



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND COUNCIL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg.
358 3rd Avenue, Ridgeland, SC 29936
Monday, November 6, 2023

Minutes

Workshop: 4:00PM

Sales Tax Options:

The workshop to discuss the following items began with a discussion of Sales Tax Options. Jared Fralix of Beaufort County was present to discuss Local Sales Tax Programs in South Carolina. He mentioned that there are 8 Local Sales Tax Options in South Carolina: Local Option Sales Tax (LOST); Capital Projects Sales Tax (CPST); Local Property Tax Credit Sales Tax; Personal property Tax Relief Sales Tax; Local Option Tourism Development Fee; Local Transportation Project Sales Tax; Local Hospitality and Accommodations Tax; and Greenspace Sales Tax.

He showed a picture of the State of South Carolina showing the Local Tax Designation by County of the different Sales Tax Options throughout the state. He noted that South Carolina sales tax is 6% and Counties have the option to add up to an additional 3 pennies. He noted that Jasper County had an additional 3 pennies until the Transportation Tax came off. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes as Attachment "A". Kate Schaefer was present to discuss the Open Land Trust – Land Conservation Funding / Sales Tax. She asked that Council consider the option of land protection.

For additional information on this please visit the video located at <https://www.youtube.com/@jcmedia6537>

Discussion of Ordinances:

Mr. Tedder was present to discuss with Council County Ordinances. He e discussed and reviewed information regarding these ordinances in the order below for the following areas:

- Extraneous Boards and Commissions
- Board of Assessors Appeals
- Noise Ordinance
- Animal Ordinances
- Article II Administration

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The workshop meeting moved into the Regular Council Meeting.

Officials Present: Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, and Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins and Councilman Kemp. **Absent:** Councilman Coy Garbade

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells, Rose Dobson-Elliott, Danny Lucas and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Sauls called the Executive Session Meeting to order and read the Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.*

2. 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:

(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 – County Administrator, County Attorney, and Clerk to Council Performance Evaluations

(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 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 – Opioid Plan MOU with New Life Center; Cameron Heddings v. Jasper County; Professional services contract Holt Consulting Company, LLC, Work Authorization # 23 Runway Length Justification Study; Exit 3; Ridgeland Fire Contract, Tax Map #s 087-00-05-008 and 087-00-05-009; Professional services Newkirk Environmental Inc.; Discussion of IGA – Hardeeville Ambulance Service pursuant to § 6-1-190;

(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 – Prospect Update

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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. PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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3. Return to Open Session at 6:30PM

Motion to go into Regular Session: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

- **3.1 Action coming out of Executive Session** – There was no action from executive session.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and Councilman Adkins gave the invocation.

Chairman Sauls welcomed everyone and mentioned Mayor Harry Williams, Councilman Bo White, Dr. Anderson, Mr. James Williams, and Treasurer Mike Skinner.

5. Discussion of Consent Agenda and Agenda Items: None

6. Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Sauls said before the Motion on the Approval of the Agenda that he would like to move Item # 17 to after Approval of the Agenda, so the people speaking could be heard at that time.

Motion to approve the Agenda with the noted change as requested: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Chairman Sauls moved on to the following items at this point:

Proclamation presentation for the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League for Jasper County's Support of Red Ribbon Week 2023.

Chairman Sauls asked if anyone was present regarding this Proclamation presentation for the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League for Jasper County's Support of Red Ribbon Week 2023. There was no one present to accept the proclamation, so Chairman Sauls asked the Clerk to Council to contact her for this item to be on the next meeting on 12.04.2023.

Chairman Sauls asked Michelle Gaston to provide her update on the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust.

Ms. Gaston was present to bring the County Council up to date by providing an update on the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust. She noted that she was the Representative for the County to the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust Board and that she is their Secretary Treasurer. She gave a Structural Updates and Changes and what they have been doing over the course of the 2023 year. She mentioned the retreat upcoming the next week and after giving her

update noted another update would be forthcoming after the Board's Retreat. She noted upcoming dates of interest to the Council.

Chairman Sauls asked Heather Rath to begin her Legislative Update Presentation:

Ms. Heather Rath provided the Council with a presentation on the information related to her legislative update. A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes as Attachment "B". For additional information on these presentations please see our video go at <https://www.youtube.com/@jcmedia6537> .

Citizen Comments: *This item was moved from Item #17 to this location after the Approval of the Agenda.*
Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:30PM start time on the Sign-In Sheet on the Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Karen Wild noted that she was speaking as a concerned citizen and said she was not happy with the outcome of the issues as discussed by Treasurer Skinner's request from Council. She urged that Council please approve Mr. Skinner's request.

Ms. Frazier discussed the Coosawhatchie Community Center and asked for Quarterly Reports on the progress of the Community Center and for them to have input on the center.

Ms. Verna Garvin was present to discuss the County Treasurer Office regarding how the previous Treasurer's office was operated by Ms. Garvin and her staff. She noted she was not pleased with what the new County Treasurer was saying about her previous Administration of the Treasurer's Office and urged Council to come to her if they had any questions for her regarding her time in office. She discussed the decal inventory and noted that the decal inventory that were left were all left in the safe in the Treasurer's Office along with any voided decals of that office.

Mr. Anthony Crissoli discussed wanting Council to provide the Treasurer with the funds he was requesting for his office.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

7. Chairman Sauls – Proclamation presentation to the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League for Jasper County's Support of Red Ribbon Week 2023. - This item was handled after the Approval of the Agenda and before the Citizen Comments (please see information on this item above).

8. Michelle Gaston – Update on the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust - This item was handled after the Approval of the Agenda and before the Citizen Comments (please see information on this item above).

9. Heather Rath: Presentation - Legislative Update - This item was handled after the Approval of the Agenda and before the Citizen Comments (please see information on this item above).

RESOLUTIONS

10. Russell Wells – Consideration of Resolution #R-2023-21 approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ridgeland – Fire Service Contract.

Chief Wells was present to review, discuss and address this request for Resolution #R-2023-21 to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ridgeland – Fire Service Contract. He also asked for the Administrator to be allowed to enact the contract upon the Council's acceptance of the Resolution.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Mr. Jones was not present in the Chambers to address this item, so Item #12 was handled at this time.

12. Russell Wells – Consideration of Resolution #R-2023-23 approving an IGA between Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville Regarding Emergency Transport/Ambulance Services.

Chief Wells was present to review, discuss and address the Resolution #R-2023-23 to approve the IGA between Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville Regarding Emergency Transport/Ambulance Services. Chief Wells discussed that the City of Hardeeville had acquired an ambulance and wanted to put it into service. He noted that one of the things necessary was to have the legal authority to respond into their jurisdiction just as much as for them to respond and give the County aid as outlined by the SC Code of Law Section 6-1-190. Chairman Sauls noted that the City of Hardeeville had purchased the ambulance and thanked Mayor Williams, the Council, and the City of Hardeeville for that purchase.

11. Ray Jones – Consideration of Resolution #R-2023-22 authorizing Jasper County, South Carolina to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City Of Hardeeville, South Carolina to Provide for the Utilization of a Percentage of Jasper County's Tax Increment Financing Revenues And Other Related Matters.

Mr. David Tedder was present to review, discuss and address on Mr. Jones' behalf Resolution #R-2023-22 to authorize Jasper County, South Carolina to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hardeeville, South Carolina to Provide for the Utilization of a Percentage of Jasper County's Tax Increment Financing Revenues. He noted that this was part of the Exit 3 Financing.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

12. Russell Wells – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2023-23](#) approving an IGA between Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville Regarding Emergency Transport/Ambulance Services.

This item and vote were addressed prior to Item #11. Please see information and vote on this item above.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

13. Mike Skinner – Consideration of approval of Addendum #2 Scope and Fee Addition to March 30, 2023 Engagement Letter with Mauldin and Jenkins.

Mr. Skinner was present to review, discuss and address the consideration of approval of Addendum #2 Scope and Fee Addition to March 30, 2023, Engagement Letter with Mauldin and Jenkins. He said he stood by every report he had given to Council as fact. He noted he had placed a chart at each Council Seat of what his office had done. This discussion included the financial operations of his office and the interest rates of funds. He noted that the monies he had asked for that he had already paid for tenfold. Chairman Sauls asked if they had received the first scope the Council had asked for the scope of work. Mr. Skinner said that they were still working on that. He also discussed the switch to Sturgess. For additional information on this item please see our video go at <https://www.youtube.com/@icmedia6537> .

Motion to table this request till the next Council Meeting in December because at the last Council Meeting the Council requested the already approved audit report which they did not receive. The Council will consider a proposal that addresses both the Escheatment Audit identifying differences in the day-to-day operations such as Ledger entries provided, we get the audit report requested.: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

14. Kim Burgess – Consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Amending the Business License Ordinance of the County of Jasper to Update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, discuss and address the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Amending the Business License Ordinance of the County of Jasper to Update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020. Councilman Kemp said he would like to see an Entrepreneurial Incentive to help business startups.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

15. Ray Jones – Consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Loan from the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank; An Intergovernmental Agreement among Jasper County, South Carolina, The City of Hardeeville, South Carolina and the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank; and other related matters. (Exit 3 Finance Document).

Mr. David Tedder was present to review, discuss and address on behalf of Mr. Jones the consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Loan from the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank; An Intergovernmental Agreement among Jasper County, South Carolina, The City of Hardeeville, South Carolina, and the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank for the Exit 3 Finance Document.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

16. David Tedder – Consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Amending Section 9-96(3) as adopted by Ordinance No. 2022-39 to provide for the appointment of members to the Levy Fire Protection Board.

Mr. Tedder was present to review, discuss and address the consideration of the **1st reading** of an Ordinance Amending Section 9-96(3) as adopted by Ordinance No. 2022-39 to provide for the appointment of members to the Levy Fire Protection Board.

He noted that the changes were to amend the portion that on the initial Board that 3 members were to come from the Levy Volunteer Fire District area and 2 of those were to be former board members. He noted that there had been problems in fulfilling that requirement. This change, he noted, would allow for it to be modified that the ordinance be amended to use 3 people from the Levy Fire District area rather than requiring that 2 members be from the former board. He noted that the public hearing would be coming forward with the December meeting.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

17. Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:30PM start time on the Sign-In Sheet on the Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to **three (3) minutes per person** and total public input will be limited to **30 minutes**.

This item was moved to the next item after the Approval of the Agenda.

18. Administrator's Report - Mr. Fulghum reviewed his information. There were no Action Items requiring a vote from Council in the Administrator's Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

19. Wanda Simmons – Consideration of Council Approval for the Re-appointment of Julie Mikols for a 4-year term to the Library Board of Trustees.

20. Wanda Simmons – Consideration of Council Approval for the Appointment of Brian Polston to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

21. Kim Burgess – Consideration of Council Approval for the Ratification of Contract Building Solutions LLC Change Order #1.

22. Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding between Jasper County and Lowcountry Council of Governments SC315/SC46 Bluffton Parkway Study Local Match.

23. Approval of the Minutes of 06.12.2023

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

24. Council Members Comments

Councilmember Comments were given but there were no comments that required action.

25. Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II. There was no need to return to Executive Session for this meeting. For additional information on this meeting please visit our website for the E-Packet or for the video go to <https://www.youtube.com/@jcmedia6537> .

26. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Vice Chairwoman

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

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The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



L. Martin Sauls IV
Chairman