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**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 Third Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
JANUARY 7, 2019
MINUTES**

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

Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Johnson at approximately 5:30 P.M.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to enter into Executive Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Executive Session

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:

(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing. – Clerk to Council

(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) – River's Reach, Fire Services, Human Resources

(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)

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

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

Return to Open Session in Council Chambers at approximately 6:40 P.M.

Chairman Johnson asked if any matters are being brought forward out of Executive Session.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to authorize staff to take all appropriate steps to have Phase I of The Settings project completed as soon as possible including any contracting enforcement steps as discussed in our Executive Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to delay the filing of the lawsuit in the Court against the Port Authority until after the next scheduled meeting of the Jasper County Council. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Chairman Johnson hearing no further business coming out of the Executive Session returns to Open Session.

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Attorney David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess, Fire Chief Frank Edwards, Director of Planning and Building Lisa Wagner, Bonnie Lawson, Coordinator of Planning and Zoning/Acting Clerk to Council, Dale Terry Director of Public Services, and Renty Kitty, Business License and Sign Coordinator

Swearing in of Newly Elected Council Members

The Honorable Judge Albert Kleckley, Jr., administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Curtis Brantley – Robertville Township then to L. Martin Sauls, IV – Coosawhatchie Township.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Sauls.

Invocation given by Councilman Brantley.

Election of Officers

Chairman Johnson turns the meeting over to Administrator Fulghum to officiate the Election of the Chairman of the Council.

Election of Chairman

Councilwoman Clark recommended Chairman Johnson continue to serve as the Chairman of the Council. No other recommendations given. Councilman Sauls recommends the floor be closed for further

nominations. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of Chairman Johnson continuing to serve as the Chairman of the Council.

Chairman Johnson officiates the Election of the Vice-Chairman

Election of Vice Chairman

Councilwoman Clark recommended Councilman Etheridge to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Council. No other recommendations given. Councilman Sauls recommends the floor be closed for further nominations. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor of Chairman Etheridge to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes – December 3, 2018

Vice-Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Adoption of 2019 County Council Meeting Schedule

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark moved to adopt the 2019 Council Meeting Schedule.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Clark would like the 2019 Calendar changed to include four meetings in Hardeeville. The Council usually has one meeting per quarter in Hardeeville and this calendar shows only two meetings in Hardeeville in 2019. She asks Mr. Fulghum if he would call Hardeeville to coordinate and revise the 2019 schedule accordingly. Mr. Fulghum responded that he will do so.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the 2019 County Council Schedule but leave the locations open for further adjustment. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV – Presentation of Plaque to Thomas Heyward Academy Football Team

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.

Ms. Jessie W. Tyler of Wagon Branch gives a brief history of the Wagon Branch Community Center. Prior to 1974, Ms. Cleo Tyler was the first person to start recreation in the Wagon Branch area. In 1975 Dr. Singleton went to the surrounding communities and we organized several committees. She was asked to be the Chairman of the Recreation Committee. Joining her on that Committee were: Ms. Cleo Tyler, Ms. Inez Drayton, Ms. Ada Toomer, Ms. Minnie McCullar, Ms. Ollie Mae Toomer and Ms. Patience Dixon. Ms. Tyler's husband asked Mr. Attaway, the Superintendent of Okatie Club if they would

consider donating land for this purpose. She wrote a letter to Okatie Club at the request of Mr. Attaway. Communications continued between myself, Mr. Attaway and Jasper County. A deed was given to Jasper County from Okatie Club for the Community Center in August of 1978, wherein If the land is not used for the Community Center then it is to revert back to the Grantor.

Mr. John Kemp of Hardeeville spoke regarding the ISO Consultants being hired after the Fire Stations locations are selected. He requested that the documents relating to the Agenda should be online with the Agenda so citizens may research prior to public comment at these meetings and bring information we have that may help you make these decisions. Lastly, on the County Website he found no emails for the Council.

Resolutions – None

Ordinances – None

New Business– None

Old Business

Andrew Fulghum – Re-Cabling the Detention Center

Mr. Fulghum this matter was brought before the Council on July 23, 2018, and the Council approved it. At that meeting, he mis-spoke and said the funding source would be the leftover funds from the one-percent sales tax for the Jail Construction. That fund is depleted and he requests Council to reauthorize the project with the understanding that the funds to complete that project are available and will come from the line item in the account Building Repairs and Capital Improvement Department.

Vice-Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve reauthorizing the project to Re-Cabling the Detention Center with the funds to come from the line item in the account Building Repairs and Capital Improvement Department

Council Members Comments each member congratulated Dr. Brantley, welcoming him to the Council and they are looking forward to working with him toward making the County better. They also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Sauls said he is excited about 2019 and the things that we are working on such as more roads paved, litter control and other things to make a difference. He expressed his gratitude to the citizens for trusting him and allowing him a third term of service in the Council in the County he was born and raised in and for the people he loves. He said it is an honor to serve and very humbling. He is a phone call away and he gives his word that he will do his very best to help you.

Councilwoman Clark said she has done a lot of things but only mentioning that we have funding from Transportation for the paving of the four lanes of I-95. It has been a long time coming.

Councilman Brantley thanked all the peoples who came to witness the swearing in ceremony. He expresses unequivocally that he is on the board to be your voice. Feel free to share any concern that you have with me so that I might share them with the Council.

Vice-Chairman Etheridge listed meeting and events he attended for Council during the holidays. He transacted a lot of County business by telephone. Many people have his number and call him a lot. On Christmas Day he received two calls in the afternoon. So, he finds it hard to believe that the Councilmembers telephone numbers are not on the Website. He said he is here to serve the public and not himself. Call him anytime. He thanked the citizens for allowing him to serve three terms and he thanked the Council for appointing him to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Johnson said we all do a lot of little things that don't seem like much to talk about but when you put them all together, we hope they amount to something. As far as the telephone he is sure that Mr. Fulghum can address those concerns. He had a long conference call on Sunday regarding the Port.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum said his report was provided for information and he is happy to answer any questions the Council may have. No questions or comments from the Council.

Mr. Fulghum said on behalf of all of the staff we congratulate Dr. Brantley and said we all look forward to working with you.

Adjourn

Councilwoman Clark moved and Vice-Chairman Etheridge seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie Lawson
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Chairman