



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 Third Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936**

APRIL 15, 2019

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnson at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Etheridge made a motion and Councilman Brantley seconded it to go into executive session. The motion passed with all council members 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. –
Clerk To Council**
- (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) – [Fire Services, Pittman Case No: 2017-CP-27-00397](#)

(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 at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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

Councilman Brantley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Chairman Johnson then called on our able Senator Margie Bright-Matthews. She asked Chairman Johnson to come down to the podium and while he was doing so, she provided an update on the financial realm of what was going on in Columbia in the Senate Finance Committee. She said that Senator Tom Davis and herself were able to get the committee to unanimously approve an 8 million dollar appropriation for the Jasper County Port.

She also stated that last year in their budget, Jasper County Council had submitted a request of \$200,000 for Parks and Recreation; \$130,000 for a new ambulance; \$75,000 for Emergency Services Building improvements and \$70,000 for a vehicle and equipment for the Sheriff's office.

She submitted that to the Senate Finance Committee and Ways and Means Committee in the House and was able to obtain \$475,000 for Jasper County which she presented a big cardboard check to Chairman Johnson for. As this was not all given at one time, she presented the last \$200,000 check to Administrator Fulghum.

Chairman Johnson asked if there was a motion to approve the Agenda. Attorney Tedder pointed out that according to parliamentary procedure there were two items on the agenda that they would not be able to vote on because of a couple of missing members and the Chairman's recusal on two items. He suggested that they table items 12 (A) and (B) to the next meeting for lack of a quorum.

Councilman Brantley moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the Agenda with the amendment of tabling items 12(A) and (B) to the next meeting for lack of a Quorum. The motion passed with all council members present voting.

Council Etheridge moved and Councilman Brantley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018 with any corrections that needed to be made. The motion passed with all council members present voting.

Presentations and Proclamations

Chairman Johnson then called on Barbara A. Johnson for a public hearing on housing.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was from the Lowcountry Council of Government to conduct a public hearing for the 2019 Annual Action Plan for the Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium.

She stated that it has been duly advertised and that it was the 2019-2020 Annual Acting Plan for the Affordable Housing Program. She has not received the actual allocation from the federal government yet so she was using last year's numbers to base the actual plan on.

Last year, they received \$637,838 from the federal government and HOME funds put in \$143,714 locally for a total balance of \$781,352. They plan to use this for 3 new construction units probably in Beaufort County because there is a habitat there. And they plan to use the money for 16 single family owner occupied rehabs in other counties.

They have also been talking to Jasper County Nation United Project which has just started so this may not be the year they do this but they want to put money in a trustfund. They have two years to allocate and 4 years to spend so they are waiting to allocate to them hopefully in the next two years they will be ready to do this. Jasper County will get Council rehab funds.

Chairman Johnson noted that the rehabs would be substantially more numerous than the new construction.

Next Chairman Johnson opened the 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 first recognized Derrick Myers of the Ridgeland-Hardeeville Booster Club. He stated that back in October the Ridgeland-Hardeeville Marching Band got invited to the Centennial Parade being held in Washington, DC on July 4, 2019. He was here doing active fundraising so that the band could go to the Nation's capital, the parade and visit the African-American Museum. He said there would be between 25-50 kids going.

Councilman Brantley asked what he would like the Council to contribute to which Mr. Myers responded any amount they could.

Chairman Johnson next called on Elena Logan. She is the owner of Logan Realty and was here tonight to support the 3rd reading of the ordinance to transfer her property from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone. She said this was important to her and her tenants and she was here to ask for support of this.

Chairman Johnson next recognized Priscilla Fraser. She wanted to inquire on the status of the Marsh Cove Fire Station. She doesn't understand what is taking so long and asks that things please be speeded up.

Chairman Johnson then called on David Spisso. He said he is a resident of Sun City in Jasper County and was here inquiring about the budget and how much money was available. He stated that the reserve should be 17-20% and that Jasper County's is up to 43%. He asks that if that money is there that Jasper County lower the millage rate to give some money back to the citizens. If they would just lower it 2 – 5 mils, they should be able to afford it.

Chairman Johnson then called on Sheila Wilson. She said she was with the Home Missionary Outreach Ministry and was concerned about the confederate flag flying on Pocotaligo Road and the lighting on it. She claims it is on private property but that the lighting on it is putting lives in danger and asked the Council to send the police or someone out to check on this light.

Resolutions – there were none.

Ordinances

The first ordinance that was on the agenda was a Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Approving a Development Agreement by and between Stever Family LLC, Webb Investments LLC, and Jasper County regarding Tax Map Parcels 080-03-00-003 through 080-03-00-018; 080-03-00-020; 080-03-00-021; 080-03-00-022; 080-03-00-023 and the roads and common areas 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.

This is one of the ordinances that was tabled to the next meeting.

The next ordinance on the agenda was the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer properties bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 080-03-00-001; 080-03-00-002; 080-03-00-003; 080-03-00-004; 080-03-00-005; 080-03-00-006; 080-03-00-007; 080-03-00-008; 080-03-00-009; 080-03-00-010; 080-03-00-011; 080-03-00-012; 080-03-00-013; 080-03-00-014; 080-03-00-015; 080-03-00-016; 080-03-00-017; 080-03-00-018; 080-03-00-019; 080-03-00-020; 080-03-00-021 from the Mixed Business Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map,

This is also one of the ordinances that was also tabled to the next meeting.

Chairman Johnson then 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 080-00-03-162 from the General Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

She explained that this was a Zoning Map Amendment and involved 2.32 acres at 631 Red Oaks Lane in the Red Oaks Plaza Commercial Subdivision. It was developed with a current business.

Councilman Etheridge made a motion and Councilman Brantley seconded it to table this to the next meeting because of some additional information that they got today that everybody needs to look at. The motion passed with all Council members present voting.

Chairman Johnson next called on Lisa Wagner for a 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 039-00-08-129 from the Residential Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Ms. Wagner explained that this Public Hearing had been advertised and posted on the property. She explained that the subject property was 10.2 acres located at 441 Honeysucker Road off of Freedom Parkway. The property has a manufactured home on it and there are no plans for future development.

Chairman Johnson opened a public hearing and there were no comments so the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Brantley made a motion and Councilman Etheridge seconded it for the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. The motion passed with all Council members present voting.

Chairman Johnson again called on Lisa Wagner for a 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 063-20-02-001 from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Ms. Wagner explained that this ordinance involved 1.4 acres of land located at 9797 South Jacob Boulevard (Highway 17). The property has an old commercial building on it that is being used as a tire shop. The town of Ridgeland was notified about the application and they are not interested in pursuing annexation of the property.

Chairman Johnson opened a public hearing and there were no comments so he closed the hearing.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Brantley seconded the motion to approve the 2nd reading of this Ordinance. The motion passed with all council members present voting.

There was no New Business.

There was no Old Business.

Chairman Johnson called for Council Members Comments.

Councilman Brantley stated that he had the pleasure and opportunity to attend a FIT meeting (Families in Need) and it was paramount to addressing the homeless community in Jasper as well as the neediest. He recommended that Council apply whatever resources were available to help this organization.

Councilman Etheridge stated that he went to a meeting at the Jasper County School and that there were 50 or so volunteers there showing an interest in the children. He wanted to recognize and thank them for what they were doing.

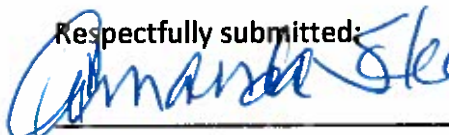
Chairman Johnson passed on making any comments.

Chairman Johnson then called on Andrew Fulghum for the Administrator's Report.

Administrator Fulghum said he had submitted his report to Council and had nothing else to comment on.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Brantley seconded the motion to go back into executive session. The motion passed with all council members present voting.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Steinmeyer
Clerk to Council

Approved:



D. Thomas Johnson
Chairman