



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government  
Building  
358 THIRD AVENUE RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
JUNE 18, 2019  
BUDGET/AIRPORT WORKSHOP MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Amanda Steinmeyer, Chief Morris, and Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess**

**4:05 p.m. - Council Vice-Chairman Etheridge called the workshop to order as Chairman Johnson was running a few minutes late.**

**Vice-Chairman Etheridge first opened up the budget portion of the workshop. He called upon Administrator Fulghum to give a report.**

**Mr. Fulghum stated that he was going to have Ms. Burgess give an overview of things. She will start with where we last left it, what changes have been made, and what changes the Council wants to make going forward for final adoption. He reminded Council that they do have to get through the A tax information as well.**

**Ms. Burgess explained that they had made some changes from the second reading of the budget including an additional revenue of \$50,000 increase in local government funds.**

**Also had some revisions to agency appropriations including:**

**\$20,000 for the AHJ library**

**\$5000 for USCB**

**\$5000 for the Technical College of the Lowcountry**

**These were funded by a \$30,000 reduction in the administration department which eliminated a new vehicle line item.**

**There was a \$50,000 reduction in worker's compensation across all departments.**

**All of these changes left \$100,000 for Council to make a determination on what to do with.**

Has been some discussion of whether the Fire Chief preferred a 1<sup>st</sup> response vehicle or a peak time ambulance. He has decided that he prefers a peak time ambulance.

Another option for the \$100,000 was that the Probate Judge has requested a full time person and also the millage could be reduced ½ a mill or \$68,876.

Council then discussed the Probate Judge's request.

There was also some discussion of increasing the cash carry forward.

Councilwoman Clark stated that she felt strongly about cutting the millage and then giving the additional money to the library and the Probate Judge. She also stated that she hoped that next year, they wouldn't have to take from the reserve.

Councilman Etheridge stated that he could not see cutting the millage when there are so many services the county needs. He inquired of Ms. Burgess what the effect of cutting the mill by ½ would mean to the taxpayers to which Ms. Burgess replied it would mean about a \$3.00 reduction in taxes.

Councilman Sauls inquired of the Chief about his preference in spending and the Chief confirmed that he preferred 2 additional EMT's/firefighters and a full peak time ambulance.

The council discussed ISO ratings.

At 4:40 p.m. – the workshop turned to focus on the airport issue

Mr. Fulghum explained that the airport ordinance was scheduled for a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and turned it over to Attorney Tedder to give a presentation on what the airport ordinance was designed to do.

1<sup>st</sup> of all it creates a commission in a format that works with new facilities and appoints new members in defined terms and responsibilities. There is a new Division 7 which is the only change since the last meeting. It addresses terms and provides for 3 year terms for members and a way for them to be staggered.

Next the ordinance adopts a new Chapter 29 on aviation which talks about the airport and the position of the airport commission. It adopts minimum standards for aeronautical services and minimum standards for aircraft hanger construction. Zoning maps are also available.

The goal is to have this in place by July 1, 2019 – the next grant funding cycle. It will not immediately affect airport construction and the Council can come back and amend if there are problems.

**Chairman Johnson noted there was an operative section in the FAA regulations that would be specific to that particular airport and that no business could operate without a \$1,000,000 investment.**

**Mr. Lucas noted that this did not apply to existing users.**

**Chairman Johnson wanted to make sure that it carved out something for the Town of Ridgeland where there is a police hanger. He wanted to make sure there was something that exempts the old airport. Mr. Lucas assured him that current users were excluded.**

**Councilman Sauls stated that he had spoken with a couple of pilots and they stated there were redlines in the rules and regulations that were highly restrictive and excessive. The pilots would like to meet FAA requirements and have the character of the airport maintained.**

**Mr. Lucas explained that the documents were written for the future and not to penalize current users. They are to provide for operative future use for new tenants.**

**There is a risk management component to the documents because there are currently no regulations out there. These are to provide a template for the future. The airport compliance manual is one of those components.**

**Private airports are not eligible for FAA funding.**

**Chairman Johnson asked if they were going to require a mechanic to build a 3000 square foot building and have an office, a customer lounge, restrooms and be properly lighted with at least two airplanes there.**

**Mr. Lucas responded that for everyone operating now when their lease expires, it would require no additional changes. They would have to comply with insurance requirements but wouldn't have to respond to physical requirements.**

**Chairman Johnson asked Attorney Tedder to please fashion a clearer grandfather clause.**

**This is about future hanger insurance and physical liability for airports stored there. It is only commercial requirements. Premise liability goes with the aircraft wherever it is.**

**Richard Dean then addressed the council. He explained that he had over 8 years experience. He noted that you have to have minimum standards to comply with FAA requirements.**

**Mr. Lucas noted that there were different requirements for leaseholds.**

**Councilman Sauls stated that we want to help all people not just airport giants.**

**It was noted that the airport commission would have time to study the requirements. We just have to submit something to the FAA and we would always have the power to change things.**

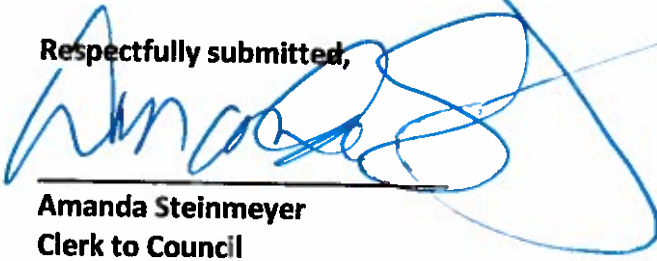
It was also stated that by July 1, 2019, the Council had to make the appointment of 5 members to the airport commission.

Chairman Johnson stated that this would be a work in progress and he suggested that the airport commission talk to Councilman Sauls about the insurance issues.

The Workshop adjourned at approximately 5:36 p.m.

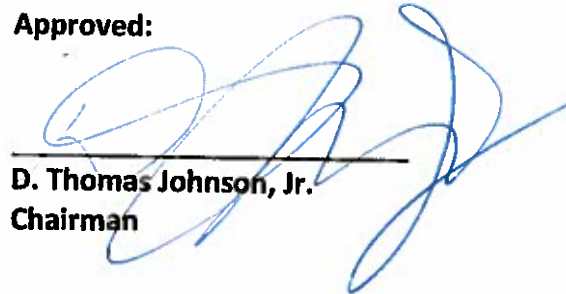
Councilman Sauls made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed with all Councilmembers voting.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Steinmeyer  
Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.  
Chairman