



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

**Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936**

**January 3, 2022
MINUTES**

Officials Present: Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Vice Chairman Dr. Curtis Brantley
Councilman L. Martin Sauls, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins and Councilman John Kemp.

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00PM and read the information below for the executive session.

Motion to go into executive session: Councilman Sauls
Second: Councilman Adkins
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Executive Session SECTION 30-4-70.

(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 -[Detention Center](#)

(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 -[Levy VFD](#); [Rivers Reach](#); [Davis v Jasper County](#); [Airport Leases](#)

(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 - [Jasper Ocean Terminal \(JOT\)](#); [Prospect Update](#);

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

Return to Open Session:

Motion to return to open session: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Vote: Unanimous

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kemp and the Invocation was given by Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley.

Chairwoman Clark asked the Clerk to Council to read the Report of Compliance to the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Simmons, Clerk to Council read the Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairwoman Clark then turned the meeting over to County Administrator, Andrew Fulghum for the Election of a Chairperson.

Election of Officers:

A. Andrew Fulghum - Election of Chairperson

Mr. Fulghum opened the floor for nominations of a Chairperson for the County Council. Councilman Sauls nominated Councilwoman Clark. Councilwoman Clark seconded that nomination.

Councilman Kemp nominated Councilman Brantley. Mr. Fulghum stated that since there were two names that he would start with Councilwoman Clark and do a roll call vote.

Vote for Councilwoman Clark to continue as the Chairperson of the County Council:

Councilman Dr. Brantley: Abstain

Councilman Sauls: Yes

Councilman Adkins: Yes

Councilwoman Clark: Yes

Councilman Kemp: No

Mr. Fulghum asked Mr. Tedder that since this was a 3 to 2 vote, if a second vote was needed. Mr. Tedder noted that since this vote passed with a majority of the votes that a 2nd vote is not needed. Mr. Fulghum declared Councilwoman Clark as the Chairperson.

B. Chairperson - Election of Vice Chairperson

Councilman Sauls nominated Councilman Dr. Brantley to continue on as Vice Chairman, and Councilman Adkins seconded that nomination. A roll call vote was taken.

Vote for Councilman Dr. Brantley to continue as the Vice Chairperson of the County Council:

Councilman Dr. Brantley: Yes

Councilman Sauls: Yes

Councilman Adkins: Yes

Councilwoman Clark: Yes

Councilman Kemp: Abstain

Chairwoman Clark said that Councilman Dr. Brantley will continue on as Vice Chairman of the County Council.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 11.18.2021:

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Chairwoman Clark called for the vote and Council Kemp commented to Chairwoman Clark that he had a few additions to the minutes that were left out. He noted that he had questioned what the yearly additional charge in the 911 contract was for and asked for clarification of the firewall.

Chief Wells stated that this referred to the firewall because there are two separate routes of communication that would come in, one being is via phone and the other one via text which would mean two separate firewalls.

Councilman Kemp asked about the fee. Chief Wells said it would be a one-time fee. Councilman Kemp asked why it noted that it contracts annually. Chief Wells noted that he would pull that back up but this was for a five year the term. He mentioned that those five years should have been all encompassed into the total price. Councilman Kemp stated that the question was regarding that it wasn't in the minutes, so he said that needed to get straight.

Mr. Tedder noted to Madam Chair that he could try to provide some assistance. Chairwoman Clark said to please go ahead. Mr. Tedder noted that at this point since there was a question about the minutes one of two things could occur. One option he noted was that Councilman Kemp or someone else could suggest a written amendment to be adopted and the second thing is that this could be tabled until the next meeting so that whatever insertions that would need to be made could be brought to the Council for approval on the meeting for the 18th. He noted that either way would be alright, so it would either be someone making a motion to table to the next meeting or make an amendment.

Councilman Kemp said he would make that motion.

Ms. Simmons Clerk to Council asked Chairwoman Clark if she could ask a question. Chairwoman Clark noted to please go ahead. Ms. Simmons said that these minutes are from 11.18.2021, and there were only two items on the agenda. One item was presented by David Tedder with a public hearing and third reading of Ordinance # 2021-27 which related to Builders Firstsource and the other item was New Business by Danny Lucas for a presentation of a temporary airport terminal proposal. She apologized for the question but then noted that she was not sure where the 911 discussion would fit in with either of those items.

Councilman Kemp said it was because the contract and that the minutes that she had provided them. He said Council was given a contract that they talked about on 11.18.2021, and that they only had one meeting on 11.18.2021. After a moment or so, Councilman Kemp then noted that he believed he may have gotten that wrong on the date of the minutes. Ms. Simmons noted that he may be referring to the 12.06.2021 minutes which would be approved at the next meeting.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Presentation and Proclamations: 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 30 minutes.

Chairwoman Clark asked if any public comments had been received. Ms. Simmons noted that she had received two public comments for this meeting. She noted that one was from Karen Haynes, and it was received on Wednesday December 29th at 1:43 PM. She noted that Ms. Haynes resides in Blackshear Georgia and owns property in Jasper County. She noted that Ms. Haynes comment related to the Silverman Group Project and that this public comment consisted of 43 pages. She said due to its length it was placed into the Council Agenda E- packet for Council's review. She said that this public comment for public viewing could be located on the County website in the January 3, 2022, agenda e-packet. She noted that the second public comment was from Aaron Saxon. She said Mr. Saxon's comment was received on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 8:19 PM, and that with Council's permission she would read that for the record I will read that now. Chairwoman Clark said to read that please. Mr. Saxon's comment was read for the record.

Resolutions:

A: [David Tedder](#) – Resolution # [R2022-01](#) to set the fees for a Peddlers and Hawkers License Section 40-41-30 South Carolina Code.

Mr. Tedder was present to address and to review this request with Council. He referred to the old statute and noted that this is an item that County Council must do every year to set the fees for the Peddlers and Hawkers License. Mr. Tedder noted that this was a part of our business license ordinance. He also noted that a person could go to the Clerk of Courts office to obtain a Peddlers and Hawkers License instead of going to the business license department. Councilman Kemp asked if this applied to the municipalities. He also asked if they Hawk In the municipalities do they need to get a license in the County.

Mr. Tedder noted that this only applies to the unincorporated area. Councilman Kemp stated that within the resolution it needs to note that it only applies to the unincorporated areas of Jasper County and he would like to know who gets the fees. Mr. Tedder said that change could be made and that the fees go to Jasper County.

Motion to adopt Resolution # R2022-01 and to incorporate the passage noting this would be for the unincorporated areas of Jasper County: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Ordinances:

A: [Andrew Fulghum](#) – Public Hearing and **3rd Reading of Ordinance # [2021-33](#) on the Lease Agreement with Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM).**

Mr. Fulghum was present to address and review this item with Council. He reviewed the lease agreement and noted the term of the lease. The public hearing was opened but since there was no public input it was closed.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2021-33 on the 3rd reading: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: Andrew Fulghum - Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-34 on the Lease Agreement with Jasper County Chamber of Commerce (Perry House).

Mr. Fulghum was present to address and review this item with Council. He reviewed the lease agreement and noted the term of the lease. The public hearing was opened but since there was no public input it was closed. Councilman Sauls recused himself from voting on this item.

Motion to adopt Ordinance # 2021-34 on the 3rd reading: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

New Business:

A: Wanda Simmons - Adoption of the Jasper County Council Meeting Schedule for 2022.

Ms. Simmons was present to address this item with Council. She noted that this item had been provided to them at the 12.06.2021 meeting for their review. She noted the following changes to the revised Meeting Schedule that Council had been provided:

- The regular session start time has been changed from 6:30pm to 6:00pm for all meetings.
- During the months of June, July and August.
 - In June we removed the June 20th meeting because that is now the Juneteenth Holiday
 - In July Council usually only has one Council Meeting
 - In August the August 8th Meeting Date appears to be during the SCAC Conference

Old Business:

A: Chief Russell Wells - COVID update

Chief Wells noted that the positivity rates for COVID were on the rise. Jasper County was currently at a 10.3% positivity rate (up 3.7% since the last report). South Carolina was currently at a 12.3% positivity rate (up 7.7% since the last report). He noted that the Omicron strain had increased transmission and had the ability to evade past COVID and vaccines. He also discussed what Matrix Medical was doing for the County. Chief Wells then provided the testing site locations and the vaccine locations throughout the County for Council.

Council Members Comments:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley expressed his appreciation for County Council during the passing of his sister. He wished everyone a prosperous new year and asked that God Bless them.

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp noted that he had been to the Bluffton / Jasper County EOC Winter Festival and met James Williams. He noted that the emails for public comments at comments@jaspercountysc.gov is a catch all email and not specifically for just public comments. He noted that this needed to be considered for a new email address but for now everyone needed to know that they would need to put Public Comment in the Subject Line.

Councilman Sauls:

Councilman Sauls asked to keep the family of DeAndre in their prayers for the drive by shooting that had taken place. He said that he fully supports the Sheriff's Dept in trying to locate this individual. He thanked Council and Staff for the 2021 year and all that had been accomplished. He noted it had been a great year for Economic Development and that he was looking forward to 2022.

Chairwoman Clark:

Chairwoman Clark wished everyone a happy new year. She offered her sympathies to Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley and noted with all going on that she had not been aware of the passing of his sister. She thanked everyone who had voted for her to be the Chairperson again this year. She said she was elated to work with such a dynamic staff. Chairwoman Clark said she was elated to work with such a dynamic staff. She said that our staff is dedicated and works very well together and she hopes they keep on working together. She urged County Council to be mindful of how they attend meetings and what they say because sometimes people just looking for a lawsuit.

Councilman Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked God for everything in his life and for the Merry Christmas and Happy New Year they had this year. He thanked God for Chairwoman Clark getting back up to good health. He asked prayers for Dr. Brantley and his family and for DeAndre's family and noted that he hoped someone came forward. He thanked God for a great 2021 and noted he will be riding throughout the County. He asked that everyone keep him and his family in prayer and he noted he would do the same for them.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum noted that he had nothing new to report other than his report in the packet. He did remind council that they have received their Benchmark Report on the reapportionment process and that a workshop had been scheduled for 01.13.2022 at 5:30PM. This would be the opportunity to review the Benchmark Report with the staff that had prepared this report from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Mr. Fulghum congratulated Chairwoman Clark and Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley on their elections this evening. He noted as Council had his written report that he was available to answer any questions.

Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II. There was no need to return to executive session at this time.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Sauls

Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman