



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING
Council in Person with Electronic Virtual Access for the Public
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
May 27th and May 28th, 2021
MINUTES

May 27, 2021:

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

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

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess.

Others Present at the Regular Session: Juan Singleton as Videographer.

David Tedder – 1st and final reading to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. [2021-14](#) to provide for the Extension and Incorporation by Reference of the Provisions of Prior Emergency Ordinances, Address the Phased-in-Opening of County Facilities and Modifications to the County Declaration of a Local Emergency, and Matters Related Thereto, Including A Resolution Affirming Resolutions Regarding Safety Practices.

David Tedder, County Attorney, reviewed this ordinance for Council and for the record. This ordinance provides for the extension and incorporation by reference of the provisions of the County's prior adopted emergency ordinances, while addressing the phased in opening of county facilities. He noted it also covered modifications to the County declaration of a local emergency.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Adkins, and the Invocation was given by Councilman Sauls.

Approval Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Discussion of the FY 2021-2022 Budget:

Councilman Kemp noted that he had provided some questions to Administrator Fulghum regarding the budget. Mr. Fulghum said the answers were noted out beside each question. Mrs. Burgess said it was the full budget document with the responses to Councilman Kemp's questions on the right side of the page. Chairwoman Clark asked that this document be sent to all of Council.

Councilman Kemp asked regarding the Sheriff's Department funding for the Enforcement Officer and Animal Control, if the money could be taken out of there and moved into the Planning Department for another staff member to handle correspondence. Mr. Fulghum said the money could be moved for the Code Enforcement Officer. He also noted that the Sheriff said he did not see filling that position soon, and Mr. Fulghum would suggest moving it to Emergency Services like has been done in other areas, so this way they could do fire inspections also. He said he believed that moving the Code Enforcement Officer to Emergency Services would be more beneficial. He further noted that if Council wanted the Code Enforcement Officer placed somewhere else the money could be moved from the Sheriff's Department. Councilman Sauls said since the Sheriff's Department said they wouldn't be able to do it for awhile, he thought this would be a good idea. Chairwoman Clark stated that she thought moving the money from the Sheriff's Department to Emergency Services would also be a good idea. Mr. Fulghum said this could be done very easily.

Councilman Kemp also had some questions about the airport and the loan. Ms. Burgess clarified about the loan that was ongoing for the construction at the airport. She noted that this was a county loan funded with A-Tax dollars and that was why it did not show up in the airport budget. She also noted that the \$90,000 in the airport is for the temporary terminal. Councilman Kemp also discussed the Cherry Point revenue and the monies for airport security in the budget being placed in the airport budget and not in the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Burgess said the money was put in the budget in which the personnel are managed and directed. For example, she said the school district uses our officers from the Sheriff's Department and that money is still under the Sheriff's Department for those positions. She said a journal entry from one department to another could be created in order to address that issue for further clarification. Mr. Fulghum asked regarding airport security, if Council wanted them to do a "due to" and a "do from" to handle that item. Councilman Kemp said he would like that see that shown on the budget. Mr. Fulghum asked Attorney Tedder if the County could do a contract for these matters. Mr. Tedder said it could be moved from the Sheriff's budget to the Airport's budget as a contractor. Ms. Burgess noted it still had to go through the Sheriff's Department for ADP and payroll, and this would credit the airport

revenue. Ms. Burgess also noted how the School Resource Officer was set up and that staff could create another set up as such for the Airport Officer in the same manner within the budget.

Councilman Kemp also asked about lease terms and how they were staggered. Ms. Burgess addressed this request for him. Councilman Kemp noted that the Fire Dept Volunteers seemed limited, and Ms. Burgess noted that volunteers had to be paid through payroll so this was where the money was included. Councilman Kemp noted that he felt the pay and overtime pay was clouded due to the volunteers pay. Ms. Burgess noted that part of the volunteer pay is funded by the federal FEMA grant for volunteers and that this could be separated through journal entry to separate the volunteer pay. Councilman Kemp asked if we were staffed up at the fire department and Mr. Burgess noted that we were not.

Councilman Adkins stated on the police cars soon to be released, that he wondered if they were high performance or regular performance chargers. Ms. Burgess said they are "all of like kind" and if they are superchargers then they will get the same replacement as replacements should be of like kind for a vehicle.

Chairwoman Clark noted that Councilman Sauls had left, but that they both had concerns regarding the Coroner's office budget. She said that they did not feel that they could put additional personnel into the office, however, one of the other part time positions for a part time corner could be used because they did not see funding another position in the budget at this time. Chairwoman Clark also noted that the \$10,000 request that was put in for burial had never been done before in Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum said they could look at that line item as he assumed it was for a Paupers funeral. Ms. Burgess noted that she had revised the budget to show the following:

The corner himself would be \$13,800; the part time corner would be \$24,600; and a part time administrator assistant. She said if Council wished, she would remove the part time administrative assistant.

Chairwoman Clark noted that they would like clarification on the new vehicle requested by the Corner for \$90,000. Ms. Burgess said that he had requested an SUV and Chairwoman Clark asked what was wrong with the van that the county had purchased. Ms. Burgess noted that the Corner said the van was not conducive to going off road if necessary. Ms. Burgess said she had suggested a Bronco or something cheaper than a \$90,000 SUV. Councilman Kemp asked about an old ambulance purchase possibly or even a medical Humvee that could be used because it would hold up to four people. Chairwoman Clark said yes something like that or even a used vehicle would be better. She noted that Council must remember that what they do for one department they must be willing to do for all departments to keep things fair. She also noted that the decal for the County was taken off of the van and that the decal needed to be replaced. She also mentioned that the van did not need to be driven all over town all every day. Council discussed further the fact that since there was a van that there was no need to purchase a new SUV. It was also noted that unless a person was hired through Jasper County in the Coroner's office that they could not drive the vehicle because only county employees can drive the vehicles. Councilman Kemp gave a summary of potential growth concerns and he said that the anticipated growth for years 21 and 22 is not budgeted from what he can tell. Ms. Burgess noted that new growth doesn't show in the tax rolls until the next year. Ms. Burgess said it is always Council's decision to allocate a portion of the fund balance based on potential growth for the current year.

Council discussed a little further additional information regarding the budget and Chairwoman Clark said she did not feel there was a need for the meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow as all items had been addressed today.

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 Kemp

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; 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 – Information Technology**
- (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements – Heather Rath Consulting**

Motion to return from executive session: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Motion to accept the salary recommendation of the IT Department as presented in executive session:

Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Motion to accept the personal contract with Roth Consulting and to confirm the list of projects that as discussed in executive session with a limit on what the County Administrator calls for: Councilman

Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Adjournment for the day and confirmation for the meeting of 05.28.2021:

It was noted for the record that the meeting for 05.28.2021 was cancelled since the items had been concluded during this meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion adjourned.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman