



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney
Government Building, 358 Third Ave.
Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936
November 19, 2018
MINUTES**

Officials Present: **Officials Present:** Chairman D. Thomas Johnson, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV, Councilman Henry Etheridge and Councilman Greg Altizer

Call to Order: Chairman Johnson called the meeting to Order at 5:00 P.M.

Executive Session: Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconds the Motion to move into Executive Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

SECTION 30-4-70. Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruption of meeting; executive sessions of General Assembly.

(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related 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) – Fire Protection, JARM, Tax Collections, Election Protest

(5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body -- Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT)

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconds the Motion to move Return to Open Session in Council Chambers. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

The Meeting Returns to Open Session in Council Chambers at approximately 6:40 P.M.

No motions being brought forward out of Executive Session Chairman Johnson returns to the Agenda.

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Attorney David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess, Fire Chief Frank Edwards, Director of Parks and Recreation Johnnie Davis, Director of the Detention Center Arthur Benjamin, Director of Public Works Dale Terry and Bonnie Lawson, Coordinator of Planning and Zoning/Acting Clerk to Council

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Clark.

Invocation given by Councilman Altizer

Approval of Agenda

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes for May 21, 2018; July 23, 2018; August 20, 2018 and November 5, 2018

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the minutes with changes to correct possible scrivener's errors. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Presentations and Proclamations

Susan Duplessis and Amber Westbrook from the South Carolina Arts Commission extends greetings from the Executive Director as well. Ms. Duplessis is excited to be back in Jasper. She first came here after meeting Mr. Fulghum and they later had conversations about the role arts and culture can play in the Community, such as improving the workforce development, economic development, health and safety. He invited her in 2015 to a Heritage Day Symposium held in Jasper County. Since that time, they have formed "The Art of Community: Rural SC" an Initiative of the South Carolina Arts Commission with the support from the USDA Rural Development, Mr. Fulghum, your Administrator, Mr. Davis, the Head of Jasper Parks and Recreation and six other counties in South Carolina. She explained in detail the Initiative and provided a booklet to Council Members and the Clerk to Council. She applauded Mr. Davis for pulling together a team that looked at how literacy affects the community. The USDA funded an initiative through the leadership of Mr. Davis who developed an approach to use of arts and cultural to amplify issues surrounding literacy, that was Phase One of the Project. Tonight, we are here to present a check for \$12,500 to Mr. Davis and his team for the Second Phase of the Project that will relate to reading and illiteracy of our citizens and children and look to develop strategic partners who are also interested in this work, bringing the community together in ways that it has not come together before, like using community centers in ways that have not been done before to benefit people of those communities. She extends a special thank you to the Morris Center a fiscal agent of the SC Arts Commission, and the team members working strategically with Mr. Davis and congratulates this team, and the County.

Chairman Johnson Opens the Floor to the Public. No one comes forward so he returns to the Agenda.

Resolutions None

Ordinances

Attorney Tedder presents Third Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 080-00-03-109 from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

No questions being brought forward.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the Third Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 080-00-03-109 from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Sandy Steele presents Public Hearing and Third Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an Industrial Building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; Providing for conveyance for Real Property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities a Corporation for the location of an Industrial Building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; And other matters relating thereto.

Chairman Johnson opens the public hearing. Having no response Chairman Johnson closes the public hearing and returns to the agenda.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the Public Hearing and Third Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an Industrial Building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; Providing for conveyance for Real Property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation for the location of an Industrial Building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; And other matters relating thereto. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Dale Terry presents 1st Reading (by title only) of an Ordinance granting a ~~temporary~~ permanent Construction Easement in the Gillisonville Square. Brock Terry from SCE&G gives details and responds to questions from the Council. The main concern is preserving the Historic Park and surrounding area of Gillisonville as stated in the Jasper County Comprehensive Plan. It is suggested placing it underground would be the best alternative to comply with the Comprehensive Plan. Councilwoman wants clarification on “temporary” easement as listed in the presentation. Mr. Terry from SCE&G said this is actually a permanent easement, not a temporary. Mr. Fulghum said that is actually a staff error. Mr. Terry from SCE&G said that he is the designer and Mr. Jeff Mingledorff is the engineer, who normally attends the meetings, but he was unable to be here tonight. Councilwoman Clark would like to hear what the people have to say, those receiving the benefit as well as those around Gillisonville. She wants a public hearing. Chairman Johnson would like to see a rough estimate of the incremental cost above verses below ground.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds to approve the 1st Reading (by title only) of an Ordinance granting a **permanent** Construction Easement powerline in the Gillisonville Square.

Councilman Etheridge moved to amend the Motion on the floor to approve the 1st Reading (by title only) of an Ordinance granting a **permanent** Construction Easement powerline to be put **underground** in the Gillisonville Square. Councilman Altizer seconds this amended Motion. This Motion passes with three members voting in favor and one nay. The Chairman then called for a vote on the main motion as amended. This Motion passes with all members present voting.

There was further discussion regarding the estimates and Mr. Mingledorff attending the next meeting.

New Business

Arthur Benjamin offers Presentation of Bids for the Detention Center New HVAC Equipment. He recommends approval of the bid from Covert Aire in the amount of \$15,351 instead of Siemens for \$15,525. He said the money is in his budget.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve installation of new HVAC Equipment for the Detention Center being purchased and installed by Covert Aire in the amount of \$15,351. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Kimberly Burgess offers Presentation of Bids for the Sgt. Jasper Park Restrooms. She recommends acceptance of the lowest of two bids received for the toilet facility at the Sgt. Jasper Park conditional upon the receipt of the funds that have been applied for that we should receive in the near future. The lowest is from D. P. Lowther at \$81,975 and the second bid was from Beaufort Construction, Inc., and the base bid was \$110,000. She responds to Councilman Johnson saying this bid is only for the building with no water or sewer and this will not be a functioning restroom. The water and sewer will be added to next year's budget. Mr. Davis responds to the question of the cost of water and sewer saying maybe \$50,000 and we are looking at sewer and well or possibly hooking up to the station at the RV Park. He added that we are looking at all avenues for the best price and best solution. The building in this bid is being paid by hard funds that have to be used within a deadline and we thought it would be the best to use the money to build the building and come back to get the water, sewer and electric.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the bid from D. P. Lowther at \$81,975, for the toilet facility at the Sgt. Jasper Park conditional upon the receipt of the funds that have been applied for that we should receive in the near future. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Frank Edwards offers Architectural Service bids for the Stiney Road Fire Station. He recommends approval of a bid from Grady Woods Architectural Firm in the amount of \$20,375 subject to a termination for convenience.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion approving the bid from Grady Woods Architectural Firm in the amount of \$20,375 subject to a termination for convenience. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Frank Edwards offers Architectural Service bids for the Mead Road Fire Station. He recommends approval of a bid from Grady Woods Architectural Firm in the amount of \$5,450 subject to a termination for convenience.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion approving the bid from Grady Woods Architectural Firm in the amount of \$5,450 subject to a termination for convenience. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Dale Terry offers the Jasper County Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendation for the Haphazard and Toomerville Transfer Stations. Mr. Terry said the Committee approved \$100,000 to repave these two sites. He comes to the Council asking that they approve the decision of the Committee.

Mr. Terry responding to Councilman Etheridge's question said we will be repaving both sites inside the fence and all the way to the Highway.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconds the Motion to approve the recommendation of the Jasper County Transportation Committee in the amount of \$100,000 for the repaving of the Haphazard and Tommerville Transfer Stations. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Old Business None

Council Members Comments

Councilman Altizer was on vacation but he was happy that tonight someone brought us money instead of asking for money.

Councilman Etheridge was on vacation and he met with a couple of people about different things.

Councilman Sauls gave the date and time of the Jasper County Board of Disability and Special Needs Thanksgiving Bake Sale, the Town of Ridgeland and the City of Hardeeville Christmas Parades, Jasper County Chamber Ribbon Cutting and reception at the new Hardeeville satellite office. He wishes everyone a safe and pleasant Thanksgiving and asks that everyone remember those less fortunate.

Councilwoman Clark was on vacation and she reminded the public Wednesday Trash Recycling Centers will be open on Wednesday and closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving. She wishes everyone a safe and pleasant holiday and congratulates the newest School Board Member in the audience. She wants the School Board to know that we are not playing with the tax payer's dollars. We are going to come together and do what is best for the children.

Chairman Johnson meeting last Friday with lawyers about the Port Professor Fitz was unable to attend but he called this morning from his hospital room saying he was eager to go as soon as they turned him from his hospital room and that would be no later than Sunday. Councilman Etheridge and I had an unstructured meeting with the Mayor where we discussed how Hardeeville and Jasper County can work together for everybody's benefit.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum presented the proposed Route 278 Widening Project in Ridgeland with a lot of activity in a very small area at the Airport Project, the combined Shelter Project and Polaris Tech and you also have future improvements to the Emergency Services Building. We came before you and received approval to apply for an EDA Grant widening approximately 2,000 linear feet. We have reason to believe from the funding agency that making the project larger would improve the success of it. So, we are proposing to extend the scope to go further north out Route 278 toward the Cypress Woods Industrial Park, going out at least to the Intersection of Malphrus and Log Hall Road to look for potential improvements both for storm water and traffic congestion in that area. Staff is respectfully requesting that you approve be an additional cost not to exceed \$9,700, beyond what you originally approved, for Alliance Engineering Consultants to continue with the expansion of their services to include the Preliminary Expansion Report and the Preliminary Cost Revision to be funded out the Transportation Sales Tax.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconds the Motion to approve be an additional cost not to exceed \$9,700, beyond what you originally approved, for Alliance Engineering Consultants to continue with the expansion of their services to include the Preliminary Expansion Report and the Preliminary Cost Revision to be funded out the Transportation Sales Tax. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Mr. Fulghum presented the Regional Library System saying that the County Library Budget Fund has many Library components but \$65,000 is in the budget toward a donation to the City of Hardeeville for the operation of the City of Hardeeville Library. He is also seeking an additional \$5,000 Donation for that effort for the capital fund for that bill. Making it a total of \$70,000 Donation to the City of Hardeeville. He mentions the MOU between Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville stating that he and the City Manager would get together after the completion of the Library to look at the actual cost. We did that and we were able to move a few things around. The IT services went back to the Regional system because it was a substantial savings and so forth. The new annual contribution will be \$23,000 from the County to the City for the operation of the Library plus \$5,000 for the capital bond. Looking at a difference of \$42,000 obviously the folks at the Library know your budget very well and they are going to formerly request that you consider spending that \$42,000 on both Libraries this year since you have already budgeted that amount. They would basically like to split it in half if you were kind enough to donate that portion for some holdings in Hardeeville and also to advance the renovation project here at the Pratt Memorial Library in Ridgeland. No action is needed tonight and I will bring back a formal proposal of how they plan to spend that money as soon as it is prepared.

Mr. Fulghum received a letter from Elaine Kreiling, of the Library Board, requesting that three additional members be appointed. No action required tonight but would like it brought back in the near future.

Mr. Fulghum has nothing more to report other than what is in his two-week progress report.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Bonnie Lawson
Acting Clerk to Council

D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Chairman