



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

**JUNE 18, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

Executive Session

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the items listed on the Agenda. The Motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

- (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. – **County Attorney**
- (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) – **Dispatch Services Agreement, Auditing Services, Pittman v. Jasper County**
- (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

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to return to Open Session in Council Chambers at approximately 6:40 p.m. The Motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

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

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

No matters were brought forward.

Pledge of Allegiance - Councilman Brantley led the Pledge of Alliance.

Invocation - Councilwoman Clark gave the invocation with special mention of our fireman who suffered a heart attack and the deputy who was in a car wreck.

Approval of the Agenda – Upon Motion made by Chairman Sauls and seconded by Chairwoman Clark to approve the agenda less the presentation by South Carolina House Representative Shedron Williams. This motion passed with all Councilmembers voting.

Presentations and Proclamations

6:45 p.m.

Katherine Daugherty of the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCRDA) made a presentation on the June Quarterly Report. She provided a handout of the same to all councilmembers.

Councilman Sauls thanked Ms. Daugherty for the great job and added the additional announcement that the SCRDA was recognizing a mission and resources to create jobs within the 7 county region and had engaged a PR firm.

7:00 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 recognized David Spisso. Mr. Spisso asked that the Council give back to the people that have given their money by decreasing the millage rate.

Chairman Johnson recognized Mayor Williams. Mr. Williams explained that he was not speaking in an official capacity. He was speaking as a citizen of Hardeeville. He noted that most of the revenue came from the citizens of Hardeeville yet there was no tax reduction. He asked Council to convene a special meeting to address the \$4 million expenditure. He said that this has an enormous impact on the taxes of all citizens and he would like the opportunity for the citizens to ask questions and make comments on the budget.

Chairman Johnson then recognized Gene Ceccarelli. Mr. Ceccarelli is from Sun City. He came to a meeting and then wrote a letter to the Island Packet. He wanted to apologize for any negativity that came from that letter. He and his wife have been thoroughly impressed by the personnel here.

Chairman Johnson next recognized John Kemp. Mr. Kemp is from Hardeeville. He wanted to speak about the third reading of the standing committee ordinance. He stressed how having committees was very important.

Resolutions - There were none.

Ordinances

7:10 p.m.

Public Hearing and 2nd 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 presented an overview of the ordinance and recognized that the Council had a public hearing last night but it was set to reconvene tonight out of an abundance of caution.

Chairman Johnson reconvened the public hearing. There were no comments so he declared the public hearing closed.

Councilman Etheridge asked about the noise factor and Ms. Wagner explained that they would only be crushing one day a week and that would not be very intensive.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the 2nd reading. The motion passed with all councilmembers voting

7: 15 p.m.

3rd reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, including Article IV, Boards and Commissions of Chapter 2, Administration, so as to provide a new Division 7, Jasper County Aeronautics Commission, including provisions regarding the appointment, qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Aeronautics Commission, and to add a new Chapter 29 to the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, Aviation, so as to adopt certain

standards, rules and regulations, and related matters regarding the aeronautical and other activities at the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport, and matters related to the foregoing.

Chairman Johnson pointed out that they had just had a workshop on this. Mr. Tedder briefly explained what the ordinance would do. He pointed out that it did not have much impact on existing users and that the impact would be on future construction. He asked that the ordinance be adopted with clearer language of the grandfather clause.

Councilman Sauls moved and Council Etheridge seconded the Motion to adopt this ordinance. The motion passed with all Councilmembers voting.

7:17 p.m.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article II, Division 3, Standing Committees, being codified as Section 2-56 through 2-60, to ratify all prior actions of Council which may have occurred without individual committee action, and related matters.

Mr. Tedder briefly explained this ordinance and emphasized that it provides for an ad hoc committee.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconded the approval of this ordinance. The motion passed with all councilmembers voting.

7:20 p.m.

Public Hearing and 2nd 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.

Continuation of public hearing and 2nd reading of ordinance.

Chairman Johnson reconvened the public hearing of last night on this ordinance.

Mayor Williams asked a question about an apparent annexation of property.

Chairman Johnson explained that they normally don't respond to questions at a public hearing. Mr. Tedder explained that there not any large areas being added. They were simply providing a list of all parcels including some omitted parcels. Mr. Tedder will forward all available information on this to Mayor Williams.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the 2nd reading of this ordinance. The motion passed with all Councilmembers voting.

7:30 p.m.

3rd Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

Ms. Kimberly Burgess went over the changes again that had been made since the 2nd reading as she did in the workshop.

Councilman Brantley asked a number of questions. He wanted the budget to be transparent to the public.

Councilwoman Clark said she will vote on the budget but she wants it noted for the record that she has been begging for a reduction in the millage and we are not going to get it again this year.

Mr. Fulghum pointed out that there is an additional \$26,000 for the probate judge staff.

There was further discussion on the budget issues and options.

Councilman Etheridge made a motion and Dr. Brantley seconded it to approve the budget as last presented with \$20,000 going to AHJ Regional Library to fund employee pay raises, \$5000 additional funding going to USCB, \$5000 additional funding going to TCL; replacing the Community Paramedic and QRV with a Peak Time Ambulance including a Firefighter/EMT and a Firefighter/Paramedic and adding two additional Firefighter/EMT's for daytime staffing at Grays and Point South Fire Stations for an additional \$100,000; giving \$26,000 to the Probate Judge staffing, and the remaing \$74,000 to Fire-Rescue for additional Firefighter/EMT's to provide peak time coverage at other stations including Bellinger Hill. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

New Business – 8:05 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess presented the Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations

Ms. Burgess made a brief presentation on this. Councilman Sauls recused himself.

Councilman Etheridge made a motion and Councilman Brantley seconded to adopt the findings of the Tax Committee. The motion passed with all councilmembers voting except Councilman Sauls.

8:07 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess presented the Local Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Requests

Councilwoman Clark stated that the Council has decided to approve everything with the following exceptions: 1) Do not fund the sheriff's request for mobile data computers and a mobile command center; 2) Allocate an equal amount (\$12,000 to both the Gopher Hill and Pocatigo local festivals; and 3) Add the remaining balance of \$12,972.08 to the Jasper Animal Rescue Mission. The total allocated is \$515,000.

Councilwoman Clark made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Local Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Request with these changes. Councilman Sauls recused himself. The motion passed with all councilmembers voting except Councilman Sauls.

8:10 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess presented the Bids for the Irrigation at Soccer Field

Ms. Burgess announced that the bids were opened on ^{June 13} ~~July~~ 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. and a single sealed bid was received from Southern Palmetto, Inc. in the amount of 13,165.95.

Council Sauls made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve this bid. The motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

8:12 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess presented the award of debris monitoring contract

Ms. Burgess explained that Jasper County advertised for proposals for disaster management, recovery, and consulting services to support the oversight and management of debris recovery contractors.

Based on the criteria outlined in the Request for proposals and very positive references from the Town of Hilton Head and Beaufort County, the committee recommends that Jasper County accept the proposal prepared by Tera Tech, Inc.

Councilman Etheridge moves and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to enter into a debris monitoring contract with Tera Tech, Inc. The motion passed with all councilmembers voting.

8:14 p.m.

Lisa Wagner presented the Asbestos Study Demolition Project on Church Road

Ms. Wagner explained that they sought bids on a demolition project at Church Road – Stiney Road Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. This was going to involve asbestos testing services for

34 residential and commercial structures slated for demolition. They sent out a request for bids and received 14 quotes prior to the deadline. The low bidder was ECH Consultants in the amount of \$20,400. It was recommended that the County accept this bid contingent upon receiving contract approval from the SC Department of Commerce.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to accept this bid contingent upon receiving contract approval from the SC Department of Commerce. The motion passed with all Councilmembers voting.

Old Business – 8:15 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess presented the Bid and Request to Award of the Generator for Regional Shelter

Ms. Burgess gave a presentation of the advertisement for bids for a backup power generator for Jasper County. Three sealed bids were received and it was determined that all the bids were unresponsive. The low bidder, Blanchard Machinery Company protested. The chief procurement officer and the County Administrator met with Blanchard and the protest was settled with the recommendation that the contract should be awarded to Blanchard for \$899,000.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to award the contract to Blanchard Machinery Company. The motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

8:17 p.m.

Council Members Comments

Councilman Sauls stated that he went to the Summer Concert Series Kick-off at the Farmer's Market about two weeks ago. They had a great turn-out and the Swinging Medallions played.

He also went to the Southern Alliance Executive Meeting in Hampton.

He went to the Regional Co. Banquet last week and Mayor Williams was there.

He also plans to attend the Town of Ridgeland's Turpin Park event next week on June 21, 2019 and encouraged others to attend.

He also recognized that there were a lot of ongoing operations and a lot of thought that went into the budget process and he thanked all those involved.

Councilman Etheridge stated that he attended the meeting of the Planning Commission for mobile homes and that they still have some hoops to jump through. They are having to pay taxes of 41 cents on the dollar for mobile homes.

He also wants to make it known that he represents all of Jasper County regardless of where you reside and all of the citizens and he just couldn't vote to reduce the taxes even by ½ a mil when there are so many services the County needs. He is glad to talk to anyone who wants to discuss this further.

Councilman Brantley wants the Council to become more transparent so they have fewer criticisms from the public. He wants to go back to the established meeting times of the 1st and 3rd Mondays and he wants to receive information in a timely manner so that the Council can make informed decisions.

Chairman Johnson had no comments.

8:20 p.m.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum only had two items. One was relating to the Claude Dean Airport Project. He just got the airport commission report and wanted permission to proceed on the items recommended.

Councilman Sauls made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded it to allow the work to proceed on the Airport Project. The motion passed with all councilmembers present voting.

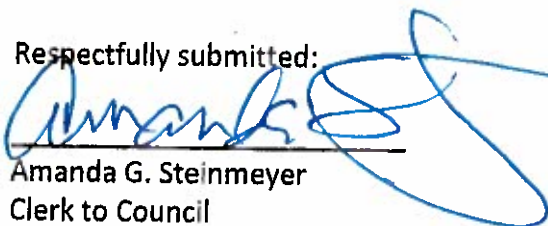
Mr. Fulghum's next item was regarding the automatic agreements with the agencies. He reminded the Council of the Ordinance that gave the Chief the power to enter into these agreements.

Councilman Sauls made a motion and Councilman Brantley seconded the motion to Reaffirm or Ratify the Power given to the Chief in the Ordinance. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

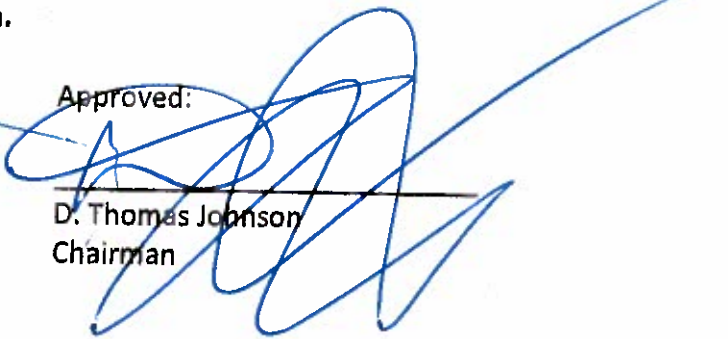
Councilman Brantley made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded it for the meeting to adjourn. The motion passed with all Councilmembers present voting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Amanda G. Steinmeyer
Clerk to Council

Approved:


D. Thomas Johnson
Chairman