



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 3, 2014
MINUTES**

5:30 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney Marvin Jones, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, 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 at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM – Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to go into executive session for the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates 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 – Solid Waste Disposal Services, Ridgeland Airport; and the discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by a public body –Project Update; and 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 an employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly nothing, contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing – Personnel Matters – Magistrate’s Office. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

DINNER BREAK

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – Vice Chairman Sauls motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

6:30 P.M.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney Marvin Jones, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, 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 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Invocation- Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of the Minute 01/21/2014– Councilman Etheridge motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 01/21/2014. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Agenda – Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Proclamations and Presentations: **Saundra Ligon – Human Affairs Committee** – Ms. Ligon explained the purpose of the Human Affairs Committee and she said she hoped that the Council would establish one in Jasper County. Ms. Ligon said the State Agency was established in 1972 due to racial tension and issues. Mr. Ligon said that her office would handle all the training and the Council would only need to appoint the Committee and provide them a place to meet. Ms. Ligon said the Committee would be chartered like the others in the State and the Committee would be made up of volunteers. Councilman Etheridge asked if this included the municipalities and Ms. Ligon said it would cover the entire County. Ms. Ligon said they would have fundraising events to cover field trips, postage and speakers. Ms. Ligon said there are also grants they can apply for to cover the expenses. Councilman Drayton asked how many members would serve on the committee. Ms. Ligon said 10-20, but there was no real number of members required. Mr. Fulghum said the Council would need to pass a resolution and appoint the members, but beyond that, the County would not be involved. Councilman Johnson said it was a watchdog or problem solver agency. Ms. Ligon said the County would refer small issues to them to mediate and they would partner with anyone who is already doing this. Chairwoman Clark asked how the money from fundraisers was handled. Mr. Ligon said the treasurer of the Committee would handle the funds. Chairwoman Clark thanked Ms. Ligon for her presentation and said the Council would take this under consideration and get back to her with their decision.

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum – 1st Reading of an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding

\$1,500,000 general obligation bond or bonds of Jasper County, South Carolina in the form of a line of credit; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto (by title only) – Mr. Fulghum explained that the Council approved a resolution to explore funding options for the airport runway. Mr. Fulghum said the ordinance authorizes him to move forward. Mr. Fulghum said this reading is by title only. Councilman Etheridge said that the County was not borrowing additional funds, but the County would establish a line of credit and hopefully not have to use very much of it. Councilman Etheridge motioned and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding \$1,500,000 general obligation bond or bonds of Jasper County, South Carolina in the form of a line of credit; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Jeanine Bostick – Discussion - Maintenance Contract for Voting Machines – Ms. Bostick explained that the voting machines maintenance contract needed to be renewed. Election Commission Chairman Joseph Arzillo and the representatives from ES&S were present to answer any questions. Ms. Bostick explained that when the County received the voting machines in 2006 they had a one year warranty and the State paid for maintenance until 2012. Ms. Bostick said the machines need to be seen prior to the election. Ms. Bostick said if not renewed prior to July there will be a 5% increase in the cost of the contract. The various plans and costs were explained and Mr. Arzillo stated they were recommending the Silver Plan. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if all the Counties were charged the same amount and is this the only company that maintains the machines. Mr. Chris Andrews, the ES&S representative, said they are certified and the only entity that can secure the parts. Mr. Andrews said other companies would be using old parts from other machines and the liability remains with the manufacturer. Mr. Andrews said that the rates are the same software tiered system. Councilman Johnson asked if Earl Bostick, Jr. reviewed the information. Ms. Bostick said he did see it. Councilman Drayton asked how this is not a monopoly if they have contracts with all the Counties. Mr. Andrews said because the Counties made the decisions. Vice Chairman Sauls motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve 4 years Silver Agreement which locks the price in for four years. The amount approved for the contract from now until June, 2015 is \$18,717.93 and it will be paid out of the 2014-2015 budget. Ms. Bostick said that the Silver Agreement means we will be locked in at a certain amount for 4 years and since we are starting this contract February 3, 2014 through June 30, 2015 therefore this contract will cover 17 months' worth of service we are paying a higher rate, but in the budget years 2015-2016; 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 we will be paying a reduced rate for the next 3 years estimated at \$13,000 or \$14, 000 per year. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Chairwoman Clark stated that bringing this contract to the Council at this time puts the Council in a position where they have to vote and the machines need to be maintained to have a fair and decent election with no problems.

Dale Terry – Transportation Committee Funding to Pave Wickes Lumber Road and Family Circle - Mr. Terry asked permission to go to the Transportation Committee to ask for funding to pave Wickes Lumber Road and Family Circle. It was the consensus of the Council to approve Mr. Terry's request.

Andrew Fulghum –Transportation Committee Funding to Pave Road in Point South to New Spec Building- Mr. Fulghum explained that the Southern Alliance wanted to build a spec building in Point South and the road to the building needed to be paved. Mr. Fulghum said the land owners donated the land for the 37,000 sq. ft. spec building. Mr. Richardson explained that a portion of the road is maintained by SCDOT, but the remainder of the road would be deeded over to the County. Mr. Richardson said they would like to go to the Transportation Committee for funding to upgrade the paving of the road once it is deeded over to the County. Councilman Etheridge motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the request to ask for funding from the Transportation Committee to upgrade the road to the new spec building. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Wilbur Daley – Transportation Committee Funding for Road Signs – Mr. Daley informed the Council that he needed additional funds to buy replacement road signs. Mr. Daley said he received \$14,000 from the Transportation Committee about 2 years ago and those funds have been spent. Mr. Daley said he would like to request \$20,000. Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to grant permission for Mr. Daley to request \$20,000 from the Transportation Committee for replacement road signs. Mr. Daley said he has tried several different ways to anchor the signs and he has used signs made of different material, but they are still being stolen. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Committee Reports – Councilman Etheridge said he met with the people regarding the airport and the right of way for the airport. **Vice Chairman Sauls** announced that the State of the County Breakfast is to be rescheduled and he discussed the various Chamber events. Vice Chairman Sauls informed the public that State House Day is on April 9, 2014. **Councilman Johnson** thanked the employees in the Planning Dept. for helping get into their new place, almost overnight, after their home was destroyed by fire. **Councilman Drayton** said that two of the meetings he planned to attend were cancelled due to weather. Councilman Drayton said he spoke with Barbara Johnson concerning some repairs to a citizen’s home and she told him she would be responding to the request soon. **Chairwoman Clark** said she met with Senator Pinckney concerning the needs of Jasper County. Chairwoman Clark said she also met with some concerned citizens and she told the public to contact any member of the Council if they have a problem. Chairwoman Clark said this is a very open Council and they want to hear from the citizens.

Administrator’s Report – Mr. Fulghum provided the Council with a magazine article concerning Flow Control and the various points of view. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that he and Mr. Terry met with Mr. Nanni regarding drainage issues and that they were applying for a CBDG grant to alleviate the problem. Mr. Fulghum said that he will be going to Columbia to discuss the CBDG grant for the Tarboro Center to see why it was denied. Mr. Fulghum said the New Health Dept. Bldg. has gone out to bid and the bids are due Feb. 24, 2014. Mr. Fulghum reminded Council that the Statement of Economic Interest was due on Mar. 30, 2014.

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 –Chairman Clark opened the floor to the public. There were no comments. Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

Chairwoman Clark announced that the Feb. 18, 2014 meeting of the Jasper County Council has been cancelled.

Adjourn – Vice Chairman Sauls motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc

Barbara B. Clark

Clerk to Council

Chairman