



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney
Government Building
358 Third Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
MARCH 18, 2019
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

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

Executive Session: Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion passes with all members present voting.

Executive Session

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. – Levy Volunteer Fire Department, County Administrator, Jasper County Transportation Advisory Committee

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 Services, Okatie Park, Avigation Easements, Argent Business Park

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)

Return to Open Session: Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to return to Open Session. Motion passes with all members present voting.

Return to Open Session at Approximately 6:30 P.M.

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Attorney David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess and Director of Engineering Services, Dale Terry

Possible Action on Items discussed in Executive Session

Councilwoman Clark moved to authorize the Administration with the assistance of the County Attorney to enter into a renewal of the Fire Contract with the Town of Ridgeland for the term not to exceed three (3) years and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved to authorize the Chairman to respond to the City of Hardeeville's March 8th, communication on behalf of City Council by agreeing to change the offer provided by Jasper County to increase the compensation to \$210,000, but the other terms to remain the same. The response from the City of Hardeeville to be provided by the end of the Month. Chairman Johnson clarifies that Etheridge is stating that the letter will state that the items will remain the same as the proposal forwarded to the Town. Vice Chairman Etheridge agrees that is his motion. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Chairman Johnson asks if there is any further business coming out of executive session. Hearing none, he returns to the regular Agenda.

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Sauls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Vice Chairman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda: Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion in favor of the Agenda as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – June 18, 2018: Chairwoman Clark moved and Councilman Brantley seconds the Motion in favor of approval of the June 18, 2018 Minutes with any necessary corrections as needed if any. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Presentations and Proclamations – John Fleming - Southern Carolina Economic Development Alliance (SCA) Quarterly Report – Spec Building 4 update and Year End Review pamphlet provided.

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 thirty minutes.

Sal Arzillo talks about governmental relationships, and discusses that in relation to fire contracts. He talks about the County ambulance needing to be back in downtown Hardeeville and that we need to work together.

Kristen Northrop, JARM thanks for the Councils' support.

Resolutions – None

Ordinances

David Tedder – 1st Reading by title only of an Ordinance Approving a Development Agreement by and between Stever Family, LLC, Logan Real Estate, LLC, and Jasper County regarding Tax Map Parcels 080-03-00-003 through 080-03-00-018; 080-03-00-020; and 080-03-00-021 located in the Argent Business Park Pursuant to the South Carolina Local Government Development Agreement Act and Article IV, Chapter 20 of the Code Of Ordinances of Jasper County, and Authorizing the Chairman or County Administrator of Jasper County Council to Execute Said Development Agreement.

Chairman Johnson recused himself and Vice Chairman Etheridge opened the floor for Public Comments. None being brought forward, he returned to the Agenda.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion in favor as presented. The Motion passes with four Councilmembers present voting in favor and Chairman Johnson abstaining.

David Tedder – Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Abandoning Any Jasper County Right or Claim of Prescriptive Maintenance or Use on a Portion of a Road Located within Jasper County (Jasper Station Road) Upon Conditions.

Mr. Tedder explained in the effect of the ordinance. Chairman Johnson adds that anyone other than a lawyer would see this as giving up one area for another area. Mr. Tedder agrees that Chairman Johnson's explanation is exactly the case here, and it is going to be a better road than what we are giving up. Vice Chairman is concerned who will be working maintenance on different portions of the road. Mr. Fulghum offers clarification directing attention to the different colors on the map displayed on the screen identifying the areas involved.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for Public Comments. None being brought forward, he returned to the Agenda.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion in favor of the Motion as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

New Business

Dale Terry and Andrew Fulghum – Presentation of Jasper County Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendations

Rock – \$150,000 to buy rock from lowest bidder.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion in favor of the request as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

James Taylor Drive – Ridgeland Project JC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended \$50,000 originally but re-appropriated money for another matter due to scheduling; the TAC recommended reinstating the amount at the March 11th TAC meeting.

Councilwoman Clark moved to reinstate and appropriate \$50,000 for James Taylor Drive; Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Detention Center Loop Road/Staging Area – This is a TAC project, which they approved \$31,400 for preliminary engineering at their March meeting.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion in favor of the motion as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Old Business

Andrew Fulghum – Staff Recommendation for Future Use of County Property located at 214 Second Avenue (Former Solicitor's Office) Council agrees to defer to another meeting.

Council Members Comments

Councilman Brantley states publicly that he had an opportunity to spend time with our County Administrator this past week and it was extremely informative. He certainly appreciates the tour of two-thirds of the County and looks forward to the remaining one-third tour of Jasper County. He will make certain to stay informed on all of the projects and things that are going on the County so he might respond informatively and responsibly to our citizens.

Vice Chairman Etheridge attended the Soil and Water Conservation Gordon Wells event. He praised the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the event, adding that this raises a lot of money. He attended the Beaufort Jasper EOC meeting. They are trying to grow the Headstart program and are applying for additional grants. He encourages people to tell others in poverty to seek assistance at the office behind the Polaris Tech, noting they have new staff.

Councilman Sauls attended the Soil and Water Conservation annual event honoring his Grandparents. He expresses his appreciation for the Nature Center and encourages people to visit, adding that over one thousand children go there a year. State and local agencies are involved and it is a hidden jewel in our County. He gives details on Chamber of Commerce events and State House Day.

Councilwoman Clark attended the Soil and Water Conservation Gordon Wells event. It was very nice. She attended a couple of workshops and a School Board meeting, and went to Columbia for a day. She and Henry Etheridge are the liaison for education on this Council as such they have a right to ask questions and receive information from the School Board. She encourages the Board to have transparency in fund raising, and easily obtainable written records. Tomorrow is the State of the Education address at Palmetto Electric in Ridgeland. She encourages all to come and show their support for the children and staff.

Chairman Johnson said he has been busy but he chose not to make the citizens suffer through the details.

Administrator's Report shared updates regarding the Jasper County Jail and Law Enforcement Facilities Study and the Planned SCDOT Resurfacing Projects. Included in his report were letters regarding the Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM). The Council directs Mr. Fulghum to respond favorably to JARM. Mr. Fulghum asked Mr. Terry to give the update regarding the improvements made to the Department of Juvenile Justice Office.

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

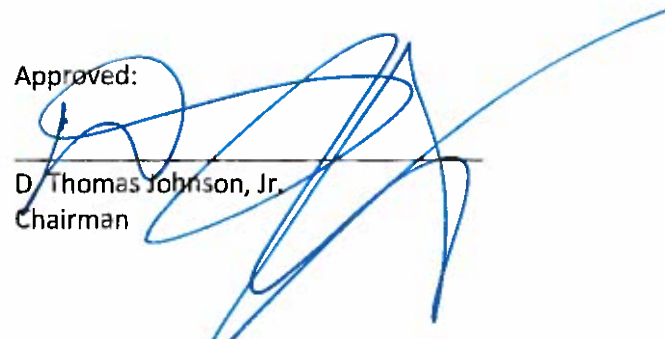
Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie W. Lawson
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Chairman