



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
358 THIRD AVENUE  
RIDGELAND, SOUTH CAROLINA 29936

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, 9:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 11, 2014  
MINUTES

**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, Parks and Recreation Director Johnny Davis

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 9:10 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION** – Vice Chairman Sauls gave the invocation.

**DISCUSSION OF TARBORO COMMUNITY CENTER WALKING TRAIL** – Mr. Fulghum explained that he met with the Council Members regarding the situation and there was a meeting scheduled in March regarding the CBDG grant that was not approved. Mr. Fulghum said that the Tarboro Community Committee was present today to discuss the walking trail and the process of how the bid was let and to see if they wanted to move forward or have it rebid. Mr. Malphrus explained that once the grant was received for the walking trail, it went out to bid. Mr. Malphrus said he advertised the bid in the Jasper County Paper and SCEBO. Mr. Malphrus said that construction projects are handled this way. Mr. Malphrus said the bids were due on January 9, 2014 and the County received 3 bids. Mr. Malphrus said the low bid was higher than the amount budgeted for the project and he asked Council to go back and renegotiate with the low bidder so get the price down so that the project could be done. Mr. Malphrus said that there was a time limit and the grant required that \$7,000 has to be spent by 5/31/2014. The money must be paid and the check has to clear the bank by that date. Mr. Malphrus said the Council needed to decide to move forward, or rebid. Mr. Malphrus said the 1<sup>st</sup> time it was bid, the bids were well above the amount budgeted and he was concerned about what kind of bids they would get. Vice Chairman Sauls asked why there was a question about rebidding the project. Vice Chairman Sauls said no one contacted him. Ms. Rubino said the County advertised in two places and it was listed on 12/16/2013 and the bid opening was 1/9/2014. Ms. Rubino asked if the requirement was met.

Mr. Malphrus said that the County requirements were met. Ms. Rubino said that the ad was only run one time and that they were concerned that the bid was high and they felt if it had been advertised longer and they might have received a lower bid. Councilman Johnson asked what the goal of this meeting was. Ms. Rubino said that goal is the process of doing things correctly. Ms. Rubino said that Mr. Davis met with the trail committee and walked the trail and she said they had pictures of trees and shrubs that needed to be removed. Ms. Rubino asked if that was included and they have concerns because the trail needs to be done correctly and the bid process needed to be done correctly. Councilman Etheridge said that he was sure the bid will clear the property and he asked if they were talking about the walking trail or how it should be bid. Ms. Rubino said that they are concerned about the trees and this trail is not what they wanted. Ms. Rubino said the Committee met with Mr. Davis and mapped it out and they are concerned about the trees. Mr. Malphrus said they do not run the ad for 60 days, they run it one time and he went beyond the County's requirements and put it in SCEBO in addition to the local paper. Councilman Drayton said the Council is meeting at his request since the citizens are not satisfied and that they feel it was not advertised properly. Councilman Drayton said he would support what the citizens want, but he felt that it can be rebid and completed on time. Mr. Davis said he felt they needed to clarify some items and he apologized for any miscommunication. Mr. Davis said there were walking trails in other communities and he would try to do it right just like he did in the other communities. Mr. Davis said they walked the trail and laid out the trail and met to finalize things. Mr. Davis said they did not meet prior to putting it out to bid. Mr. Davis said something had to be put down so they could get the bid out and he used his best judgment and made modifications and changes were made. Mr. Davis said he has been sending Ms. Rubino emails since November and on the 13<sup>th</sup> he sent her a copy of the bid document. Mr. Davis said the white line is a guideline and it can be moved right or left and the trees can come down. Mr. Davis said they discussed taking all the trees down, but he does not want to do that. Mr. Davis said they will limb out and remove some trees and that work will be done by a tree company or public works. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if they wanted to move forward or stop it. Surenda Burrison said there was miscommunication and they asked for the trail in 2012 and asked to be involved and they are not pleased with the plan and want to be part of the planning. Ms. Burrison said this was not done, she said they want the trail and need the trail; they want to follow through with what they were told. Ms. Rubino discussed a letter from August 23, 2012 and she said the concerns they had then are the same concerns that they have now. Chairwoman Clark said the Council would accept the letter as information, but now they were only discussing the walking trail. Ms. Burrison said they have been working on this for two years and they want to be involved and work together as a team. Ms. Burrison said they are trying to do better in Tarboro and they want to be involved in what is put there and they want to be involved in the process. Councilman Drayton said he amplified Ms. Burrison's comments and he was told the committee was not given the opportunity to walk the trail and they wanted it rebid and if the Tarboro Committee supported what they have now, he would support it. Freddy Brantley said he was concerned about the bidding process and that local contractors did not have an opportunity to bid and he thought it should be advertised for 60 days. Mr. Brantley said that a small one time ad was not adequate. Mr. Brantley said the trail needed to be wide enough for people to pass each other. Mr. Brantley said it was advertised as 1,700 feet and no other specifications and it needed to be adequate and the people need to agree on what they are getting. Mr. Davis said the track is 1/3 of a mile and it is done that way so

people can keep track of the distance. Mr. Davis said the track was 5 ft. wide. Mr. Malphrus said the specs are not advertised, but the ad tells the bidders to contact him for a bid package which includes specifications. Ms. Rubino said she felt the specifics should have been given to the committee. Chairwoman Clark said the specifications were emailed to Ms. Rubino. Ms. Rubino said she never received the notice for the bidders. Mr. Davis said he put it in her hands. Ms. Rubino said she did not receive it. Chairwoman Clark said when the public sees things on the agenda they need to attend the meetings and ask questions or they should contact Mr. Fulghum if they did not get what they needed. Chairwoman Clark asked if the committee wanted the trail to be done or to be stopped. Ms. Burrison said they want it done and asked that they be involved so there would not be problems later. Mr. Malphrus said the specs that went out were changed to meet the budget. Mr. Malphrus said the asphalt would be 1 ½ inches instead of 3 inches and that should be sufficient. Mr. Malphrus said there would be a 4 inch base with 1 ½ inches of asphalt. Mr. Brantley said that should be adequate and the committee would go along with that. Mr. Brantley commented that they can't get all that they want, but they are satisfied with what they can get. Mr. Fulghum said not to drive on the walking trail and the citizens needed to enforce that.

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

The meeting ended at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk to Council

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Barbara B. Clark  
Chairwoman