



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

November 15, 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, Johnny Davis, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Also Present:

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: Councilman Adkins

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:

(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; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that a hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing – Register of Deeds; Development Services

(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 - Agreement with Solicitor's Office (Career Criminal Team); Opioid Litigation

(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 South

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 Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Business from Executive Session: None

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve with the change of showing the minutes for approval as 11.01.2021 instead of 11.20.2021 as noted in error on the 11.15.2021 agenda: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 11.01.2021:

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Presentation:

A. Johnny Davis – The Art of Community: Rural South Carolina

Mr. Johnny Davis was present to address this request. He noted that when he had come to Jasper County that this department was sports focused and now, they have an Arts Program. He gave a history of how the Arts Program began and the challenges they were met with. They were challenged with an initiative to advocate for, and they chose literacy as it affects so many people. He said they now focus on both Arts and Literacy as well as having sports programs in Jasper County. He noted at first, they did not have an Arts Council but now this has been established and is in the early stages now. He also provided a PowerPoint for County Council to show them how the "2021 Summer Arts in Our Community" had went. A copy of this PowerPoint is attached. He noted that they had received over \$44,000 in grants from the South Carolina Arts Commission, so this was all done with grant funds. He also had a special guest Kadeer Stephens a 4th grader at Step of Faith Christian Academy. He told everyone what he had learned during this program and showed his work and drawings to Council. He noted that at this program he had learned how to use watercolors, how to make thumbnails and trace his work with a special pen. Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley asked if we provide transportation for the students. Mr. Davis said we did not but that it was worked out. Also, for further information on this presentation or any other item on this agenda please go to: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCjIA .

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 for this meeting.

Resolutions:

A: Andrew Fulghum – Resolution #2021-26 confirming appointment / appointing the Jasper County Register of Deeds.

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He noted that the Council needed to appoint a new Register of Deeds effective 12.23.2021 as Mrs. Patsye Greene would be leaving the County. He noted at this time the resolution was to appoint Vanessa Wright to this position.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Ordinances:

A: Andrew Fulghum – 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-28 to Amend Ordinance No. 2016-05 to Revise the Transportation Projects to be Financed by the Sales and Use Tax Authorized by such Ordinance and the Favorable Results of a Referendum held on November 8, 2016; and other matter related thereto.

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He reviewed this item with Council noting that this ordinance was to amend the current Ordinance # 2016-05 to revise the projects that were to be financed by the Sales and Use Tax. He noted this ordinance was discussed with Council in October regarding the changes to the ordinance that needed to be made to the existing ordinance from 2016. He noted that in Section 1 item D which lists the Transportation

Projects identified and adopted by County Council in the 2016 Ordinance which had been changed for various reasons. He noted that the reasons for these changes were noted in the ordinance on page 2. He then noted that in Section 1 item E in the 2016 Ordinance, it had been noted for the fact that it was established that the ordinance may be amended from time to time. Section 1 item F lists the disposition of the projects. He also stated that in Section 2, Roman numeral small letter "i" thru number 7 describes the current projects being worked on at this time. Mr. Fulghum also mentioned that there were 2 new projects added at this time, one being the Exit 3 Project and the other SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study proposed to be done in conjunction with Beaufort County and / or possibly the City of Hardeeville as well. Public hearing and third reading scheduled for 12.06.2021.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: David Tedder – 2nd Reading of an Ordinance # 2021-26 to amend Chapter 8, Businesses, to adopt a new business licensing ordinance incorporating, as made applicable to counties and specifically Jasper County, the provisions of the 2022 Model Business License Ordinance in accordance with Act 176, the SC Business License Tax Standardization Act, including its classification system, and establishing rates for such classification, and matters related thereto.

Mr. Tedder was present to address this request. He reviewed this item with Council noting that the changes previously discussed were encapsulated in this revised ordinance. He explained that this ordinance was to amend Chapter 8 Businesses and to adopt as presented on the 2nd reading repealing and replacing our current business license ordinance. He explained the necessity of this ordinance and the statutes surrounding this ordinance. He noted that the third reading and public hearing would be held on 12.06.2021. Councilman Kemp had a few questions on the ordinance which Mr. Tedder addressed on this item.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

C: Lisa Wagner – Public hearing and 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-32 to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 029-40-04-022 from the Residential Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map (535 Stiney Rd).

Ms. Wagner was present to address this request. She noted that the subject property consists of 9.93 acres and is located at 535 Stiney Road. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Industrial Development (ID). The property is currently zoned Residential. Lowcountry Pavers developed the property in March 2000 and has operated their business at this location for more than 20 years. Lowcountry Pavers would like to upgrade the property and modify the operation of their business, which will include eliminating the concrete

plant portion of the business. Prior to making a significant investment in the property, the applicant would like to have the property re-zoned to Industrial Development, eliminating the non-conformity status. The property was conforming when it was developed in 2000; however, during the 2007 Countywide Re-zoning project, this property was made non-conforming.

Ms. Wagner noted that 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 and Rural Preservation with Light Industrial Zoning nearby in the City of Hardeeville. She stated that the adjacent land uses are residential and commercial, with heavy industrial located nearby in the City of Hardeeville. The subject property is accessed by Stiney Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a local road.

Ms. Wagner noted that there was no motion made by the Planning Commission, so the application has been forwarded to the County Council with no recommendation. The public hearing was opened but there were no public comments. Councilman Kemp had a couple of questions that Ms. Wagner addressed on this item.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

D: Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of a 1st reading of an Ordinance on the Lease Agreement with Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM)

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He noted that this was an extension of the current lease agreement that had been in place for 14 years with the Jasper Animal Rescue Mission for the County owned property located at 401 Carters Mill Road. He noted none of the terms had been amended. He noted the lease was to be extended for a 5-year term.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

E: Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of a 1st reading of an Ordinance on the Lease Agreement with Jasper County Chamber of Commerce (Perry House)

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He noted that this was an extension of the current lease agreement with the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce (Perry House) and the Jasper County Historical Society. He noted that the property was a County owned property located at 403 Russell Street and that the current lease had been in place for 12 years. Councilman Sauls recused himself from voting on this issue. He noted the lease was to be extended for a 5-year term.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous vote of the remaining Council (Councilman Sauls recused himself from the item)
The motion passed.

New Business:

A: [Danny Lucas](#) - Holt Consulting Agreement for Professional Services, Ridgeland - Claude Dean Airport.

Kimberly Burgess was present to address this request. Ms. Burgess noted that they are seeking approval of this agreement for professional services between Jasper County and Holt Consulting LLC. She noted that they were the successful proposer for the Airport Consultant. She noted that they would like approval tonight with subject to final review by the County Attorney.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Sauls

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: [Kimberly Burgess](#) - Cummings Group Contract Extension.

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that they anticipated construction being completed in October but now needs to be extended (as noted in the enclosed letter). She said the new completion date will not be until February with an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from the dates of 11.21.2021 thru 03.22.2022. Councilman Kemp asked why there had been a delay on Marsh Cove. Ms. Burgess noted that the delay was primarily related due to materials, supply and labor shortages. She also noted that the delay of the metal building had also been delayed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Old Business:

A: [Chief Russell Wells](#) - COVID update

Chief Wells presented this information. He noted that the COVID numbers continue to improve. He noted that the SC positivity rate was down an almost 4-point reduction and Jasper County positivity rate showed a reduction of 0.5 points as well, with a 3.2 positivity rate since the last report. The CDC did give formal approval for Pfizer for ages 5 and older. Vice Chairman Dr, Brantley asked if there were areas of the County where the vaccines were not available. Chief Wells said unfortunately so, however, they are exploring alternate ways to address this issue with contractual services for a mobile medical vaccine clinic.

Council Members Comments:

Chairwoman Clark:

Chairwoman Clark thanked Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley, Councilman Sauls and Councilman Kemp for carrying on the meeting on Thursday evening. She noted that she could hear everyone but that they could not hear her. She asked that everyone keep the Leatherman family in prayer as Senator Leatherman had passed away. She asked for prayers for herself for her hospital trip on Tuesday so that all goes well and stays safe.

Councilman Sauls:

Councilman Sauls congratulated Councilman Adkins on his SCEDA graduation and encouraged everyone to read the in the newspaper about this and the story on Mr. Johnny Davis. He thanked Councilman Adkins for his beautification efforts all around the County and noted it is a pleasure to work with him. He noted he had attended the meeting of the Southern Carolina Alliance and that he received a lot of good information. He reminded Council to continue to check their emails as there would be information forthcoming related to the SCA and the Chamber of Commerce for the month of December. He thanked Mr. Fulghum, the Police, Fire, and Veterans of the County for all they do. He also reminded everyone of the Big Thursday Oyster Roast that was coming up.

Councilman Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked God for all things and for carrying him through the SCEDA class. He said he had passed the course and learned a lot of great information. He said he was working with the Administrator on other courses to take. He also noted that he had enjoyed working with Mr. Johnny Davis and had hoped they would work together longer. He noted that children are the future and we need things in place for them.

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley stated that COVID seems to have no respect for any person. He requested that each citizen consider taking advantage of the services offered within the County. He asked that God Bless everyone.

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp stated that the had went to visit with the Sun City Veterans. He said he had also went to the Jasper County Affairs office and they had a great BBQ meal on Veterans Day. He said there were about 3000 Veterans in Jasper County and that Alton Jenkins is trying to work with the Veterans. He talked to the Sheriff at the meeting and noted that they needed 15 people and are now down to needing about 5 people. Councilman Kemp also wished good luck to Johnny Davis.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum stated that he had placed his Administrator's Report and Progress Report in Council's packet. He said he was present if Council had any questions. He thanked Council for the

opportunity to attend the National Association High Performance Leadership Academy for the previous 12 weeks. He said now he will be sending some other employees to go through this course. Chairwoman Clark said that Mr. Fulghum had done so well on his presentation in class that the Professor would like him to do it again.

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

Adjourn:

Motion to approve: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman