



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HARDEEVILLE CITY HALL
205 MAIN STREET HARDEEVILLE, SC 29927
MARCH 4, 2019
MINUTES**

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

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

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion in favor of going 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. – Sheriff's Office

(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) – Argent Business Center, Fire Services, The Settings at Mackay Point, J.A.R.M

(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)

Return to Open Session in Council Chambers

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion in favor of returning to Open Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Action on Items discussed in Executive Session

Councilwoman Clark moved to authorize the expenditure of \$45,000 from the County's Emergency Fund to the Jasper Animal Rescue Mission in order to cover an unexpected budget shortfall stemming from the loss of certain corporate sponsorship during this past year. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Councilwoman Clark moved to defer filing of the proposed lawsuit regarding the Jasper Ocean Terminal until after the upcoming meeting between the Governors' of Georgia and South Carolina. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Attorney David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Kim Burgess, Lisa Wagner Director of Building, Planning and Zoning

Pledge of Allegiance Councilman Brantley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation Vice Chairman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda Chairman Johnson would entertain a motion to approve the Agenda with amendments deleting item XII A and moving item XIII C to Item IX.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion approve the Agenda with amendments deleting item XII A and moving item XIII C to Item IX. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes – January 22, 2019; February 25, 2019

Vice Chairman found an error in the January 22, 2019 Minutes on Page 2 first sentence in the second paragraph "Coosawhatchie Fire Station" should be "Coosawhatchie Step School and Voting Precinct"

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the Amended January 22, 2019 Minutes by amending on Page 2, first sentence in the second paragraph "Coosawhatchie Fire Station" changed to "Coosawhatchie Step School and Voting Precinct". The Motion passes to approve the January 22, 2019 Minutes with the Amendment noted as well as to approve the February 25, 2019 Minutes as presented. The motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Presentations and Proclamations

Rudolph Smith – Presentation of Jasper County Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendations Pine Haven Road and Macedonia Church, and Road SC-3.

Mr. Smith said these should have been approved previously during Ms. Frank's tenure, but with her illness and passing there has been some confusion. The Transportation Advisory Committee is seeking the approval of the total bid for Pine Haven Road and Macedonia Road of \$750,000, and for the approval of the total bid for the completion of SC Highway 3 from Grays to the County line. If you will

recall this road has been bid in three different projects. This is the third and final phase of this project from the Creek Bridge to the County line \$1,312,000. This is part of the S.C. Highways and Public Transportation Department's C-Fund.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion approve the total bid for Pine Haven Road and Macedonia Road in the amount of \$750,000 and also to approve the third and final phase of the SC Highway 3 Project from the Creek Bridge to the County line in the amount of \$1,312,000. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Resolutions – None

Ordinances – None

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.

Chairman Johnson, receiving no requests to make public comments, returns to the Agenda

Lisa Wagner – 1st 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 080-00-03-162 from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Brantley seconds the Motion approving the 1st reading of this Ordinance as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

David Tedder – 3rd Reading - Project Sky Multi-County Park – an Ordinance authorizing (1) the development of a new joint county industrial and business park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Beaufort County (the "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Beaufort County and to include the below referenced property; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park agreement with Beaufort County as to the requirement of payments in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Beaufort County; and (4) other matters related thereto.

Councilman Sauls moved and Vice Chairman Etheridge seconds the Motion in favor of the 3rd Reading of this Ordinance with amendments to the Agreement replacing the name of **D. Paul Summerville** with **Stewart H. Rodman** as being the Chairman of Beaufort County Council. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

David Tedder – 3rd Reading - Project McClellan a/k/a Seabrook Solar, LLC Multicounty Park - an Ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint county industrial and business park pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Beaufort County (the "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Beaufort County and to

include the below referenced property; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park agreement with Beaufort County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Beaufort County; and (4) other matters related thereto.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion in favor of the 3rd Reading of this Ordinance as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

David Tedder – 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 8, *Businesses* to adopt a new business licensing ordinance incorporating, as made applicable to counties and specifically Jasper County, the provisions of the 2018 Model Business License Ordinance, including its classification system, and establishing rates for such classification, and matters related thereto.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved and Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion approving the 3rd Reading of this Ordinance to amend Chapter 8, *Businesses* to adopt a new business licensing ordinance incorporating, as made applicable to counties and specifically Jasper County, the provisions of the 2018 Model Business License Ordinance, including its classification system, and establishing rates for such classification, and matters related thereto, with the deletion of 8-44C and 8-45D, with leave to bring both back at a later date. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Kimberly Burgess – 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 18-19 Jasper County Operating Budget to provide \$1,208,000 in additional Funds for Improvement of Fire Protection through the Purchase of Fire Fighting Equipment and Real Property.

Councilman Sauls moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion in favor of the 3rd Reading of this Ordinance as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

New Business

Kimberly Burgess – Presentation of Bids for Paving Haphazard and Toomerville Recycling Center Sites

The Ad was ran in the South Carolina Business Opportunity (SCBO) and the Jasper County Sun News for about a month, and this was the only bid received. Mr. Fulghum said this project is grant funded through the C-Funds.

Councilman Sauls moved and Vice Chairman Etheridge seconds the Motion in favor of the approving the Paving Haphazard and Toomerville Recycling Center Sites bid to be awarded to Preferred Materials under the 2nd Scenario in the amount of \$96,500.00. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Kimberly Burgess – Presentation of Bids for Waste Containers for five containers and one compactor

The Ad was ran in the South Carolina Business Opportunity (SCBO) and the Jasper County Sun News for about a month and we received three bids. The low bid was Bakers Waste Equipment out of Lenoir, North Carolina for \$48,942.09.

Councilman Brantley moved and Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion in awarding the Bid for Waste Containers to Bakers Waste Equipment in the amount of 48,942.09 as presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Old Business – None

Council Members Comments

Councilwoman Clark said the Superintendent of the Schools Dr. Anderson is having her State of the Schools Address on March 19th at 9:00 at the Palmetto Electric in Ridgeland. We would love to see everyone there but please call Dr. Anderson's assistant to make a reservation. She attended the Institute of Government meeting. It was very informative but the notes are saying the same thing about local government money from the State; they cannot tell you the amount you will be getting, but they tell you it will not increase. She attended the Aviation Conference in Hilton Head. The FAA is very impressed with Jasper County Airport. Her Grandson Trenton sang at the opening at the Aviation Conference. She notes we are doing something right in Jasper. Congratulations to Ridgeland Hardeeville High Basketball Boys Team; they played hard and received a big trophy for being second in the High School League, but they are still the Lower Regional Champions. She wants to acknowledge General Fig Newton, who spent his own time with us at the Aviation Conference. He may be a tall light weight man, but he pulls a lot of weight and many people look up to him, and that is good because he spoke very highly of what is taking place in Jasper County.

Councilman Sauls said the Southern Carolina Alliance has been very busy. Last Tuesday they met in Downtown Bluffton along with our Carolina Ambassadors' Club and had a marketing event where members invited others. It was well attended by both regional and state participants. The Chamber is busy in March with Lunch and Learn series presented by SCORE with two meetings a month in March, April and May. On March 28th we are having our 60th Annual Installation Awards Banquet at Chelsea Plantation. Visit the website Jasper Chamber for more information. Nomination Award envelopes have been sent out, please take time and consider nominations. March 8th and 9th is the Pow Wow at Mill Stone Landing. Also, Chief Edwards is continuing to encourage Volunteers for the Fire Rescue Program.

Councilman Brantley said he attended the Mid Term Conference on Government in Columbia. He said a prime message from it was that the budget allocation from the State to the forty-six Counties is non-negotiable. He was also pleased to attend the SOLOCO Regional Board Meeting in Bluffton, and he was extremely impressed with the presentations of the 2019 Municipal Goals coming from Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and Hardeeville. The presentations were commendable and we are very pleased with the information that was shared.

Vice Chairman Etheridge said he also attended the South Carolina Association of Counties Government Meeting, and again they said we are going to be around six or seven million dollars short of what they mandate we receive in this County, versus what they are actually going to give us. They said to expect what they gave us last year or the year before, but not to expect any more. He also attended a very informative Economic Conference in Orangeburg today. He is sorry he cannot attend the second day of the Conference tomorrow, but he has to attend a funeral in Florida. He also attended four meetings

with citizens of the County about issues they want to talk about. This happens often and he offers his opinion, not the opinion of the Council.

Chairman Johnson asked for the Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum said in follow up to Ms. Clark's report on the Aviation Conference, Marco Cavazzoni, a new Member of the Aeronautics Commission that represents our District, was present. While Mr. Fulghum arrived a little late to the meeting, he sat behind the FAA and Commission, and as she said, all they talked about was Ridgeland, and it was a very pleasant place to be seated!

He has two items in his report; one is a need for the Council to consider an appointment to fill the very large shoes of Mr. Henry Lawton on the Low Country Council of Government Board. He knows that you will need some time to do that. The second item is to inform you that the Auditor, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Ms. Burgess, Mr. Tedder and I are working to draft an Intergovernmental Agreement for Hardeeville and Ridgeland regarding Tax Collection issues. As you know, the County bills for property taxes for the municipalities, and we want that process to be tightened up a little bit for both sides so all know and understand how that process is to work going forward.

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

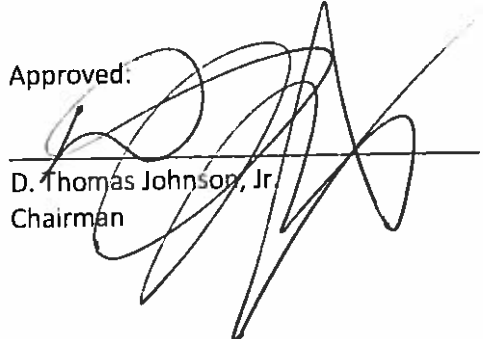
Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie Lawson
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson, Jr.
Chairman