



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
MINUTES

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

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

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5PM.

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

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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 - Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT); Carolina Metal Castings; Sgt. Jasper Park; Peninsula Tract Levy VFD

(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; Project Ocean

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.

Chairwoman Clark asked if there was any motion from Executive Session.

Business from Executive Session:

Motion to authorize the Administrator to reimburse the Southern Carolina Alliance from the Commercial Development Fund for professional services costs it incurred with the Haynesworth Sinkler Law Firm in examining certain incentive agreements involving Jasper County as discussed in Executive Session: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of June 21, 2021; July 19, 2021; July 28, 2021, and August 9, 2021:

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Presentation:

A. Danny Lucas - U.S Census 2020 Final Report

Mr. Lucas was present to address this request and review the U.S. Census 2020 Final Report. He noted that there had been a 7% increase between the 2010 U.S. Apportionment Population and the 2020 U.S. Apportionment Population. He also mentioned that with the 2020 Apportionment Population that South Carolina would still have 7 Representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also noted this would not be a change from 2010. He reviewed the South Carolina & Georgia Total Resident Population as well as the change from 2010 to 2020. Another item he reviewed was the South Carolina Municipality Population. This review showed a -6.89% change from 2010 to 2020 in the Town of Ridgeland. Also, the resident population for South Carolina showed a 10.7 increase from 2010 to 2020. Jasper County showed an increase of 10.8% over the 2010 Census. He also reviewed the racial and ethnic diversity index for 2020. Mr. Lucas thanked the Jasper County Count Committee and noted we are growing slower than the 2010 census, but we are growing.

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.

There were no public comments.

Resolutions:

A. Chief Wells - Resolution # 2021-19 to declare certain property to be surplus and authorize its sale or disposition - Surplus Ambulance.

Chief Wells reviewed and presented this request. He noted that this property was not in condition for use by the County but that it would be a benefit to the automotive and technology students. He noted this would also allow for clinical simulation experiences for the students.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Ordinances:

A. Lisa Wagner - Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-25 to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 063-38-01-013 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map - 76 Sweet William Road.

Ms. Wagner was present to address this request. She said that the subject property consisted of .55 acres and is located at 76 Sweet William Road. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Community Commercial (CC). The property is currently zoned Residential. The applicant would like to establish a restaurant at this location. The property was re-developed in February 2007 as a restaurant. The countywide re-zoning project made this property non-conforming in November 2007. While the property has previously been used as a restaurant, the use has ceased for more than 12 months, losing its legal non-conforming status.

According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Urban Transition," which are pockets of unincorporated Jasper County that are partially or entirely surrounded by the municipality. For these areas that experience new development or redevelopment, consideration should be given to working with the adjacent municipality for annexation. The adjacent parcels are zoned Residential with the Town limits of Ridgeland nearby. Adjacent land uses are residential and commercial.

The subject property is accessed by Sweet William Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a limited local road. She noted that from a land use perspective, the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial.

The public hearing was opened. Ms. Wagner said Mr. Robert Clements had sent in a public comment that he would like to see a buffer guard between the residential and commercial. He said he would like to see the buffer maintained and the parking be adhered to. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked who would have to put that in place and Ms. Wagner said the owner would have to adhere to that. There were no more public hearing comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: Andrew Fulghum – Public Hearing and 3rd reading of Ordinance # [2021-24](#) to adopt a new organizational chart.

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He noted he would like to hold the public hearing, but the third reading would be on the next agenda. He said he wanted to make the new organizational chart all-inclusive which would include the Elected Officials. The public hearing was held but there were no public comments, so the public hearing was closed. There was no motion made and no action was taken.

C: David Tedder – 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 8: Businesses and adopt the 2022 amendments to the business license ordinance.

Mr. Tedder was present to address this request. He reviewed the ordinance which would amend Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances under section Businesses and would adopt the 2022 amendments to the business license ordinance. He also noted that this was the first reading and it

is in compliance with Act 176 from last year. He noted that there were a number of changes that had to be made by 01.01.2022 and this reading was to get the process started. He noted that this was being done to ensure that all local governments have the same business license year, and that all local governments must adopt NAICS, which Jasper County has already done. He noted that there are 9 class codes that have had some revisions, and that a scheduled exhibit has been prepared for this ordinance. He said there are other particulars to this ordinance and that since Council has the first reading tonight, they may still have some tweaking to do to some of the classifications. He noted that there would be 2 more readings coming forward for this ordinance.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

New Business:

There was no new business for this agenda.

Old Business:

A: Chief Russell Wells – COVID update

Chief Wells was present to address this request. He noted that in Jasper County since the last report that there had been a 6.1% drop in the positivity rate. He noted that for everyone 12 and older were eligible for the COVID vaccine. He provided and reviewed the statistics and went over a list of the vaccine clinics. Chief Wells noted that booster shots were being allowed for all that met the criteria.

Councilman Kemp said he was at the Latin Festival and spoke with a doctor there and it was relayed to him that the Hispanic population was finding it difficult to get the COVID shots. Chief Wells said he would be happy to reach out to our Community Assistant in the Hispanic area to get this information and would make sure that the Spanish versions of our printed information was available to them. He also noted there was some great information on the South Carolina DHEC website which can be found at this link here as provided below:

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | SCDHEC](#) and their regular site at [Homepage | SCDHEC](#).

Council Members Comments:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley noted as information for the general public that it had come to his attention that Council had voted to meet in person, and they were now meeting on ZOOM. He noted he had reached out to the Ethics Commission and the Attorney General but they said it was a local issue. He responded to them by asking when did the local government become in charge of the state government. They said the point was well taken and they would get back to him on that.

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp said he was at the SOLOCO meeting and that they approved the regional housing trust fund report and that would be coming to the Administrator. He also said he wanted to make a motion to have the Chairperson instruct the Administrator to provide the Council the budget worksheet every month and have a quarterly review as an agenda item. Councilman Sauls said he would second the motion if it needed a second. Mr. Tedder as a matter of parliamentary procedure that if this was an action item this would require a motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Kemp said he disagreed with Mr. Tedder and said that the motion he made was procedural. Mr. Fulghum asked for clarification purposes if he wanted the worksheets monthly and a quarterly review on the agenda of a meeting. Chairwoman Clark said she did not think a motion was needed for this, as he only needed to mention it for us to have monthly reports and a quarterly review of what was spent. Further discussion ensued on this topic and Mr. Fulghum noted that Ms. Burgess usually prepares those and that they would provide the report on a monthly basis and do a quarterly review on a quarterly basis. Ms. Burgess did note in regard to the June report that if she provided this report now it would not be accurate as she was waiting until the journal entries were in. She said however that an interim report could be provided but would again not be accurate.

Councilman Sauls:

Councilman Sauls said he had been working with Councilman Pastor Adkins on the beautification of the County that he has done. He said that Councilman Adkins had done a beautiful job on the projects he was working and wanted to commend him on that. He noted they are looking at the Farmers Market in order to do some beautification things out there because they want to make it beautiful for everyone. He wished everyone a safe week and asked for God's blessings over everyone. Chairwoman Clark agreed with Councilman Sauls on these matters.

Councilman Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked God for all he has given us. He said he had gone the other day and got a CDL physical. He encouraged the young people to get the COVID shot and noted that this virus was nothing to play with. He noted if we remain obedient that God will deal with it in good time. He said sometimes God needs to get our attention. He encouraged everyone to keep peace in their heart, especially when in the eye of the public. He asked that everyone keep them in prayer.

Chairwoman Clark:

Chairwoman Clark reminded everyone that even with their COVID shots they still need to wear their masks and take precautions. She noted that when everyone opens their mouth to speak that particles leave their mouth. She said if you are contaminated, then your particles can contaminate others. She mentioned that the new mutation of COVID known as MU was here at Memorial. She encouraged everyone to be safe and careful.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum noted that he had prepared a report for their packet and was available to answer any questions. He said the first two items were for information only. He noted that Item # 3 on his

Administrator's Report was regarding the Targeted Rural Initiative. He said that in response to an offer from the Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, Chairwoman Clark notified the South Carolina Department of Commerce on July 7th, 2021, that she desired to have Jasper County included for consideration in a grant program offered by SCDOC known as the "Targeted Rural Initiative". The County he noted, has been included in this initiative and a grant in the amount of \$2.5 million has been offered to the County to be used for a transformational infrastructure project. He noted that the grant has a 100% match requirement, and the County must identify a list of its top 3 projects by December 1, 2021. He said staff was trying to organize a list of projects for Council to consider for their top 3 projects.

He also noted that they been notified by the Town of Ridgeland that the Town is pursuing a Regional Feasibility Planning Grant. He said the Town is experiencing some growth pressure now. He said they were pleased that the Town called on the County to include us in that effort. They are applying for the grant through the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority which will include among other things a Comprehensive Proactive Review of the Water and Sewer services they provide and define where each should be extended and if they should be extended. They have asked the County to be a part of that, and he noted that he had written a letter of support for that application. Mr. Fulghum said that they look forward to working together with the Town on that planning effort.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman