



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEB. 5, 2018
MINUTES**

Officials Present: Chairman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman Henry Etheridge, Councilwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

Officials Absent: Vice Chairman Theodus Drayton

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney David Tedder, Planning Director Lisa Wagner, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Project Coordinator Gwen Cooler

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified. During periods of discussion and/or presentations minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased.

5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson opened the Workshop to discuss the Jasper County Community Relations Council. Ms. Ligon explained that the board had dwindled down for various reasons to 2 members. Ms. Ligon said in the past they met on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and that Ms. Williams had secured office space and a phone line. Ms. Ligon requested that the Council appoint members and she provided the Council with a copy of a new book that instructs you how to organize and start the Council and how to run the organization. Councilwoman Clark provided 3 names for prospective members – Henry Criss, Joyce Gerald and Martha Davis. Chairman Johnson said he wanted to have a vibrant Council or none at all. Ms. Ligon said she would also like to organize a youth council. Ms. Ligon said a new person in her office would also help with Jasper County.

Executive Session

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to go into executive session for the discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by a public body – Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – Prospect Update, Jasper Ocean Terminal and discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary

situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – Section 30-4-70(a)(2) – Butterfly Kingdom property, Library System Services, Palmetto Electric Cooperative Utility Tax Credit (UTC) Project, Opioid Litigation. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Councilman Sauls gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to remove items A and B in Section 12 from the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – Deferred

LCOG Staff - Public Hearing - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Needs Assessments to Solicit Public Input on Community Needs and Priorities for Housing, Public facilities, and Economic Development

Jessica Dailey explained why a needs assessment is done and she provided a slide presentation regarding the fair housing law. Ms. Dailey reviewed the plans and grants that were available. Chairman Johnson opened the public hearing. John Kemp said that he served on the Election Board and he did a survey of ADA compliance at the various voting location. Mr. Kemp said he felt the County should apply for funding and that he felt it would be a good project. Chairman Johnson told Mr. Kemp to address it to Ms. Dailey. Mr. Kemp said that he has been told to go to the Council, go to the Administrator and that is what he has been doing. Mr. Kemp said he came to the meeting because there is a need in Jasper County and he wanted them to tell him what to do. Mr. Fulghum said there is a process and the public hearing is part of the process to get information from the public. Mr. Fulghum said the funding depends on the project and if the project qualifies. Councilman Sauls said that there are two sites for new fire stations and he felt that to be a great need. Ms. Dailey said that as long as there were no administrative offices in the fire stations they would qualify for funding. Being no further comments, Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing.

Presentations and Proclamations

Presentation by Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA)

Mr. John Fleming provided the Council with an update and said that within the region 173 projects were worked and 52 are active in Jasper County. Mr. Fleming provided information as to where they have traveled to market the County. Mr. Fleming said one of the problems in Jasper County is the load restrictions on some of the bridges. Mr. Fleming said they opened an office in Hampton County. Mr. Fleming said they have been doing internal and external marketing and prospects from Canada and India have visited the area.

Open Floor to the Public

Per ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes

John Kemp said he looked at the budget and there was \$1,200,000 that went into the general fund that could be used and he suggested to start a program with the employees and have a payback. Mr. Kemp said there was \$25,000,000 in the checking account and the finances needed to be looked at. Mr. Kemp asked about the \$120,000 for attorney fees and said that they needed to quit saying there is no money. Mr. Kemp discussed the amount of money collected from Sun City and also the taxes collected on vehicles.

Mr. Lovey Singleton asked about heirs property and they have been trying to get an access road to the property. Mr. Singleton said that CSX removed the road without notifying the property owners and the road is needed to access the property. Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Fulghum to look into it. Mr. Fulghum said he had a file on it and Mr. Fulghum asked Mr. Singleton to meet with him.

Mr. Mungen said he was present to discuss the same matter. Mr. Fulghum asked to meet with him as well.

Brad Samuel said he was present as a SCE&G employee and SCANA is in favor of the merger and support the information provided by Dominion. Mr. Samuel said the merger should help the shareholders and result in lower rates for the consumers. Mr. Samuel said the headquarters will remain in Columbia. Mr. Samuel said the shareholders would have to have a ¾ vote to approve and there are no other deals out there.

Being no further comments, Chairman Johnson closed the floor to the public.

Resolutions

David Tedder - Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement among Jasper County, City of Hardeeville and South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank on Design and Related Work for New Exit 3 Interchange for Interstate 95 in City of Hardeeville, Jasper County, South Carolina

Mr. Tedder said the agreement was several years behind and the City of Hardeeville requested an extension until 2021. Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement among Jasper County, City of Hardeeville and South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank on Design and Related Work for New Exit 3 Interchange for Interstate 95 in City of Hardeeville, Jasper County, South Carolina. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ordinance

Lisa Wagner – Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, Article 12:1, Off Street Parking , so as to change Table 12-1, Minimum Parking Requirements for Sector 53113—Mini-Warehouses

Ms. Wagner explained the reason for the change and the Planning Commission has reviewed the changes and recommends approval. Chairman Johnson opened the floor to the public. There were no comments. Chairman Johnson closed the floor to the public. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, Article 12:1, Off Street Parking , so as to change Table 12-1, Minimum Parking Requirements for Sector 53113—Mini-Warehouses. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

David Tedder – 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing and Approving (1) the diminishing of the boundaries of an existing multi-county industrial/business park (RiverPort) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, to remove from certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Waste Management of Georgia, Inc, a company previously identified as Project LEE, one or more affiliates, and/or other Project Sponsors; (2) development of a new Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Beaufort County (the “Park”), such Park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in Jasper County and to include the aforementioned property; (3) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Beaufort County as to the requirement of payments of Fee in Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes with respect to Park Property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (4) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Jasper County; and (5) other matters related thereto – This item was removed from the agenda.

Chairman Johnson – 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to establish, pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (the “Park”), in conjunction with Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Beaufort County, Colleton County, and Hampton County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement by Jasper County with Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Beaufort County, Colleton County, and Hampton County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the Park among taxing entities having jurisdiction over the Park; to provide for a Fee In Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxation; and other matters related thereto – Chairman Johnson explained that the Business Park would include all the members of the Alliance to share in the revenue and expenses of the park and it will give regional momentum. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to establish, pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (the “Park”), in conjunction with Allendale County,

Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Beaufort County, Colleton County, and Hampton County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement by Jasper County with Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Beaufort County, Colleton County, and Hampton County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the Park among taxing entities having jurisdiction over the Park; to provide for a Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and other matters related thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Andrew Fulghum – Reappointment of Councilman Sauls to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that Councilman Sauls be reappointed to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance Board of Directors. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council Members' Comments – **Councilwoman Clark** reported that she attended the Joint Meeting, SCA Meeting, Port Meeting, and the School Board Meeting. Councilwoman Clark said the scores in the school district have shown a slight improvement. **Councilman Sauls** reported that he attended a 2 day planning session with SCA and there were a few delegation members there. Councilman Sauls said the Port, the Ocean Terminal were discussed as well as several projects that would qualify for grants including new fire stations. **Councilman Etheridge** reported that he attended the School Board Meeting and the State of the Schools and there has been some improvement in the schools, but they are not still not where they should be. Councilman Etheridge said he also attended the SCA and that SCA is doing a tremendous job for Jasper County and the jobless rate in Jasper County is 3.4 %. **Chairman Johnson** reported that he attended an LCOG Meeting and reported that Possum Corner Road affects people from several parts of the County and that LCOG was working on it and that LCOG has done a good job addressing regional issues. Chairman Johnson said he met with the Jasper County Foundation and attended the Joint Meeting. Chairman Johnson said that he received several phone calls regard solar farms and adapting the sites to something more positive. Chairman Johnson said that solar farms were more environmentally friendly than turf farms and he felt very optimistic regarding the solar farm.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum said the new YMCA in Hardeeville wanted a representative from the Jasper County Council. Councilman Sauls nominated Councilwoman Clark to be the Council's representative. It was the consensus of the Council that the YMCA representative for the Jasper County Council would be Councilwoman Clark.

Adjourn

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

D. J. Johnson
Chairman

***Council may take action on any item appearing on the agenda
Including items discussed in executive session.**

Special Accommodations Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities