



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney
Government Building
358 THIRD AVENUE RIDGELAND, SC 29936**

**JULY 1, 2019
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Officials Present: Chairman D. Thomas Johnson, Vice Chairman Henry Etheridge, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV and Councilman Curtis Brantley.

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Johnson at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Councilman Sauls made a Motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded it to go into Executive Session. The motion passed with all councilmembers 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:**
- (3) 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), Prospect Update**

Return to Open Session in Council Chambers at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Attorney David Tedder, Clerk to Council Amanda Steinmeyer, Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess, Director of Planning and Building Lisa Wagner, Chief Frank Edwards, Public Works Director Dale Terry

Chairman Johnson asked if there were any items to discuss out of executive session and there were none.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Brantley

Invocation led by Councilman Etheridge

A motion was made by Councilman Sauls and seconded by Councilman Brantley to approve the agenda. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

A motion was made by Councilman Sauls and seconded by Councilman Etheridge to approve minutes of the June 3, 2019 Budget Workshop Meeting, the June 3, 2019 County Council Meeting, the June 17, 2019 public hearings, and the June 18, 2019 Budget/Airport Workshop Meeting. The motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

Chairman Johnson then called on South Carolina House Representative Shedron Williams to make a very special presentation.

Representative Williams first thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman and all the other Councilmembers for making this possible. They have their own meetings but he was grateful for being allowed to make this presentation here. He also thanked Clerk to Council Amanda Steinmeyer whom he noted was his classmate from kindergarten on.

Then on behalf of the House of Representatives and the General Assembly of the State, Representative Williams made a presentation and proclamation to honor World War II Veteran Mr. Beckett Jenkins for his service to the country during the war and to celebrate the occasion of his 101st birthday. It was noted that Mr. Beckett was one of the oldest if not the oldest veteran alive in this country and this State.

Representative Williams acknowledged that we have many more veterans in this area and he wants to collect the names of these so that they can be recognized.

Chairman Johnson next called upon the Fire Rescue Chief to make some very special presentations.

The Chief stated that he was here to promote four of the 1st ever lieutenants with the Jasper County Fire and Rescue.

He first recognized Lieutenant Brian Barton who was pinned by his father, David Barton.

He next recognized Lieutenant Blake Jernigan who was pinned by his mother, Deborah Malphrus.

The third Lieutenant who was recognized was Jeff Jobcznski who was pinned by his wife, Buffy.

The last Lieutenant recognized was Thomas Williams who was pinned by his fiancé, Jamie Givens and his son, Noah Williams.

Chief Edwards also wanted to recognize three individuals who did the planning and the excellent execution of the funeral service of firefighter Coleman Loadholt. The individuals he recognized were Lt. Joczynski, Firefighter Roe and Lt. Jernigan.

Chairman Johnson next recognized Arthur Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin stated that it was a great honor to recognize an employee who had only been with the County for about 2 months. That employee was Blake Stoner who got the highest award at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Mr. Stoner was given a plaque.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor to the public at 6:55 p.m.

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

Chairman Johnson pointed out that Jake Martin from Bluffton was here and that he held many elected offices there.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Carina Curiel. Ms. Curiel was there to voice her concern about the Schinger Avenue recycling center in O’Katie. She said she had spoken to Councilman Sauls about this and that this recycling center has become unbearable and needs to be shut down.

7:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson recognized Hardeeville Mayor Harry Williams. Mr. Williams explained that he was not speaking in his official capacity but was speaking as a citizen of Jasper County. He said that some time ago the Hardeeville Firefighters and some citizens of Hardeeville had posted some comments regarding the fire service in Jasper County on facebook. He stated that some of these individuals who posted comments had received calls by the County Council expressing their displeasure of these comments. Mr. Williams stated that he believed this was improper because the comments were protected by their First Amendment rights.

Mr. Williams then stated that he had asked some questions about the Cherry Point Ordinance and those questions had not been answered. He thought this illustrated the lingering confusion over the Council. He presented a map that reiterated his questions and believed that Council needed to be open and honest when answering these questions.

Chairman Johnson next called on David Spisso but Mr. Spisso stated that he decided to pass.

Resolutions - There were none.

Ordinances

Chairman Johnson first called on Lisa Wagner for the 3rd reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-043 from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Ms. Wagner gave a brief presentation of this Ordinance. It involves 2.6 acres of land at 208 Schinger Avenue.

Councilman Etheridge inquired again about the dust and noise issues. Ms. Wagner explained that the applicant was only going to crush rock there two days per week and he could also take the material off-site to crush. He was also going to wet the rock while he crushed it to prevent the dust issue.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconded the passing of this Ordinance. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

The next ordinance was presented by David Tedder. It was the 3rd Reading of an ordinance to amend Section 9-84A, Geographic Limits of the Cherry Point Fire District, -as contained in Article IV of Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances of Jasper County, South Carolina, to reflect removal, additions, and clarifications as to the lands contained in the Cherry Point Fire Protection District, and matters related thereto.

