



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 6, 2017
6:30 P.M.**

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

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Planning Director Lisa Wagner, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry

Staff absent- County Attorney David Tedder

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- Chairman Sauls called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Session - 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 –Section 30-4-70(a)(5)- Exit 3, Nimitz Solar LLC, Jasper Ocean Terminal, Moffett/Dominion – Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to go into executive session for 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 –Section 30-4-70(a)(5)- Exit 3, Nimitz Solar, Jasper Ocean Terminal, Moffett/Dominion. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to open Session – Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion that the County Council approve the proposed financial security arrangement for site restoration and decommissioning of the Moffett Solar I project as outlined in the Memorandum and Letter of Agreement discussed with Council and to Authorize the Administrator, upon consultation and advice of the County Attorney, outside financial counsel at Howell and Linkous and the Financial Advisor John Canney who has assisted the County, to execute and accept on behalf of the County any documentation, including the form and contents of the surety bond and corporate guarantees, all adjustable every 5 years based on the information from the listed professionals, to finalize the transaction documents necessary and desirable to put these

surety measures in effect to protect the County and its Citizens, in accordance with the provisions included in the County Solar Farm Floating Zone Ordinance. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Invocation- Vice Chairman Johnson gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda- Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to delete Item D from the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes – 12/05/2016 – Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 12/05/2016 County Council meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Rhonda Davis, LCOG Needs Assessment Public Hearing – Barbara Johnson made the presentation and explained the reasons for the needs survey. Ms. Johnson explained the CBDG Program and provided the information of who is qualified to receive funding. Ms. Johnson listed the current projects in Jasper County that have CBDG grant funding. Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Ms. Johnson handed out the Housing Needs Survey to the people attending the meeting.

Antrianna Singleton- Jasper County Strategic Team- Antrianna Singleton and Henry Criss explained that they were trying to get all the Human Service Agencies to share their information with each other so that people will know where to go for help. Mr. Criss said that he discovered a need in the County for Human Services because there are a lot of needs in the County and a lot of the resources operate independently. Mr. Criss said that several agencies serve both Jasper County and Beaufort County. Mr. Criss said the Jasper Human Services Alliance started this in Jasper County. Mr. Criss said there are many agencies and organizations that provide help, but everyone needs to be on the same page. Mr. Criss said there is a desperate need for this in Jasper County. Mr. Criss said that a Leadership Council, made up of citizens, is needed. Mr. Criss said a team of members would meet with the people in need to help them on an individual basis and direct them to what agencies can help. Mr. Criss said a facilitator was needed to facilitate the connections. Mr. Criss said a fiscal agent was needed and he discussed various funding sources to pay for the County Human Services Agency. Mr. Criss said he hoped they could work with the Council to create a solution.

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 – Rev. Galloway invited the public to attend an event at his church on the 3rd Sunday in February for a special program to

recognize General Newton and others in the County. **Priscilla Frazier** discussed the lack of a fire station in her area and that her home insurance is very costly since her area is rated a 10. Ms. Frazier said fire stations are needed in the areas where poor people live and she asked what the Council was going to do for the citizens who do not live 5 miles from a fire station. Ms. Frazier said she planned to bring a group of people to the next Council Meeting. Chairman Sauls responded that the County was closing on some property in that area that was donated to the County and the County is working on getting a substation built and the Council does care about all the citizens of Jasper County. Being no further comments, Chairman Sauls closed the floor to the public.

Resolutions

Councilwoman Clark – discussion and consideration of a Resolution for Naming the Jasper County Law Enforcement Bldg. – Councilwoman Clark moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to name the Jasper County Law Enforcement Building in memory of Sheriff Benjamin Riley, that a plaque be displayed at the building and a ceremony be held and that no other building be named for someone until the Council can work on a Resolution after the retreat. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum– Inducement Resolution for Nimitz Solar, LLC located in the Town of Ridgeland- Mr. Fulghum explained that the inducement agreement was between the County and the company. The Fulghum said that the company was investing \$12,000,000 and they were offered a FILOT, MCIP benefits and certain special source revenue credits. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the Inducement Resolution for Nimitz Solar, LLC located in the Town of Ridgeland; The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ordinances

Lisa Wagner –3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map off 040-00-02-002 located at 12362 Speedway Boulevard having a zoning of Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map so as to designate entire parcel Community Commercial- Ms. Wagner explained that the property was about 3.5 acres and was currently split zoned and undeveloped. Ms. Wagner said the property was accessed from a 4 lane highway and the Planning Commission recommended approval and the public hearing was held at the last Council Meeting. Councilman Etheridge asked if anyone has contacted her since the last meeting and Ms. Wagner said no one has contacted her. Councilwoman Clark asked if anyone contacted her about Stain Road and Ms. Wagner said 1 person contacted her and wanted a list of allowable uses. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map off 040-00-02-002 located at 12362 Speedway Boulevard having a zoning of Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map so as to designate entire parcel Community Commercial. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

Lisa Wagner – Update of Building Code Violations – Ms. Wagner provided an update that included pictures. Ms. Wagner said that the Freedom Parkway property owner was given notice in December and it appears to be much cleaner now. Ms. Wagner said that Jeremy Bennet has received notice concerning his property that faces I-95 on the south side of Exit 8. Ms. Wagner said they are going to the Magistrate to get a court date to issue a citation. Ms. Wagner said there are many cars on the property that do not have tires or license plates. Ms. Wagner said they do have a business license, but the property is zoned Residential. Ms. Wagner reported that in December the owner of DeLoach property on Morgan Dollar Road was given 90 days to get the property cleaned up. Ms. Wagner said this is another property that they will be going to the magistrate about. Councilman Etheridge asked if Mr. DeLoach had a business license and Ms. Wagner said he did not. Councilman Etheridge said he works on vehicles there. Ms. Wagner said Jasper County had a conference call with DHEC and Hardeeville about Able Construction. Ms. Wagner said the recycling business must remove 75% of what comes in and the 75% is based on weight. Chairman Sauls asked about fencing and said you can see it from the highway. Ms. Wagner presented pictures of how the site looks from Argent Blvd. and she said that DHEC has recognized the problem and they will be introducing a bill to change the regulations. Ms. Wagner said the pile has grown, but they met the weight requirement. Ms. Wagner reported on John’s Junk Yard on Hwy. 315 and the cars are at the edge of the road on the dead-end street. Ms. Wagner said it is a little better than it was. Ms. Wagner said Hampton Lloyd has called the Sheriff regarding the noise and Natures Calling, which leases property from Chandler Lloyd, has been issued a cease and desist notice from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Ms. Wagner told the Council that the owner of Natures Calling sent a letter requesting that they be allowed to start work at 5 a.m. and Ms. Wagner said they are also parking under the power lines. Ms. Wagner said that the trucks driving over the speed bumps also make noise. Vice Chairman Johnson asked who installed the speed bumps and Mr. Terry said they are almost gone. Councilman Etheridge asked if any other equipment started prior to 7 a.m. and Ms. Wagner said the log trucks start about 6 a.m. Councilman Etheridge said let them start when the others start. Ms. Wagner said if the cease and desist is lifted, the Sheriff would enforce any other of the violations. It was the consensus of the Council to allow them to start at 6 a.m. and allow them to park under the power lines. Ms. Wagner said she would follow up with a letter.

New Business

Wilbur Daley – Professional Service Proposal – Assessment for Co-location Shelter Project- Mr. Daley said the Service Contract is to assist with the grant for the new shelter. Mr. Daley said the contract is with Alliance Consulting and it is in two phases for a total of \$99,300 and it will be paid for with grant funds. Councilman Etheridge said they needed to get something in writing from the school district. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the Professional Service Proposal – Assessment for Co-location Shelter Project in the amount of \$99,300 and it will be paid for from the grant money. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Mr. Daley told the Council that the Bolan Hall Property for the fire station is moving forward.

Council Members Comments - Councilman Etheridge reported that he attended the SCOPE meeting and they are trying to get input from the citizens. Councilman Etheridge said that transportation was one of the biggest concerns and money was needed from the State and Federal government. Councilman Etheridge discussed the Hardeeville Library and the funds raised by the Friends of the Library. **Councilwoman Clark** reported that she attended the SCOPE meeting and she discussed that human services were needed and the region is coming together. Councilwoman Clark said that on Feb. 9th from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. SCDOT will be having a meeting regarding the safety of I-95 and she encouraged the public to attend. Councilwoman Clark said the MCO Board will be meeting on Feb. 17, 2017 regarding the Back River Bridge and Hwy. 17. Councilwoman Clark discussed the fire stations and the donations that made them possible and she said the public needed to understand the costs involved and the Council cares very much and it does listen to the people. Councilman Drayton said that he hoped that SCOPE will have a meeting in Ridgeland and on Feb. 23, 2017 there will be a project update in Levy. Vice Chairman Johnson said the SCOPE meeting had about 1.5 hours of milling around before the meeting started, but everyone was very pleasant with only a few exceptions. Vice Chairman Johnson said if people have questions, they should call the Administrator to get the answers. Vice Chairman Johnson said he has been working on this since 1993 and he asked the public to share the message. **Chairman Sauls** – reported that he attended the Charleston District meeting regarding the Port and also the SCA Board meeting. Chairman Sauls provided the dates of upcoming events in the County.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum said he had most of the information for the AHJ Regional Library System, but one more planning workshop was needed. Mr. Fulghum asked the Council to extend the waiver of building permits for the people who have had damage from the hurricane. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to extend the building permit fee waiver for identified hurricane damage until June 1, 2017. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman

