

City Hall  
Council Chambers  
August 11, 2020

The special called meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 11:45 A.M.

Mayor Phil Best called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Gerald Smith, Curtis Edwards, Paul Griggs, Chris Smith, and Jerry Davis were present. Councilman Bennie Jones gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Dr. Thomas Craft, Health Director for the South Central Health District, opened the meeting by providing council an update in data for COVID-19 cases. For the District there were 2,747 positive cases with 72 deaths. In Laurens County there have been 988 positive cases of COVID-19 with 15 deaths, 5 of which were on Monday, August 10, 2020. Dr. Craft also spoke about the rapid spread in the local nursing homes as well as the community spread.

Fairview Park Hospital CEO, Don Avery thanked Dr. Craft and his team for working very closely with the rapid increase of COVID-19. Mr. Avery gave a report of Fairview Park Hospital as of Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The hospital has treated 202 patients with COVID-19, 65% of the admissions were in July and 47 employees have contracted COVID-19 and 16 of those remain out of work. Currently 47 patients are being treated with COVID-19 and 12 of those patients are on a ventilator at this time. All COVID patients are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, CCU, ICU, and a few in the ER. The hospital currently has 17 ventilators and all 17 ventilators are being used. Mr. Avery advised council that this is a public health issue and it has to be taken serious.

Bill Laird, Chief of Laurens County Emergency Management Agency also spoke with council about working closely with Fairview Park Hospital as well as the Department of Public Health. He commended the health care workers- they are tired and over worked, but continue to do a great job.

Councilman Davis questioned the data that was posted on the DPH webpage referring to the nursing home facilities. Why are there such a difference in the numbers reporting?

Councilman Brown also added that it would be beneficial to know how many beds are in each nursing home, to have a better understanding of the data.

Dr. Craft explained to council how rapidly the spread of COVID 19 can happen in places like a nursing home facility due to the large number of residents.

Councilman Davis asked how was the testing being completed in these facilities? Also how are the residents getting COVID 19 if no one is allowed in the nursing home?

Dr. Craft stated that there are a hand full of residents in each facility that are required to leave the facility to received medical treatment, such as dialysis or other serious conditions. There is not a 100% preventative right now for COVID 19, however each facility is following the protocol. Health care workers