



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 20, 2015
MINUTES**

5:30 P.M.

Officials Present: Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Vice Chairman L. Martin Sauls, IV, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman Henry Etheridge

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney Marvin Jones, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, and Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Chief Building Inspector Lennie Martelli

Staff Absent: Planning Director LeNolon Edge

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified. During periods of discussion and/or presentations minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased.

Call to Order – Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order.

Workshop - Jasper County Property Maintenance Code – Mr. Martelli provided the Council with a copy of the Maintenance Code and a two page sample letter that is sent out by the Chief Building Inspector. Mr. Martelli also provided a list of items that needed to be addressed. Mr. Martelli explained the importance of having one source for the regulations so that they can be enforced. Mr. Martelli said the code would also be available online. Vice Chairman Sauls said that the Code was needed, but he had concerns about some people not having the resources to comply. Mr. Martelli said there are some companies that will come and tow the old vehicles away for free. Vice Chairman Sauls said they needed to be sensitive to the needs of the people. Mr. Martelli said that he checked with the magistrate and the people can be sent a letter that they have 60 days to comply or they will be fined \$250. Mr. Martelli suggested that the fines could be put into a fund to use for the people in need. Vice Chairman Sauls said that would put the Council in the position of deciding who qualified and he did not think the Council should have that responsibility. Mr. Martelli said the department can make the decisions and not make it a political football. Mr. Fulghum commented that the code enforcement may need to be different for different areas of the County. Mr. Fulghum said that resources are limited for enforcing the code and they needed to select target areas to clean up. Mr. Fulghum said that rural code enforcement is very sensitive and the standards needed to be flexible. Chairwoman Clark added that people don't usually complain if it is only one thing, but they will complain if there is filth and people dumping things. Mr. Martelli said they needed to address things to make places safe. Councilman Etheridge said they needed a full-time code enforcement officer to enforce things. Councilman Johnson suggested putting the litter control person in the

building department. Mr. Martelli said a funding source was needed to help pay for this. Mr. Fulghum said the litter control person handles the dumping of trash and he can issue citations. Mr. Fulghum explained that the litter control person works in concert with public works and he also supervises the recycling centers. Councilman Johnson said the County needed an ordinance against trash or garbage and what it means. Mr. Martelli responded that the Council can pick and choose what they want in the ordinance. Mr. Martelli said there are many unsafe structures and they needed the ability and a legal path to condemn them. Councilman Etheridge asked the status of the Point Café and Mr. Martelli responded the demolition permits have been for and they are completing the asbestos study. Councilman Etheridge discussed abandon vehicles and Mr. Martelli added that they have authority over fire damaged buildings. Mr. Fulghum said there are buildings that need to come down and they needed a legal way to do it. Mr. Martelli said the school district has started to demolish the old school on Bees Creek Road and the school district has no permits, they have not contacted DHEC and they were told they will have to shut down the project if the information is not provided in so many days. Mr. Fulghum said they needed to work on structures and how to handle them. Councilman Johnson said if there is a clear violation and it is already on the books, a summons can be issued and due to the scofflaws they can write them a ticket every day. Mr. Martelli said that is the problem right now, they need the backing, support and direction of what to do from the Council. Councilman Johnson said to issue the summons as frequently as allowed. Mr. Martelli said he would like to be able to help the people who cannot afford it by establishing a fund. Councilman Etheridge said that DHEC needed to be involved with some of the situations. Mr. Fulghum suggested talking with the municipalities and putting something together to establish procedures and then they can give it to Council to review and for the Council to provide input. Mr. Martelli said he would review the state ordinance and see what can be done. Councilman Johnson said the Council will need the information for the budget. Mr. Martelli said that he would also develop a fee structure. Mr. Martelli said he will schedule another workshop with the Council when he has the Code and fee structure ready. The workshop ended at 6:35 p.m.

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting back to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance –Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation- Vice Chairman Sauls gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda - Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – 01/05/2015 - Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the minutes 1/05/2015. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Sheriff Jenkins – Update- Sheriff Jenkins updated the Council and provided information regarding the number of calls they responded to last year. Sheriff Jenkins also told the Council that his department issued 822 citations and served 762 warrants. Sheriff Jenkins said they are concentrating on the drug cases which continue to grow. Sheriff Jenkins informed the Council that self defense classes were being offered in various areas of the County. Sheriff Jenkins discussed a federal grant proposal that his officers have been working on. Sheriff Jenkins said it was a 90/10 grant and it would pay for 12 new vehicles. Sheriff Jenkins asked the Council to review the traffic safety team proposal he provided and said he would like to come back and discuss it further after the Council had time to review it. Sheriff Jenkins discussed the officers added for the charter school. Councilman Etheridge asked if those officers worked anywhere else and Sheriff Jenkins responded they only worked and traveled with the school. Councilman Etheridge asked how the traffic fines were divided. Sheriff Jenkins said that 41% goes to the County and 51% goes to the State. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about the match. Sheriff Jenkins said the County would have a 10% match. Sheriff Jenkins said the grant has been applied for and they are waiting for the results. Sheriff Jenkins said the grant would cover 12 cars costing approximately \$36,000 each. Councilman Etheridge asked if the cars would be fully equipped for that price and Sheriff Jenkins responded that was only for the vehicle, not the equipment, but the grant they applied for would cover the car and the equipment. Councilman Drayton asked about body cameras and Sheriff Jenkins said they already are using body cameras. Chairwoman Clark told the Sheriff that the Council wanted to work with him and for him to look for what is best and bring it back to Council. Chairwoman Clark said that something must be done about the crime rate and she wanted to make it clear that she knows the employees have been underpaid and not had a raise in 5 years, but it is up to the Administrator when he does the budget if he wants them to get a raise. Chairwoman Clark said the Council does not give raises; they have to be requested by the Administrator and the Sheriff. Corp. Sons said that the traffic proposal is different from the vehicle grant and they will \$408,367.00 from the County to cover the cost of vehicles and employees for the traffic team. Chairwoman Clark thanked the Sheriff for his update and asked him to come back.

Ordinances – There were no ordinances.

Resolutions

Dale Terry – Resolution approving the sale of surplus property – Mr. Terry presented the resolution to sell 1987 GMC fire pumper (1GDM7D1G5HV537800). Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Mr. Terry asked about adding some scrap metal and an Attorney Jones said the resolution was only for the tanker. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to allow Mr. Terry to dispose of the scrap metal. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

Chairwoman Clark – Appointment of Jackie Chavers, Christopher Malphrus and George Simpson to the Jasper County Human Relations Board – Chairwoman Clark explained the purpose to the

Jasper County Human Relations Council and that the members will work with all races and creeds with an open mind. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to appoint Jackie Chavers, Christopher Malphrus and George Simpson to the Jasper County Human Relations Board. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Chairwoman Clark thanked Ms. Warren and Mr. Simpson for being present at the meeting and for agreeing to serve on the Board. Chairwoman Clark said the County Council will make the appointments and they did not need any help from Jasper County or any other County. Chairwoman said two additional appointments will be made at a later date.

Ronnie Malphrus – Discussion of Loan from SC Public Service Authority – Mr. Malphrus discussed the loan for the new spec building in the amount of \$850,000. Mr. Malphrus said they were working on getting the documents changed to change the structure of the loan and the loan needed to be structured through a separate corporation. Mr. Malphrus said the County has a separate corporation, St. Peters Parish Corporation, which they felt would suffice. The Corporation will own the building until the loan is paid. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if that was the only change and Mr. Malphrus responded that was the only change. Councilman Etheridge asked who served on the board and Mr. Malphrus said that Sheree Darian, Danny Henderson, Mr. Fulghum. Mr. Malphrus said he will discuss this with the Board and report back to Council.

New Business -Andrew Fulghum – Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors Appointment for 2015 – Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to appoint Vice Chairman Sauls to serve on the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Appointment to Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority- This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Reports – Councilman Drayton reported that he attended the ribbon cutting at the new health department. **Vice Chairman Sauls** reported that he also attended the ribbon cutting and the ground breaking ceremony for the new spec building in Point South. Vice Chairman Sauls commented on the new spec building at Cypress Ridge and a new building at Riverport. Vice Chairman Sauls announced that the annual Coon Hunters Jamboree will be held on Feb. 12-14, 2015. **Councilman Etheridge** said he attended the ribbon cutting and the ground breaking. Councilman Etheridge said he also attended a community meeting in Oaktie. Councilman Etheridge said that TICO was building an addition onto their existing building and BE GREEN was hiring. Councilman Etheridge reported that he expected the Port to be complete in about 15 years. Chairwoman Clark thanked the Council and said that she also attended the same meetings and she attended the regional transportation meeting where they discussed Hwy. 17 and worked on plans for funding. Chairwoman Clark said she met with and Councilman Johnson and a concerned citizens group. Chairwoman Clark asked the people if they feel a need to talk with the Council to please contact them because the Council is sincerely interested in all the people in the County.

Administrator's Report- Mr. Fulghum said his report was provided for information and he had nothing to add.

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 comments.

Adjourn- Councilman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman