



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2020
MINUTES

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 Services Director Lisa Wagner

Call to Order – Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 P.M in order to enter Executive Session.

Upon Motion by Vice Chairwoman Clark as Councilman Johnson 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 – [Clerk to Council, Sheriff Department](#)

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 – [Cherry Point Fire District Update](#)

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 \(JOT\)](#)

Chairman Etheridge Called the Budget Workshop to Order at 5:30PM.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Kim Burgess - BUDGET FY 20-21

Ms. Burgess stated that there were changes made to the Budget from the 2nd Reading, adding that there was an increase of approximately \$3,368,100.00 and of that amount \$1,208,300.00 was a carry forward for the \$1,200,00.00. Stiney Road Fire Station was \$770,000 and there were some additional IT malware expenditures that were approved by the Council on January of 2020 of approximately \$110,000 that was not included and have not been expended and was not included in the fiscal year 20201 Budget prior to the 3rd Reading. There was also a grant match of \$150,000 as well as items that were budgeted but unspent for the fiscal year 19-20, so Staff carried that amount over from the prior year budget in the amount of \$170,000. There was an \$83,000 cash carry forward for the Mead Road Fire Station sprinkler system that was approved, and the money has not yet been expended to complete the project, therefore that amount was carried forward. An addition of \$1,808,000.00 to the Marsh Cove Fire Station and of that amount was the \$1,308,000 USDA RDA Bond proceeds. There was also a \$500,000 grant that staff needed to include in the income as well. There was an increase of approximately \$127,500.00 for some additional grant match requirements, which brought the total revenues to \$33,898,200.00. There were some offsetting expenditures as one of the long list of items was the Medical insurance line item and the adjustments total for this particular line item was \$159,900.00. The Capital Outlay was increased for the remainder to complete the Stiney Road Fire Station as Staff anticipated that the Stiney Road Fire Station would be complete prior to this fiscal year end, however it unfortunately would not be. Staff anticipated that it would cost \$770,000.00 in order to complete the Fire Station and that amount was carried forward. There were \$55,000.00 in Technology Upgrades that needed to be included as an expenditure from the prior January 2020 Ordinance for IT malware expenditures. At the most recent County Council Meeting, Council asked Staff to make some provisions for a new animal control vehicle, and the \$50,000 has been included into the budget. Overtime in the Detention Center was reduced to offset the increase that the County had to have in the new Medical Services Contract as well as provide for the cost pool, therefore it shows an increase of \$35,200.00. For the Social Media Consultant, the amount of \$18,000 was added into the budget and it was offset by the decrease of \$15,000 for the Annual Leave Expense. There was an increase for the Sergeant Jasper Park as well as for the Parks and Recreation Department, as one is \$60,000 and the other is \$90,000 for the completion of the water/sewer for the restrooms that were constructed for the prior year. The Expenditures total \$33,898,200.00. Chairman Etheridge inquired if the Animal Control cost \$50,000 and Ms. Burgess advised that she checked with the Deputy that received the quote for the vehicle and it was listed at the amount. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked Ms. Burgess what exactly is in the vehicle, and Ms. Burgess advised they do have cages to put the animals and it is a separate line item and is listed as a new vehicle under the Sheriff line item. Ms. Burgess also stated that she tried to find some vendors online but they did not have any prices on line. Councilman Brantley inquired if the total adjustments would accommodate the adjustments for the expenditures, Ms. Burgess stated yes it does adding that there is no increase in millage and rate.

Kim Burgess - BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 19-20

Ms. Burgess stated the Budget Ordinance requires Council to approve any transfers greater than \$5,000, and the list is rather lengthy, and the amounts will change until June 30, 2020 has been reached. Throughout the year there were some Supplemental Appropriations that Council approved, but Staff have not yet been expend all the items. Chairman Etheridge inquired about the disaster expenses and if they could be potentially covered. Ms. Burgess stated that the County could cover some potential disaster expenses for Hurricane Dorian which is around \$290,000 and about 75% of that could be used as long as

it's approved by FEMA. COVID-19 maybe approved but Staff will be waiting to see if FEMA would approve it once that time has arrived to request. Councilman Johnson inquired if the Animal Control Budget is a JARM or is that another item, Ms. Burgess advised that JARM is just an appropriation and that the remaining portion of the budget falls under the Sheriff Department. Councilman Johnson asked if it would be problematic if it were to be classified as Animal Control, Ms. Burgess advised that Mr. Tedder or Mr. Fulghum would need to answer. Chairman Etheridge advised that Council will be voting on the 3rd Reading of the Budget.

Councilman Johnson moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion.

Workshop Adjourned at 6:23PM

Councilman Sauls moves and Vice Chairwoman Clark 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.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Brantley and in unison

Invocation given by Vice Chairwoman Clark

Chairman Etheridge asked if there are any matters to be brought forward from Executive Session. It was determined that there were not any Business Items coming out of Executive Session.

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 – May 27, 2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Vice Chairwoman Clark moved to approve the Minutes as Councilman Sauls 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.

Ms. Williams advised Council that there were not any Public Comments

Chairman Etheridge closes the floor.

Resolutions

Ordinances

David Tedder – 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Utility Easement Encumbering Property Owned by Jasper County (Stiney Road)

Mr. Tedder stated that at the last meeting there was an Pubic Hearing and a 2nd Reading of the Ordinance which is simply to provide an easement to Dominion Energy so that the County can obtain power service to the new fire station on Stiney Road. This easement is for the area out by Stiney Road across the front so they can bring the line across the street down to the area to service the building. There also were not any further comments on the Ordinance.

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

Lisa Wagner – 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 063-22-02-002 from the Residential Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map

Ms. Wagner stated the subject property consist of 1-acre and is located at 670 Stellar Jay Road, the applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Rural Preservation and desires to combine the property to an adjacent property. According to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Map it's considered an Urban Transition area and the property is not able to be annexed as it is not close the Town limit.

Chairman Etheridge opens the floor to the Public.

Mr. Fulghum received a Comment from Curtis Patterson *"To whom it may concern, I am sending this email to voice my opinion about the rezoning of the property off stellar jay road. I am very much against the rezoning, this is a community of elderly, young people and children, and young drivers. The road cannot with stand RV's coming in and out of this community, also we cannot afford to have our taxes go up any higher. I for see many problems with this rezoning, I pray that this is not passed. I don't see this community benefiting from this project."*

There were not any further comments.

Chairman Etheridge closes the floor.

Councilman Sauls moves to not approve as Councilman Johnson seconds the Motion. All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes to not approve the Ordinance.

Kim Burgess – 3rd READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAX FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES IN JASPER COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1ST, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30TH 2021 AND TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR SAID PURPOSES; TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE JASPER COUNTY CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021; TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021; TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021; TO LIMIT THE DISBURSEMENTS BY THE COUNTY TREASURER TO THOSE APPROPRIATED BY LAW; TO PROVIDE THAT EXPENDITURES NOT EXCEED APPROPRIATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES; TO MAKE AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN

TRANSFERS; TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS TO FILE ACCOUNTINGS; TO REQUIRE THE TREASURER TO SIGN GENERAL FUND CHECKS; TO PROVIDE SPECIAL RULES FOR TRAVEL AND TRAINING DISBURSEMENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS; TO PROVIDE COMPLIANCE WITH ACT NO. 317 OF 1990; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN BENEFITS TO COUNCIL MEMBERS; TO PROVIDE FOR COUNTY COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE STIPENDS; TO PROVIDE FOR JURY MILEAGE; TO ADOPT PROPERTY VALUES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Ms. Burgess advised that there have been some changes since the 2nd Reading and went through the changes that was mentioned in the Budget Workshop. After the discussion in the Budget Workshop, the line item for Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM) has been renamed Animal Shelter and the amount remains the same at \$175,000.00. Councilman Brantley questioned Mr. Fulghum regarding the wording on the Ordinance, and what measures does the County have in place to make sure that the measure does not exceed. Chairman Etheridge advised that it was discussed earlier in the session and that the County Attorney will get with the Attorney General to inquire and will get back with Council. Councilman Brantley inquired to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings, what agencies and department would be required to file accountings and what accounting would be listed. Chairman Etheridge stated every Department the County has should be required. Councilman Brantley advised the Chairman that the Ordinance states certain agencies and department and not ALL agencies and departments so he is looking for clarity on who those department and agencies would be. Ms. Burgess stated that agencies in Department 90 would be contacted when they request funding, they must provide financial statement and other documentation and some would be the New Life Center, Jasper County Association of Counties, Helping Hands any departments like that the County asks that they send in a Financial Statement.

Councilman Brantley moves to approve as Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes to approve the Ordinance.

Kim Burgess – 1st Reading of an Ordinance Approving Reconciliations Amending FY 19-20 Budget

Ms. Burgess stated that the 1st Reading of the Budget Amendment is subject to change as the County approaches year-end but wanted to start the process. The Budget Ordinance requires Council approval for any line items or transfers greater than \$5,000 of which there are many listed in the 1st Reading of the amendment. Ms. Burgess also added that this Ordinance does not include any revenue at this point however as Council approaches the 3rd Reading, if there are any amendments Staff will be sure to include it in the Ordinance. Ms. Burgess stated that the County is awaiting some reimbursements for Disaster Expenses which includes Hurricane Dorian, PPE for COVID-19 and the Malware attack in which this was added into the Amendment. Throughout the year the County has approved various Supplemental Appropriations such as Mead Road Fire Station Sprinkler System, Stiney Road Fire Station Sprinkler and Grease Trap, IT Emergency Ordinances ,grant matches for Robertsville and Grays Community Centers and Poll Worker Stipend Increase which totaled \$654,460.00 and these items and totals were included in the Budget Amendment as well. Councilman Brantley inquired from Ms. Burgess if the County has made applications for reimbursement for the Disaster funds, and Ms. Burgess stated that applications have been made for Hurricane Dorian and have not yet made applications for COVID-19 after learning there is an expedited process for that and the County is currently looking into the process and what is needed to apply expeditiously.

Councilman Sauls moves as Councilman Johnson seconds the Motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Ordinance, all Members present voting in Favor the Motion passes.

David Tedder – 1st Reading of an Ordinance To Amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Civil Emergencies, by Providing for the Deletion of Article II, County Disaster Preparedness Agency, codified as Sections 9-26-50, and Reserving that Article for Future Use, Amending Article III, County Emergency Management Agency , codified as Sections 9-51 through 79, to Reflect Certain Changes in Department Names, Providing for the Adoption of a Revised Jasper County Emergency Operations Plan, and Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Tedder advised that this is an update of the Emergency Operation plan and that the current plan has become quite aged and needed be reviewed. Chief Edwards and Deputy Chief Wells had a Consult work though them last year and while observing the adoption of the Emergency Operations Plan which is a very lengthy document, it became clear that the County's main Ordinance – Chapter 9 had some 'hangover' sections in it prior Emergency Agencies and Staff needed to clean it up, and what's presented before Council tonight is the changes needed to modernize the County's Emergency Management Services instead of an agency clarifying a few rules and to adopt the Emergency Operations plan, which the County would need to do timely now so that the County would be prepared not just for COVID-19 but also Hurricane Season that is to come. Chairman Etheridge clarified that this Ordinance is mainly words to clarify some of the sentences more or less and

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

New Business

Kim Burgess – Presentation of Bids for Recycling Containers and Compactor

Ms. Burgess stated that Jasper County advertised for sale bids for the purchase and delivery of (5) 25 yard open type containers and (1) 39 yards self-contained compactor, the submittal deadline was 2pm May 27, 2019 and the County received two timely bids via vendor registry. The two bids were Baker's Waste Equipment, Inc and the total was \$44,361.91 and the other bidder was Waste Equipped for a total of \$46,427.27. The County's Procurement Ordinance requires that the County award the bids on proposals greater than \$25,000, therefore Staff is asking the County to award the bid to Baker's Waste Equipment Inc as the low bidder and allow the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with Baker's Waste Equipment to purchase the containers and compactor.

Councilman Johnson moves as Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the bid and award to Baker's Waste Equipment Inc. All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

Andrew Fulghum – Professional services for Public Relations, Marketing Support, Creating and Sustaining Social Media Presence

Mr. Fulghum stated that this agenda item has been a long time coming and as a result of all the multiple discussions Staff has had with Council over the last two years about a unique way to get out the Count's messages in a modern by utilizing social media, the proposal before Council is from Williams PR which is Mr. John Williams, who has represented several government and private groups throughout the region. The County has worked with John before and have reached out to several different companies trying to vet what would be best for the County's situation and Mr. Williams and his proposal is the best for the County from a financial standpoint style and content. The proposal is an annual contract and Staff is proposing that Council considers entering into the contract as the scope of the PR and Marketing is very flexible as it provides the County with 15 hours of work each month to create and maintain the social media presence to do various tasks as the Council and Staff needs which includes new releases to pushing out interesting factoids about the County as well as helping Staff create new orientation materials for new residents which was something the County was missing before and all of that at an

hourly rate of \$100 an hour/ 15 hours a month equaling \$1,500 a month which would be a total cost of \$18,000 as Ms. Burgess mentioned to Council earlier and has been placed in the budget that Council just passed. Chairman Etheridge advised that this is really needed as the public has stated before that they need more information.

Councilman Sauls moves accept and approve the proposal from Williams PR as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

Old Business

Kim Burgess – ATAX Appointment

Ms. Burgess stated that the Board is seeking (1) more Committee member as she is not sure that the previous appointee accepted the appointment. Vice Chairwoman Clark recommended Theresa Golden as an appointment. Chairman Etheridge inquired if Ms. Golden owns a business and Vice Chairwoman Clark advised that she does.

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

Council Members' Comments

Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that everything is fine and asked everyone to listening or watching the Council meeting to complete the 2020 US Census, as the Census is very important as it's how the County obtains funds and hopefully soon everyone will be back face to face and everyone keep praying.

Councilman Brantley stated he just hopes that the injustices that many have been observing throughout this nation will be proficiently and effectively addressed in a most timely manner that would bring peace and justice to all people.

Councilman Sauls stated that he participated in the rally and march on Saturday along with Councilman Brantley as the message was about unity in our community, injustice and that it was a well-attended great event and that he was happy to see so many people out in the Community.

Councilman Johnson may have dropped from the call.

Chairman Etheridge stated that he agrees with everything that each Council member has mentioned as that he agrees 100% regarding unity among people and pray about the pandemic that we are in.

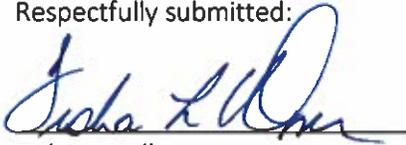
Administrator's Report Mr. Fulghum advised that he has provided for County Council the Administrator's Report as well as the Progress Report. There are only three simple items on the Administrator's Report for information only and no actions are needed.

Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Tisha L. Williams
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



Henry Etheridge
Chairman