 dollars. He did not see a lot of additional expenditures; the discussion would be what is slimmed down or cut back. He was concerned about next year, and stated the County would need to make some tough decisions how to proceed since this would be a big impact. A notice was sent out to all departments to freeze all spending through the rest of the fiscal year except for emergency services, suspended hiring for any vacant positions but wouldn't affect emergency services such as the sheriff's, detention center or 911 departments.

Councilman Jordan asked Mr. Darby if he would give projections of savings for steps that has been taken at next month's Council meeting and look at options for scaling back expenditures with the least disruption of services to the public. He indicated if permitted Council could hold a budget workshop before the actual Council meeting to discuss what options would be best in scaling back.

3. Adjourn- Councilman Jordan motioned to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

K. Shane Stuart, County Supervisor & Chairman

Karen Lee, Clerk to Council

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chester News & Reporter, The Herald in Rock Hill, SC, WSOC-TV, Channel 9 Eyewitness News, the Mfg. Housing Institute of SC, WRHI Radio Station, C&N2 News, WCNC News and Capitol Consultants were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Chester County Government Building 24 hours prior to the meeting.