Mr. Tedder pointed out that they had already had two public hearings on this matter. The ordinance was to release properties annexed from collection and to include the listing of tax parcels which actually added four new parcels. They were asking the tax assessor to incorporate the map when doing taxes.

Chairman Johnson clarified that this was not increasing the boundary of the Cherry Point Fire District. It was just making it accurate. He inquired who provided the map to which Mr. Tedder responded that they were using the one provided by Mayor Williams.

Councilman Sauls made the Motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded it to pass this Ordinance. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

Next was a presentation by Lisa Wagner on the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend Article 6:1, *Permitted Uses and Conditional Uses – Table 1* and Article 12:9.1, *Manufactured Housing*, of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, to add additional requirements for Manufactured Housing.

Ms. Wagner briefly explained these and pointed out that there were actually two proposed Ordinances – one proposed by the Planning Committee and one proposed by the Staff to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Etheridge stated that regulated mobile home movers ought to have permits before moving. He stated we needed some amendments on either one we pass before the 2nd reading.

Councilman Brantley stated that the recommendation of staff should be consistent with the planning commission.

Chairman Johnson recognized that whichever version we approved now, there were going to have to be some amendments made prior to the second reading.

Councilman Etheridge moves and Councilman Sauls seconded the Motion to accept the Ordinance proposed by Staff to the Planning Commission with amendments to be made prior to the Second Reading. Councilman Etheridge opposed. The motion passed with the majority of the Councilmembers present voting in favor of the Motion.

The Council next recognized Mr. Tedder to present the 1st reading of an ordinance amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual relating to disaster pay and other matters related thereto in accordance with Section 2-67 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances.

He stated that the purpose of the Ordinance was to have clearer guidelines for natural disasters and what pay would be available to staff.

This is the 1st reading by title only so Council will have time to get a proper Ordinance in play by September which begins the danger zone.

In response to a question by Chairman Brantley, Mr. Tedder explained that it is within the council's power to adopt such a policy. We don't currently have a clear policy on disaster pay. This is so we can get FEMA funds and it supplements what we already have.

Chairman Johnson asked Administrator Fulghum if he was in favor of this and Mr. Fulghum stated he was.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the First Reading of this Ordinance. The motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

New Business

County Council was to appoint five members to the Jasper County Aeronautics Commission;

Administrator Fulghum spoke on behalf of Councilwoman Clark and stated that her nomination was D.J. Johnson.

Councilman Etheridge nominated Marlon Sheffield.

Councilman Sauls nominated Lee Logan.

Those three were approved by Council leaving Chairman Johnson and Councilman Brantley to have their nominations at the next meeting.

There was no old business.

Next were Council Members Comments

Councilman Brantley passed.

Councilman Etheridge stated that he attended the grand opening of Safetec which provides safety equipment for aeronautics and will employ 8 – 14 workers.

He also attended the wake for firefighter Loadholt and the firefighters were well represented. It was a very touching ceremony.

Councilman Sauls also attended the Safetec Ribbon Cutting. It was well attended. This is their fifth location and it was a nice event.

He also attended the funeral for Firefighter Loadholt and it was very well done. There were about 30 firetrucks there. We need to continue to keep his family in our prayers.

Chairman Johnson just echoed what everyone had said.

Next was the Administrator's Report.

The Administrator stated he was going to turn the floor over to Chief Edwards to give an update on the fire service and regional shelter project.

Chief Edwards said the Regional Shelter had gotten a contract for the generator and they were working with the State Department to request funding. Right now there are about 18,000 residents which makes it locally run but when it gets above 18,000 it becomes a state event.

He also got the developer contract for the Stiney Road Fire Station project.

They also took over the operations of the southern part of the county last night and they are working Meade Road and Community Health.

Councilman Brantley commended the Administrator for the report.

There was no need to return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion of anything.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to Adjourn and the Motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

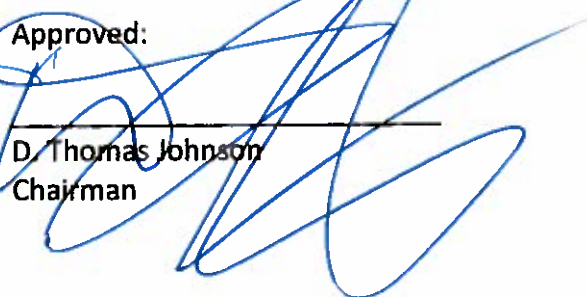
Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda G. Steinmeyer
Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson
Chairman