



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JASPER COUNTY CLEMENTA C. PINCKNEY BUILDING  
358 THIRD AVENUE RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
FEBRUARY 3, 2020  
MINUTES**

Call to Order – Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 P.M in order to enter into Executive Session.

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Acting Clerk to Council Tisha L. Williams, County Attorney David Tedder, Director of Emergency Management Services Chief Frank Edwards, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess, Planning and Building Director Lisa Wagner, Public Works and Engineering Services Director Dale Terry

Upon Motion by Councilman Johnson as Councilman Sauls seconds to enter into Council Executive Session to discuss matters as listed on the posted Agenda, the Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

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 a 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 – Election and Voter Registration**

**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 – Morgan Tract, Ridgeland Lakes, Energy Savings Proposal, Able Contracting**

**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**

Vice Chairwoman Clark moves and Councilman Brantley seconds the motion to return to Open Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

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

Chairman Etheridge asked if there are any matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Councilman Johnson stated that the County had a month to month contract with a lobbyist group and moved to terminate said contract effective February 29, 2020. Councilman Sauls seconds the motion with all members present voting in favor. Motion approved to terminate lobbyist contract.

Chairman Etheridge moved to have Executive Session come to a close.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Johnson and in unison

Invocation given by Councilman Brantley

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sauls moved as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the Agenda as previously posted and presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes – January 21, 2020

Councilman Sauls moved to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2020 as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes to approve the Minutes.

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 Etheridge opens the floor to the Public.

John Kemp

Mr. Kemp brought up Agenda Item X-A that *“authorizes the County Council Chairman to execute on behalf of the County of Jasper an Intergovernmental Agreement”* stating that it was talked about two years ago regarding Exit 8 Zoning adding that Jasper Zoning was different from Hardeeville Zoning and that he doesn’t think that the issue has ever been resolved. Mr. Kemp told Council that he hopes that the issue could be resolved before “going” into the Exit 8 matter. Chairman Etheridge thanked Mr. Kemp for his comment.

Juliana Smith – South Carolina Coastal Conservation League

Ms. Smith stated she was present to discuss Agenda Item XI-B *“the Amendment to Appendix A to the Jasper County Ordinance”* stating in the aftermath of the fire at the Able Contracting site, it became clear that a mechanism was needed to ensure that “bad actors” in this particular industry will bear some responsibility in the event of a disaster striking. Ms. Smith added that unfortunately the State does not require that these agencies post a bond, but the conservation league hopes that they will soon implement one and they are advocating that they do so. In the meantime, it’s smart that local governments address “this” issue at a local level like what’s happening tonight, and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League applauds Jasper County’s efforts and are in support of the Amendment change.

Chairman Etheridge closes the floor.

## Resolutions

### **Andrew Fulghum – Resolution Authorizing the County Council Chairman to Execute on behalf of the County of Jasper an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Jasper and the City of Hardeeville regarding Contracting for Improvements to be paid out of the Local Option Sales Tax Referendum of 2016 for Certain Improvements at the I-95 Exit 8 Interchange Area and Authorizing the County Administrator and County Attorney to perform certain tasks related thereto**

Mr. Fulghum stated to Council that at the last Council meeting, County Council provided Staff with some direction as to the proposed scope for this project which is “Potential Use of Transportation Sales Tax Revenue to do some Improvements at Exit 8. Mr. Fulghum stated that the scope was amended as was directed by council to remove all improvements west of Medical Center Drive and to remove the item of improvements to Henry Moss Blvd, which is a private road. However some improvements directly at the interchange are currently in the State right-a-way, long story short, the scope has been amended in the Intergovernmental Agreement Exhibit B, which is an explanation of the scope of the project, of which the total amount was reduced by \$170,000.00 and the new amount is \$1,875,000.00 as proposed. Exhibit A as you Council may recall speaks the role of the County and the City with regards to the distribution of the Transportation Sales Tax. Mr. Fulghum is requesting the approval of the Resolution that authorizes the Chairman to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

Councilman Sauls moved as Councilman Johnson seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting

## Ordinances

### **Lisa Wagner – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Article 6, Use Regulations, Section 6:1 – Table 1, and Article 11:7, Industry Specific Conditional Use Regulations, of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, to allow retail sales of motor vehicles in the Community Commercial Zoning District as a conditional use**

Ms. Wagner stated that the proposed Ordinance would allow a small-scale automobile dealership as a conditional use in the Community Commercial Zoning district. Those conditions consist of one acre minimum lot size, automobile hood should not be propped up as a form of advertisement or to draw attention, no banners allowed, the maximum automobiles should not exceed twenty-five, retail sale of automobile parts shall not be allowed, maintenance service or dismantling of automobile shall not be allowed, outside storage shall not be allowed, outdoor speaker systems shall not be allowed. Hours of operation are limited to Monday through Saturday from 8am to 8pm, a structure of 400 square feet must be provided for an office and restroom facility. These conditions are aimed to protect commercial and residential properties.

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

### **David Tedder – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Announcement of a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend Appendix A of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, Zoning, so as to provide additional requirements and conditions for certain uses, including those included in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Sector 421930, Recyclable Material; and Sector 56292, Material Recovery Facilities; by**

**including certain additional financial security requirements to provide funds to de-commission, clean-up and close-out facilities, and matters related thereto.**

Mr. Tedder stated that the item before Council is an amendment and adding some additional financial security requirements to certain types of uses that may have outdoor storage of materials to be recycled or repurposed. The ordinance basically does is state that in effect your storage of outdoor materials kept in these two categories that are listed, cannot be higher than the required screen fencing so that you can't see on top of it. The Ordinance also provides that the financial security that is required by DHEC on certain types of activity under a May 2019 Statutory Amendment also be in favor of Jasper County to cover any of the County's costs to decommission and clean up and it will be presented for Public Hearing at the March 2, 2020 County Council Meeting with the permission of Council and the Planning Commission will review the Ordinance at their March Meeting.

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Ordinance, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes

#### **New Business**

#### **County Council Chairman Henry Etheridge – Appointment to Jasper County Aeronautics Commission**

County Council Chairman Henry Etheridge stated that Council asked the City of Ridgeland to make appointment and they chose Mr. Charles Pinckney. Chairman Etheridge appointed Mr. Charles Pinckney to the Jasper County Aeronautics Commission.

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

#### **Kim Burgess – Update on Energy Proposal**

Ms. Burgess requested Council to approve a Preliminary Study for Energy Savings Contract they are looking to place. Request for proposals were sent out and two different companies responded. During the review of the proposals, it was determined that one of the companies previously provided a preliminary study that would determine was the County's potential savings could be, the second respondent did not have that opportunity and they are willing to do so, therefore the request is to allow the second company to provide a free preliminary study so that it can be determined as to which would best to contract with.

Councilman Johnson moves as Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

#### **Council Members' Comments**

Councilman Sauls stated that they Chamber of Commerce had a wonderful turn-out at the Annual State of the County Breakfast as both Mayors as well as the County Council Chairman spoke. Councilman Sauls added that there are a couple of events happening this weekend; The Jasper Jamboree Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights hosted by the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce and being held at the National Guard Armory. There will also be a Ribbon Cutting at the Ridgeland Claude Dean Airport as the runway will be open and the Southern Carolina Regional Authority is helping to promote the event which will be next Friday, February 7, 2020. Councilman Sauls encouraged all in attendance to come out and enjoy.

Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that she would like to send Congratulations to Councilman Bo White who won the most recent City of Hardeeville City Council Election. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked everyone who rendered their prayers and their sympathy to her in the passing of her daughter-in-law. Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that it was a hard time adding that she does still get emotion when she speaks about it and asks that every still continue to keep her, her son and his daughters in prayer, because "God can do anything but fail". Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked those who were there for her; Emergency Services Chief Edwards for attending the service, City Councilman Beau White for being there for her adding that they don't know how much it meant and that she thanked County Administrator Andrew Fulghum for being there on the phone for her constantly, adding that just as her daughter-in-law was taking her last break, her phone rang and it was Mr. Fulghum, adding that she couldn't "go down" she had to be strong enough for him to believe that she was alright stating that she really wasn't alright. Vice Chairwoman added that Mr. Fulghum kept telling her if there's anything she needed, anything and he'll be there for her. Vice Chairwoman Clark also thanked Councilman Sauls for being her faithful standby "buddy" who constantly called and checked on her along with all the emails and phone calls she received from Chairman Etheridge and Councilman Johnson. Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that she attended the State of the County Breakfast and on the same day departed to attend the South Carolina Association of Counties Insurance Trust Membership Meeting in Myrtle Beach South Carolina and that she truly enjoyed it as it was very informative and that always love to attend it, as there's a lot of information to receive. Vice Chairwoman stated that also attended the ribbon cutting at Royal Live Oaks, adding that they have a beautiful facility and the Council is wishing them much luck. Vice Chairwoman Clark invited everyone to attend the Aerospace and Aviation Lab Ribbon Cutting at the Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School at 11am, adding that Dr. Anderson is performing miracles though some may not think so, but encouraged everyone to come out and see what's happening with Public Education. Vice Chairwoman Clark also mentioned that there is a LATS Meeting on that same day at 10am and the Airport Runway Ribbon cutting is a 1pm – all in the same day, February 7, 2020, she will also be heading to the South Carolina Aviation Association Meeting the following week which will put her back in Myrtle Beach and then the SCAC 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mid-Year Conference in Columbia. Vice Chairwoman asks everyone to continue to keep her in prayer.

**Councilman Brantley** stated that he attended the SOLOCO Board Meeting on last week and is asking that the record reflect that the County Council Chairman Henry Etheridge, reappointed him to the board so that he will be able to continue attending the SOLOCO Board meetings.

**Councilman Johnson** stated that he attended the very inspiring Ribbon Cutting at Royal Live Oaks and that it was a very impressive ceremony. Councilman Johnson stated that he attended several meetings regarding some things he doesn't really like meeting about. Both he and Councilman Sauls attended some meetings with some lobbyist and "businesspeople" along with the Mayor of Hardeeville, where they were made certain promises adding that it's a strong possibility of getting funding for Exit 3 and it maybe an Economic Development Project in its own right. There maybe a meeting regarding the matter March 3, 2020 and asks that everyone stay tune, as there maybe some results coming from that meeting.

**Chairman Etheridge** stated that he would also like to congratulate Bo White on his win on the City of Hardeeville City Council, and congratulated Royal Live Oaks on their facility and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Chairman Etheridge stated that he also attended the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce State of the County Breakfast, he attended the SOLOCO meeting the next day as well as the Insurance Trust Meeting as well.

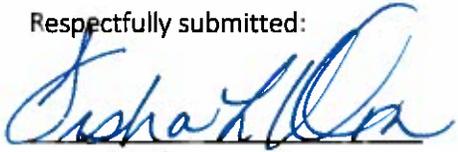
Administrator's Report presented to Council his Administrator's Report as well as his two-week Progress Report, adding that he's happy to answer any questions Council may have but does not have anything else to report outside of the report given. Council did not have any questions and proceeded to move to adjourn.

**Adjourn**

Councilman Sauls moved and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned

**Meeting adjourned at 6:57P.M.**

Respectfully submitted:



Tisha L. Williams  
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



Henry Etheridge  
Chairman