



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
HYBRID SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Council in person with Electronic Virtual Access for the Public
Jasper County
Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue
Ridgeland, SC 29936
August 9, 2021
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, County Attorney David Tedder, Clerk to Council, Wanda Simmons, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess. Also present – Jonathan Dunham.

Guests Present: Mr. Stu Rodman, Mr. Kraig Gordon, Mr. Rudy Smith, Mr. Jared Fralix, Mr. Ryan Eckenrode, Ms. Emily Swearingen

Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark called the meeting to order. Clerk to Council, Wanda Simmons gave the report of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

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

Presentations:

A: Andrew Fulghum: Presentation and discussion of SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study and related matters.

County Administrator, Mr. Fulgum noted that there were a few guests present for the meeting tonight for the purpose of discussing the route 170 plan. He noted that the following people were in attendance:

- Mr. Stu Rodman, a long serving Beaufort County Council member in District 11
- Mr. Kraig Gordon, a retired Colonel in the Army and the Owner and President of Gordon Construction and Chairman of the Beaufort County Transportation Committee
- Mr. Rudy Smith retired Command Sergeant Major - U S Army retired and Jasper County retired, and Chairman of the Jasper County Transportation Committee
- Mr. Jared Fralix, the Assistant County Administrator of Engineering at Beaufort County

Mr. Fulghum noted that this has been a joint effort with staff members and elected officials from Beaufort County and Jasper County working on this together. He said before he introduced the speaker who would be presenting the study tonight, Mr. Eckenrode, that he just wanted to talk a few minutes about the South Carolina 170 corridor Access Management Study.

Mr. Fulghum noted that this study had been commissioned by the Lowcountry Council of Governments for the LATS and presented to LATS last October 2019. He noted it provided a brief history of the relationship between two counties with regard to Route 170. He noted that Beaufort and Jasper Counties had agreed to abide by a Corridor Access Management Plan for Route 170 back in the mid 2000's which would ensure that access points were coordinated for projects on both sides (the East and the West sides) of the road by mandating that the two counties discussed development projects along the corridor. He noted that they had entered into that partnership. In 2017 Beaufort and Jasper Counties took part in a county boundary adjustment with the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office for the geodetic survey services. This reestablished the county line as being the center line of route 170. What had happened, he noted, was that over the years as the roadway changed and was improved and the center line got shifted off (so the county boundaries were actually off) and they were readjusted to get them back to the center line of the highway. Mr. Fulghum noted that the study presented tonight identified what needed to be done to make the roads serviceable for the growth that is taking place in both counties. Also, he noted that the Beaufort and Jasper County Transportation Committees had already jointly participated in funding one of the improvements recommended in the study.

Mr. Fulghum stated that tonight's presentation is particularly important and timely for Jasper County because the County is in the midst of a county wide impact fee study. He noted that we are coordinating this effort with Beaufort County staff because we have common transportation issues and needs. The route 170 study will be considered in our impact fee study and we will ultimately be proposing to the Council for Council's consideration a set of transportation impact fees to be collected from development projects going forward to help defray the cost of these improvements. Impact fees will reduce the costs to existing residents and businesses and Beaufort and Jasper County staff both believe that the coordination of the impact fee programs and transportation sales tax programs for both the counties will ensure that we are leveraging as much funding as possible to go toward making these improvements. Mr. Fulghum thanked Council for indulging him for that introduction and he introduced Mr. Ryan Eckenrode who has been joined he's joined by Ms. Emily Swearingen. He noted that Ryan is the Project Manager and Senior Traffic Engineer at AE com and was the person who had prepared the study and that he would walk through it with Council.

Mr. Eckenrode thanked Council for taking the time to hear his upcoming presentation. He noted that this presentation was on the SC170 Corridor Access Management Study and provided an overview of the project. He noted that the study area was 4.4 miles (Okatie Center Blvd S to SC 462). He noted that the speeds varied from 45 to 55 mph and they picked 16 intersections and 1 interchange at Hwy 270 for the study. He said that there are now 5 traffic signals and in 2019.

He noted that in 2010 Beaufort County Okatie Hwy (SC170) and Wes Fording Island Road (US 278) Joint Corridor Access Management Plan. In 2018 Beaufort County, City of Hardeeville, and SCDOT Road Safety Audit someone put together a road collision audit. He noted that they had looked at signal spacing in the area. He noted that the Steering Committee had began meeting in February 2019 and

in June of 2019 they had started getting some solutions. He noted that on the Public Comments on the Wiki-Map that from April 9, 2019, until June 21, 2019, there had been 519 visitors and 319 comments. He provided the crash summary and the existing traffic operations. He reviewed future conditions (year 2040) and systemic solutions. He discussed the Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) Signal, how it works in a safer method with few delays, and the common RCI questions. He discussed the near-term projects, intermediate projects, and long-term projects for Council. Mr. Eckenrode also discussed future 2040 traffic operations with Council. The full presentation can be watched on the YouTube link at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

B: Chief Russell Wells – COVID Update.

Chief Wells thanked Council for allowing him to present this information. He provided the most current COVID update information, noting that regrettably as Council could see in the information provided, that there had been an exponential increase in our positivity rate. He noted that the County positivity rate had jumped from the July 19 briefing when the County was at 2.4%, as of today that the County was at a 20% positivity rate. He noted also that the State of South Carolina had went from a 5.3% to a 14% positivity rate. He asked that Council also bear in mind that the testing results are at about a 400-test count increase. He noted that from the July 19 briefing that 984 tests were conducted. He noted that from that time until about today, there were 1335 tests, so the County has gone from a 2.4% positivity rate of the 984 test administered to the now current 20% of 1335 tests administered. He also mentioned that the County had lost one additional citizen to COVID. He also noted that as Council could see, each of the daily case counts are exponentially climbing. He noted that testing was still being provided and vaccines were still being administered to people ages 12 years old and older. He provided testing locations as well as vaccine locations, noting that as we go through not much has changed as far as the ability to go get testing and vaccinations. After the completion of Chief Well's presentation, Chairwoman Clark noted that the County needed to go back to Virtual Meetings due to the increase in the COVID statistics.

Motion to have the next County Council meeting on August 16, 2021, as a virtual meeting:

Councilman Sauls

Second: Chairwoman Clark

Vote:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley – no

Councilman Sauls – yes

Councilman Kemp – no

Chairwoman Clark – yes

Councilman Adkins – abstained

There were 2 yes votes and 2 no votes so the motion failed.

Chairwoman Clark noted that she would be on ZOOM for the next meeting.

Ordinances:

A: David Tedder - Consideration of the 1st reading of an ordinance BY TITLE ONLY to amend Chapter 27, Article 1 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances (The Jasper County Road Maintenance Fund).

Mr. Tedder presented this request to Council. He noted that this was a first reading of the ordinance by Title Only so there were no documents in the e-packet. He discussed the particulars of this ordinance for Council and said they would see a draft ordinance document for the second reading. Mr. Tedder stated that he had attended the County Attorney Meeting and that those who had attended the SCAC meeting had been given some information pertaining to this. He said there is not a clear-cut answer since it depends upon the County's ordinance.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B. Lisa Wagner – 3rd Reading of Ordinance # [2021-21](#) to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 087-00-03-011 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – 8881 Coosaw Scenic Drive.

Mr. Tedder presented this request. He noted that the subject property consisted of 2.4 acres and is located at 8881 Coosaw Scenic Drive. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Community Commercial (CC). The property is currently zoned Residential. The property was developed as a funeral home in 2006. The county-wide re-zoning project made this business non-conforming. The applicant would like to expand the use of his business to add a crematory. Crematories are not allowed in Residential; however, a crematory is allowed in the Community Commercial Zoning District.

According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Hamlets," which serves as commercial centers for everyday needs. Small scale commercial developments should be allowed, with proper design. The adjacent parcels are zoned Residential, Rural Preservation, and Community Commercial. The adjacent land uses are residential, commercial, and vacant property. The subject property is accessed by Coosaw Scenic Drive, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as an arterial road. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

New Business:

A: [Kimberly Burgess](#) – Discussion of options of the Corona Virus Spending (no action to be taken).

Kimberly Burgess was present to discuss the options of the Corona Virus Spending. Ms. Burgess reviewed the total amount of fiscal recovery funds and the proposed uses of funds. She discussed the premium pay that Council had previously discussed for first responders and solid waste attendants for that time period. She then reviewed the revenue replacement for government

services due to the loss of revenue. She also discussed the investment previously discussed for affordable housing in the form of an affordable housing trust. Mrs. Burgess noted that based upon regulations she has looked at ways to use the 5.8 million dollars.

Jasper County
 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
 Proposed Plan for Spending
 August 9, 2021

	Total	2021 Tranche 1	2022 Tranche 2
Fiscal Recovery Funds	5,800,000	2,900,000	2,900,000
Proposed Uses of Funds			
Premium Pay First Responders & Solid Waste Attendants--3/16/20 - 6/11/2021 (\$3/hour)	1,463,748	1,463,748	-
Revenue Replacement for the Provision of Government Services	7,073,858	1,086,252	2,550,000
Community Assistance/Investment for Affordable Housing	700,000	350,000	350,000

Motion to go into executive session: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed. Council went 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:

- (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 – [Peninsula Tract; Brown vs Jasper County et al.](#)**

Return to regular session:

Motion to return to regular session: Councilman Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Business and motion coming from executive session:

Motion to authorize the County Administrator to attempt to settle Brown v Jasper County case with the authority discussed in executive session: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman