



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING

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

October 18, 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, Russell Wells, Danny Lucas, Dale Terry, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham. **Also Present:** Sandy Steele, Dan Lacz, Burnie Maybank, and Andrew Saleeby.

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. 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 go into executive session: Councilman Sauls

Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Discussion: Councilman Kemp stated that he would like to amend the agenda to add item 12B in as an executive session item to discuss Pine Haven Rd. Mr. Fulghum noted that this item had been placed on the agenda due to rumors relating to the road and that Mr. Terry would be providing an update on this topic. Mr. Tedder noted that to change an agenda less than 24 hours prior to the meeting Council would need to determine if this was an emergency item. Councilman Sauls and Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley said they were fine with putting the topic into executive session. Chairwoman Clark said Council just needed to be sure it was legal to do so. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked if this was confidential information and Mr. Fulghum noted that this was on the agenda just for an update on the topic. Councilman Kemp noted that the Transportation Department had allocated money for this project already and was taking action on it. Mr. Fulghum noted that the Council would have to do the project, and no one had spoken with Council on this matter as of yet and noted again that this item on the agenda was to share the current information and situation with Council. Councilman Kemp stated that the Transportation Department had authorized \$150,000 to be allocated to this road. He also asked why Council was going to discuss Project Silverman in executive session and asked if it was a presentation. Mr. Fulghum noted that this was a proposed FILOT tax agreement on the project. He mentioned that the matter of a proposed development would be public, but this was to discuss a development agreement and a proposed FILOT tax agreement for discussion purposes only.

Vote: All yes, with Councilman Kemp voting no.

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:

(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 -
Waste Management; Carolina Metal Castings;

(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 Silverman

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 Adkins
Second: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman Sauls
Second: Councilman Adkins
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of September 20, 2021, and October 4, 2021.

Motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes as presented: Councilman Sauls
Second: Councilman Kemp
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Proclamation:

A: Wanda Simmons - Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week 2021.

Ms. Simmons was present to address this item with Council.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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.

**Please submit Public Comments via email at comments@jaspercountysc.gov or via US Mail at Attention: Clerk to Council P.O. Box 1149 Ridgeland, SC 29936. If you would like to be contacted by phone during Open Floor, please email your name, address and phone number to the email address listed above.*

Resolutions: None

Ordinances: None

New Business:

A: Wanda Simmons – MOU between SC WIL (Women in Leadership) and Jasper County for the use of MatchBoardSM for a year in its beta form as a digital platform to manage the County’s Boards and Commissions; and to provide feedback on the functionality, marketing, and workflows at no cost to the County.

Ms. Simmons was present to address this item with Council. She noted that MatchBoard was a digital platform through which our County will be able to manage our Boards and Commissions. This would allow staff to easily maintain timely information on Board / Commission memberships; receive and review digital applications; forward application to Council for their review, comment, and approval; communicate with citizens regarding questions, updates, and appointment notifications; automatically update the database with any new appointments made; and reduce or eliminate current manual paper-driven processes.

This program is a new cloud-based program, and all of our information would remain our property. This is a great opportunity for us, as we will be one of the first 30 Counties and therefore, get the first year free of charge. Eventually this could help our citizens through a link on our website to view open positions on different boards and commissions as well as allow them to make applications for vacancies that come directly back to me through the program.

At this time, Ms. Simmons noted that the first 30 counties and municipalities who sign the MOU for their November launch will be able to use MatchBoard free of charge for one year. We have been

given one of the 30 slots for this opportunity. The SCAC has generously offered to cover 25% of costs for those counties, who are not in the first 30 counties or municipalities. Additionally, after the first year, the SCAC will be continuing to cover 25% of the cost for the counties. We are under no obligation in signing the MOU to continue beyond the first year (which is free of charge). At this time, she noted that staff would like to ask that Council approve the signing of the MOU for this opportunity for the first free year.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: Dale Terry – Discussion of Pine Haven Road.

Mr. Terry was present to address this item with Council. He provided an overview of the situation and noted that the area in question had been measured and was a little over 1200 ft. long. Councilman Kemp asked if this was a private road. Mr. Terry noted this was not on the County list of roads. Mr. Fulghum mentioned that the SC DOT is claiming 600 ft. of the road but not the other 685 ft.

Councilman Adkins noted that it appears that this ties into the state highway. Mr. Terry noted that this did tie in on both ends to the state highway. Councilman Adkins mentioned that the road had also been paved and Mr. Terry noted that it had also been patched. Councilman Kemp noted that this was also called a spur and had been going Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked what had to be done to encourage the state to accept the road. Mr. Fulghum noted that this had been the concern for quite some time. He said it was the intent of staff to review this with Council and to work with DOT on a resolve. He noted that this road is paved to state standards and that staff will continue to research this issue and come back with further information at a later date to Council.

C: Danny Lucas – Notification of grant award from the FAA in the amount of \$230,077 for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) for the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport.

Mr. Lucas was present to address this request with Council. Mr. Lucas provided the following information to Council. An Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) provides meteorological information to arriving and departing aircraft for a particular airport. Basic information provided to pilots includes wind speed & wind gusts, wind direction, temperature, dew point, barometric pressure (altimeter settings) and density altitude. Pilots use the information generated by an AWOS to make decisions about takeoff, landing, runway and to calculate expected aircraft performance. Pilots also use the information for “Go-No Go” decision-making. The AWOS broadcasts pertinent information to pilots in a computer-generated voice via the aircraft communication radio frequency, 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. Meteorological parameters are measured continuously and updated each minute. AWOS information is also available to pilots via the telephone. AWOS information from each airport is transmitted to the Federal Aviation Administration by computer continuously and available to pilots, air traffic controllers and FAA meteorologists across the U.S. The AWOS system or similar system is used also by militaries and in all countries that operate airports and that are members of the

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). He noted that the FAA had awarded \$238,077 to pay for the automated weather observation system, which would pay for it in its entirety. He said this was the first project of Phase 5 of the airport and noted that was a critical component of an airport. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked how long it would take to get the system installed. Mr. Lucas said about 2.5 months and that it would be installed by a vendor of the SC State Aeronautics Commission. He noted that it should start some time in December and then be finished in February. He also noted that the funds would go directly to the vendor who installs the system. Councilman Kemp asked about additional costs after installation. Mr. Lucas said the additional cost would be maintenance to maintain the system and the electrical expenses to the County. Councilman Sauls thanked Danny for doing such a great job and Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley offered the same sentiment. Chairwoman Clark said this was mentioned a while back and it was something they had pushed. She also noted that the SC State Aeronautics Commission had been very good to Jasper County. Mr. Lucas offered the same sentiment. There was no motion made and no vote taken, as this was for information purposes only,

D: Kimberly Burgess – Report on the results of the bond refunding as approved by Ordinance #2021-05 on July 19, 2021.

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that Jasper County confirmed the award of the 2021 Bonds on Tuesday, October 12th. She noted that the bond refunding amount was \$5,415,000, and that the approximate net present value savings was 27% or 1.7 million dollars over the 20-year period. There were 5 or 6 bidders which Mr. John Canny, the County's Municipal Advisor stated that there was a respectable crowd of bidders which indicated that people were liking what the County was bringing to market. The closing for bonds scheduled for October 26, 2021.

Old Business:

A: Chief Russell Wells – COVID update

Chief Wells was present to address this request. He provided the COVID Statistics update through October 13, 2021 (Date range 09.30.2021 – 10.13.2021). He noted that the SC positivity rate was 7.5% and that Jasper County's positivity rate was at 7.0%. He said that 1210 tests had been performed and that 305 fewer tests had been administered than the prior timeframe. He provided community testing information and vaccine update information. He noted that there was a change order executed to the Hardeeville COVID vaccine clinic On Saturday October 23. A community event was added for a first dose vaccine clinic in conjunction with the second dose vaccine clinic. Coordination with Hardeeville Recreation Center expanded an additional day to bring a second dose vaccine clinic scheduled for November 13, 2021.

Chairwoman Clark expressed her sympathies to the Atwood family and the family of Colin Powell.

Council Members Comments:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley offered his prayers and condolences to the Colin Powell family and to all other families dealing with COVID and all other losses.

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp noted that the new Code Enforcement Officer had been hired and had hit the ground running. He mentioned that he had attended the FIT Meeting and Transportation Meeting and mentioned that he had attended the Hardeeville Festival. Veteran's Administration Met Alton Jenkins the Veteran's Administrator for the County. He encouraged everyone to stop by and see him if they had the chance noting he was doing great things in our area.

Councilman Sauls:

Councilman Sauls expressed his prayers and condolences to the Atwood family for their loss.

Councilman Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked God for all He was doing for everyone. He noted that he was praying for everyone to stay well and healthy and encouraged everyone to pray for one another.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum stated that his Administrator's Report was in the Council packet and that he was available for questions if anyone had any for him. He also noted that there was a lot of good information and work coming from the Human Resource Department. He reminded Council of the workshop being held on Wednesday at the Lakeside Blue Heron Community Center and mentioned that the guests from the City of Hardeeville would be attending. He also noted that the Dr. Rechel Anderson would be in attendance. Chairwoman Clark noted that this was going to be a workshop for discussion purposes only.

Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II. There was no reason to return to executive session for this meeting.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

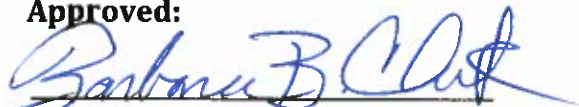
The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman