



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

May 17, 2021

MINUTES

Scheduled Presenters:

- **Jennifer Carter – Jasper County School District**
- **Jeanine Bostick – Election Commission**
- **Cindy Abernathy – Jasper Animal Rescue Mission**
- **Judith Birchenough – Coastal Empire Mental Health**

Jennifer Carter – Jasper County School District:

Jennifer Carter and Dr. Rechel Anderson were present to address the presentation they provided up on the screen tonight for Council. She read through the 2021-2022 Budget Programs and noted that they had a budget increase of over 2.2 million. She also noted that the Senate Finance Committee had approved a 2.5% increase for Classified Staff. She noted that at this time they were not requesting any additional funding from the County and that they were requesting the same 166 mills that they had requested in previous years.

The budget was reviewed on the shared screen, and it was noted that the Board of Education had remained the same in personnel and had no additional personnel costs. It was also noted that the Food Service was paid through a USDA grant. The various departments were reviewed and noted if there had been any changes. After the conclusion of the review Dr. Anderson thanked Council for allowing them to present their budget presentation. Councilman Dr. Brantley asked how they could receive a copy of the slides presented tonight. Ms. Carter said this was not a balanced budget that may still have changes. Chairwoman Clark thanked them for Coming also and asked them to send a copy to the Clerk to Council and she would distribute that out. Chairwoman Clark also thanked Dr. Anderson for her hard work and told her she was doing a great job.

Jeanine Bostick – Election Commission:

Ms. Bostick was present to address her budget request. She noted that Chairman Joseph Barzello. She said her budget was approved by the Board in February 2021. She said they had some maintenance contracts that will be increased due to the new voting system. She said the system allows you to view your vote before you cast your vote. Then you can scan your vote in as your vote. The maintenance contract will increase for the one vendor. There is only one vendor to use, and it is set up with the state to use one vendor so that everyone in the state uses the same vendor. She said we just got two new precincts (which makes those 17 precincts now) which will require additional

people to help deliver equipment on election day. She noted that the salary line expenses were going to be discussed by Chairman Arzillo. She said her accomplishments, achievements, accreditations, and certifications for herself for her annual education. She noted since she had been here, she has earned her degree in Business Management and Human Resources. Chairman Arzillo noted last month was an off month and they added on 160+ registered voters added. In 2012 had approximately 16,000 registered voters and now have about 22,000. He said a lot of the information given to Council showed that the Director's spot is underfunded, and we are paying our Director far below that of other Director's. He noted they had put that increase in this paperwork, but it still will not make her salary match those of similar sized counties. He said he would like to see the Director position go up to where it needs to be. Ms. Bostick noted that in 17 years she has never had an election overturned. She thanked Council for all that they had provided for her office and staff. Councilman Dr. Brantley asked who sets the Salary for the Director? Chairwoman Clark said that she preferred Mr. Fulghum to answer since that was under his employees.

Councilman Dr. Brantley asked if there were new precincts established in the County. Ms. Bostick said that we did have new precincts. Okatee precinct which was located at the St. Luke Baptist Church off Snake Road we have received approval to get that precinct split, so now Beaufort Jasper Water Authority has allowed us to use their Community Room as a precinct, and remainder of those voters will go to Okatee Baptist Church on Hwy 170. She noted that Hardeeville 1 was looked at to split due to growth; and Hilton Head Lakes will be letting us use their Amenity Room with the remaining portion of the precinct staying at St. Stephens in Hardeeville. Councilman Dr. Brantley said he was very impressed with the continued educational development and growth of our Director Ms. Bostick.

Chairwoman Clark thanked all the employees for their educational development and continuing education. She noted that when salary studies are done the salaries are recommended and Council goes from there. Mr. Fulghum noted that as to the legal authority to raise the salary, that is the County Council decision and that is based on criteria Council chooses. He noted that Administration tries to keep as many employees as possible under the umbrella when the salary review/study is done to keep as many employees as possible consistent. He noted they had done that 2 years ago in a salary study that they are bringing to Council in their budget later this evening.

Chairman Arzillo said that not pertaining to this, but in previous years the Marines Rescue Squad comes before Council once a year by Skipper Bill Stanley, but he has recently passed away. He said if no one comes before Council for the Marine Rescue Squad he asked that they please go with what Council has done in the past for the Squad. Chairwoman Clark said that Bill would certainly be missed.

Cindy Abernathy – Jasper Animal Rescue Mission:

Ms. Cindy Abernathy was present to address her budget request. She said their revenue was down due to COVID, because they could not go to events such as the Pet Smart and Pet Co Events. She noted that the Veterinarian's cost had been increased up to \$15,000 for the dogs and cats that come in hurt or needing care. She said with COVID they are still down with adoptions. She said these reasons they are asking for an increase in their budget request. According to their submission this was a \$10,000 increase. Councilman Adkins asked how many employees they have at the site. Ms.

Abernathy said they have 8 employees and a Director. Ms. Abernathy thanked Council for hearing their budget request. Chairwoman Clark thanked them for coming to present their budget request.

Judith Birchenough – Coastal Empire Mental Health:

Francis Moody and Matthew Dorman was present to address this request. She said they sent the information over for the budget request. She thanked Council for allowing them to be there today to present their budget request and for all of the Council's support over the year. She said they are the Jasper County Clinic. She reviewed a PowerPoint for Council that had not been provided to staff for Council's packets. This included information such as: their mission; they introduced their staff on the Power Point; she noted the services they provide such as Clinic based outpatient; Crisis intervention; School based; Consultation to the jail; Consultation to the Coastal Carolina and HHI Hospitals; Community education; Community support and a mobile crisis available 24/7. their community collaboration; their service numbers; the number of physical contacts for 2020 being 5851; the number of admissions from FY16 being 282 to FY19 being 305 with FY20 dropping again to 260 due to COVID; to the services they provide by year from FY16 at 4451 then FY19 6069 and FY2020 5851 due to COVID; who they served; why the county support is important. She noted their population growth from 2010 in the amount of 24,777 was now up 21% up 2019 at 30,073.

Councilman Dr. Brantley asked if they anticipated increased mental health services reflected in the information that was provided to Council in the budget request? Ms. Moody said that they had done so. She noted that the additional support from the county, allows them to provide more support within the County. Councilman Dr. Brantley stated that he would like to have the information provided in the slide presentation more so than the letter Council received, as it would be helpful in considering their request. Mr. Dorman said the funding would allow for them to make one itemization to assist in funding an Access Mobile Crisis Clinician. That Clinician would receive all people wanting to enroll in care. They would respond 24 hours a day or some type of program to any psychiatric emergency in the County.

Call to Order: Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

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

Officials Absent: Councilman L. Martin Sauls,

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess, Emergency Services Director Chief Russell Wells, Lisa Wagner Director of Planning and Building, and Jonathan Dunham.

Others Present at the Regular Session: Mike Bostwick

Clerk of County Council, Wanda Simmons read the report of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act for the record.

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session and asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Motion to go into executive session: Councilman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and Council moved into executive session.

Executive Session

SECTION 30-4-70. Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruptor 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 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 – [Magistrate Compensation](#)**
- (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 – [Exit 3 and Sherwood Tract](#)**
- (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 \(JOT\)](#)**

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 approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kemp and Councilman Adkins gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve with the deletion of Resolution # 2021-12 ratifying purchase contract for 421 N. Jasper St., Ridgeland, SC.: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of April 5, 2021:

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Proclamations and Presentations:

Andrew Fulghum – Presentation of E. Argent YMCA.

Mr. Andrew Fulghum introduced Mr. Mike Bostwick of the E. Argent YMCA and said Mr. Bostwick would be presenting this presentation to Council.

Mr. Bostwick went through his presentation showing the Council the design and layout of the upcoming E. Argent YMCA. He noted that at a later date the name would be changed to reflect the major donor of the project. He presented the layout and the plan design showing the different phases the project would follow. He said this was in the preliminary stage and there would be more meetings to come in the future. Chairwoman Clark thanked him for coming and providing this presentation to Council. For further information on this item please view the video on our YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

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.

Chairwoman Clark asked if there any public comments for this meeting. Clerk to Council Wanda Simmons said none had been received.

Resolutions:

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution # 2021-12 ratifying purchase contract for 421 N. Jasper St., Ridgeland, SC.

This item was removed from the agenda.

Ordinances:

- A. Lisa Wagner – Public Hearing and 2nd reading of Ordinance # [2021-13](#) to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 028-00-02-127 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.**

Lisa Wagner was present to address this request. She said that the subject property consists of 1.02 acres and is located at 1655 Becks Ferry Road. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Community Commercial (CC). The property is currently zoned Residential. A commercial structure is located on the property. The applicant is interested in establishing an event space, which is not allowed in Residential; however, the proposed use is allowed in the Community Commercial Zoning District.

Ms. Wagner noted that according to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as “Rural Conservation,” which seeks to protect and promote the character of Jasper County that largely exists today outside of the municipalities. Most development, particularly commercial development, should be guided to the hamlets. The adjacent parcels are zoned Residential and Rural Preservation. Adjacent land uses are residential, agricultural, and vacant property, with a church nearby. She noted that the subject property is accessed by Becks Ferry Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a limited local road. Ms. Wagner noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial.

Motion to approve: Councilman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

- B. Andrew Fulghum – 3rd reading of an Ordinance No. [2021-11](#) of Jasper County Council to authorize a License Agreement with Jasper County Radio Control, Chapter No. 5096 of the Academy of Model Aeronautics Inc.**

Mr. Fulghum noted that in 2012, the County Council adopted an ordinance approving a non-exclusive license agreement with the Jasper County Radio Control Chapter of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. He said the agreement was for an initial term of one year and that the agreement allowed the group to use a specific, undeveloped section of the park for their activities of flying model aircraft. The agreement restricted hours of operation and required the organization to maintain the property and appropriate insurance. He noted that the County maintained the flexibility to terminate the agreement if the property would be needed for economic development purposes. In 2013, the agreement was renewed for a period of three (3) years. In 2015, at the request of the Cypress Ridge Business/Industrial Park Design Review Committee, the actual location of the site within the park was moved to its current location. In 2016, the agreement was extended for a five (5) year term which expired on May 2, 2021. Mr. Fulghum noted that it is time to address renewal of the agreement and

noted that this was the third and final reading of the ordinance authorizing the extension of the agreement for a term of five (5) years.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

- C. **David Tedder** – **2nd reading** of Ordinance No. [2021-08](#) to the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting agenda (ordinance to approve the transfer to the Town of Ridgeland by deed a road right of way generally described as a portion of the road known as Volunteer Park Road lying within the Town of Ridgeland, and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute such deed and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the transfer (public hearing date 04.05.2021).

David Tedder was present to address this request. He reviewed the ordinance for Council and noted that this was the 2nd reading with the public hearing being held on 04.05.2021 and was tabled to get the final survey. We have received this showing the length of Volunteer Rd. He noted that this matched what he believed was Council's wishes.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

- D: **Andrew Fulghum** – Consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance to Adopt the 2021-2022 Jasper County Capital and General Operations Budget, to make such amendments to the 2020-2021 Capital and Operational Budget to recognize and ratify transfers as authorized by Section 7 of that Budget, and other matters related thereto.

Mr. Fulghum reviewed this ordinance with Council. He noted that this budget does not propose to raise the County millage rate. He did note that Jasper County had the highest potential due to growth to increase the millage which shows it is the fastest growing County in South Carolina. Ms. Burgess reviewed the revenue and expenses for the FY2021 and 2022 budget. Mr. Fulghum noted that this was the first reading today and the public hearing and 2nd reading was set up for the 06.07.2021 and the final reading was set for 06.21.2021.

Motion to approve: Councilman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: 3 yes votes and Councilman Kemp voted no

The motion passed.

New Business:

A. Kimberly Burgess – Bid presentation for five (5) - 25 yard open top containers and one (1) - 39 yard self-contained compactor.

Ms. Burgess addressed this request and noted that they had advertised for sealed bids for five (5) 25-yard open-top containers and one (1) 39-yard self-contained compactor. The County received 3 bids she noted, and the low bidder was Bakers Waste Equipment, Inc. at \$61,103.22. The staff recommendation was for County Council to approve the County Administrator to accept the low bid proposal from Baker Waste Equipment Inc., not to exceed \$50,000 including sales tax and shipping.

Motion to approve: Councilman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B. Kimberly Burgess - Bid presentation interior lighting project Speculative Building #4 at the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park.

Ms. Burgess noted that Jasper County had advertised for sealed bids for all necessary material, labor, tools, supplies, skilled supervision and project management to remove existing six flood fixtures and install new LED industrial fixtures providing the building located at 193 Cypress Ridge Drive (aka Speculative Building #4 at the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park). She said they received only one bid which from NetZero USA in the amount of \$24,361.50 including sales tax, if applicable. She noted that the bid was reviewed by a representative of SouthernCarolina Alliance, and it was determined that the bid met all of the bid specifications. The project is funded by a \$40,000 grant from Palmetto Electric. She noted that as with many projects there may be a change order(s) on this project. The staff recommendation was for Council to approve the County Administrator to accept the bid proposal from NetZeroUSA as the perceived low bidder and to execute all necessary documents to perform the project.

Motion to approve: Councilman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Old Business:

A. Wanda Simmons – Consideration of an appointment of a new member to the Planning Commission to replace (Seat 03-PC) Mr. Bill Young for a term period of (2018-2022).

Clerk to Council Wanda Simmons presented this request. She noted that the individuals up for consideration had all been sent letters asking for their intended continued interest. Mr. Walsnovich will be moving out of the area she noted, so he would no longer be able to be considered. She requested that the term be set from 05.17.21 through a term of 12.31.2025 if that was amenable to Council. Councilman Dr. Brantley agreed with the Clerk to Council's recommendation on the term as recommended. Councilman Dr Brantley made the term recommendation of this appointment for a

period of 05.17.2021 through 12.31.2025 to serve on the Planning Commission. No one offered any opposition to this request.

Councilman Kemp noted that he thought Mr. Rothenberg would be a good candidate. He noted information he had received from the other candidates via his phone calls to them. He said he called each one and they were all still interested in being on the Planning Commission. He noted information from each candidate's location, where they were from and that there were already representatives from that location with the exception of Mr. Rothenberg who was from Sun City. He noted that he could not reach Mr. Walsnovich. Chairwoman Council said since there were two candidates discussed that they would take a vote on each candidate and the vote proceeded as follows:

Up for the vote first was the recommendation of Ms. Sharon Ferguson:

Councilman Adkins – Yes

Councilman Dr. Brantley – Yes

Chairwoman Clark – Yes

Up for the vote second was the recommendation of Mr. Arthur Rothenberg:

Councilman Dr. Brantley - Yes

Councilman Kemp – Yes

Chairwoman Clark noted that Ms. Sharon Ferguson with 3 votes would be moving on as the new Planning Commission Member as voted and recommended. She said if Ms. Ferguson did not accept it would come back before Council again.

Council Members Comments:

Councilmember Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked God for keeping us and giving us life. He said he hoped there would be no more nights like this one tonight. He said he was down in his spirit and requested to leave at this time. Chairwoman Clark excused him.

Councilman Dr. Brantley:

Councilman Dr. Brantley noted that on behalf of the entire Brantley family expressed most sincere appreciation to the Council and administration for their support during their bereavement. From all of Brantley Family to everyone they say God Bless you all and thanked everyone.

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp said he had no comments this evening.

Chairwoman Clark:

Chairwoman Clark had no comments this evening.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum noted that he had submitted his progress report and administrator's report and was happy to answer any questions. Tomorrow he said he would be submitting out a Budget Organization and Performance Report as of Friday, May 14th. He said this notes the progress in the current budget. He then noted that he was sorry that Councilman Akins had left the meeting. Mr. Fulghum wanted to note that Councilman Adkins is attending the Economic Dev Inst sponsored by Dept. of Commerce. He noted that this will take Councilman Adkins to various locations with a vigorous educational experience. He attended first one this week which was Community Development and Tourism and he was tested and received a 100%. Please congratulate him on representing the county well, and he is very excited about the course.

Councilman Dr. Brantley asked the Chairwoman to have Administrator Fulghum to look into possibility to returning to our next meeting in person. Mr. Fulghum said he will discuss with Chairwoman Clark.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Brantley

Second: Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman