



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HARDEEVILLE CITY HALL
MARCH 21, 2016**

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

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Interim Planning Director Lisa Wagner, Director of Parks and Recreation 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- Chairman Sauls called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Budget Workshop

4:30 p.m. Tedd Moyd- JCNU – Mr. Tedd Moyd provided the Council with information regarding the projects they completed and the number of families they have helped. Councilman Etheridge asked if the other Counties we represented contributed to his budget. Mr. Moyd said he is going to Estill and Hampton and he sent letters to the others. Mr. Moyd said most of the work has been done in Jasper County. Councilman Etheridge asked for a list of how the funds were spent and the consumers served since the other Counties did not participate in funding the JCNU. Councilwoman Clark said that two families in Estill were helped and they really needed the help. Mr. Moyd said they were establishing an office in Beaufort County. Mr. Moyd said that Mercy Circle Apartments are complete and Deerfield Village is also active. Mr. Fulghum asked if they were still interested in the old library location and Mr. Moyd said they were going to look into it later in the year. Councilman Drayton asked if they received any funds from the Promise Zone. Mr. Moyd said he was preparing a grant for USDA funds and they needed to organize a team to go after the Promise Zone Funding. Mr. Moyd requested the same amount of funds as last year which was \$30,000.

5:00 p.m. Susan Douglas and Frances Moody - SC Dept. of Mental Health – Ms. Moody explained the types of services and the number of individuals they served last year. Ms. Moody also provided a list of the employees and their responsibilities. Ms. Moody told the Council that they also work with School District, Coastal Carolina Hospital, DSS and the Probate Judge. Ms. Moody requested \$20,000. Chairman Sauls asked if the County owned the building they work in and Ms. Douglas said they own the building and all their costs are broken down by location.

Executive Session- Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton 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 –Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, Section 30-4-70(a)(5) and 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 –Coastal Carolina Hospital, Signage, Levy Volunteer Fire Department Section 30-4-70 (a)(2). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

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

Invocation – Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda- Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – March 7, 2016 - Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Royal Live Oaks Academy - Robot Skills Challenge and Programming Skills Challenge – The students from Live Oak Academy explained their project and they will be going to the world championship.

Butch Whidden - Audit Report – Mr. Whidden provided a summary of the work done on the audit and he said the staff and the outside auditors did a very good job and were very helpful during the audit. Mr. Whidden said there was one finding regarding a grant and that situation has been corrected. Mr. Whidden said it was a good audit.

Eric Walsnovich -Woods and Partners- Master Plan for Sgt. Jasper Park – Mr. Walsnovich provided a Power Point Presentation that covered the conceptual plan for Sgt. Jasper Park. Mr. Walsnovich reviewed the present conditions and he also discussed future improvements at the park. The new plan expands the trail, creates an aquatic compound and an amphitheater.

Chairman Sauls - Presentation to Bronco Bostick – The Council presented Mayor Bronco Bostick with a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service as a City Council member, Hardeeville Mayor and his dedication to the citizens of Jasper County.

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 Sauls opened the floor to the public. Richie Reed announced that a reception to show the appreciation of the citizens of Hardeeville to Mayor Bostick will be held in the Hardeeville Community Room on May 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Being no further comments Chairman Sauls closed the floor to the public.

Ordinances

Lisa Wagner- 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to zone or rezone portions of property(1) bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 038-00-09-053, portions of property (2) bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 038-00-09-009, and 1.66 acres as shown on Exhibit A, reconsolidation and subdivision plat prepared by Aliquot Surveying Associates, dated July 22, 2015 located along South Okatie Highway from the Community Commercial Zone and the Rural Preservation Zone to the Community Commercial Zone and the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map- Ms. Wagner explained that the public hearing was held, and there were three parcels that would be rezoned. Ms. Wagner said a Dollar General Store is planned which is consistent with the comprehensive plan and the Planning Commission recommends approval. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to zone or rezone portions of property(1) bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 038-00-09-053, portions of property (2) bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 038-00-09-009, and 1.66 acres as shown on Exhibit A, reconsolidation and subdivision plat prepared by Aliquot Surveying Associates, dated July 22, 2015 located along South Okatie Highway from the Community Commercial Zone and the Rural Preservation Zone to the Community Commercial Zone and the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum - 2nd Reading and Public Hearing of the Ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (the “County”), Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (the “company”), and, in a limited capacity, Town of Ridgeland, South Carolina, pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to the establishment of certain facilities in the County (the “project”); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto: Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Mr. Fulghum said that the Solar Farm was located in Ridgeland and the County is involved because the County has to approve the FILOT and the MCIP. Mr. Fulghum said the Solar Farm will generate electricity and SCE&G has agreed to purchase the electricity generated. Mr. Fulghum said that \$73,000 a year would be paid and split among the jurisdictions and Hampton County would be a partner in the MCIP. Councilman Etheridge

moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading and Public Hearing of the Ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (the “County”), Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (the “company”), and, in a limited capacity, Town of Ridgeland, South Carolina, pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to the establishment of certain facilities in the County (the “project”); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 2nd Reading and Public hearing of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section -1-170 of the code of laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”), such park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in Jasper County and to include certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, or one or more of its affiliates, other related companies, or successors; (2) the execution and delivery of a written park agreement with Hampton County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Jasper County; and (4) other matters related thereto - Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading and Public hearing of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section -1-170 of the code of laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”), such park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in Jasper County and to include certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, or one or more of its affiliates, other related companies, or successors; (2) the execution and delivery of a written park agreement with Hampton County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Jasper County; and (4) other matters related thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum– 1st Reading of the Ordinance authorizing and approving the creation of the Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to section 4-1- 170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”) for Project Sand (by title only)- Mr. Fulghum explained that Project Sand was an existing business located in Hardeeville and it planned to expand. Mr. Fulghum said the expansion would cost \$3,400,000 and 13 new jobs would be created. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance authorizing and approving the creation of the Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in

conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”) for Project Sand (by title only); the motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 1st Reading of the Ordinance authorizing Special Revenue Credits for Project Sand (by title only) – Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance authorizing Special Revenue Credits for Project Sand (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 1st Reading of the Ordinance regarding the transportation facilities sales tax - Mr. Fulghum explained that there are options in the SC Code that can be used for finance or issue bonds for transportation related projects. Mr. Fulghum said that the tax would generate about \$30,000,000 over 10 years. Mr. Fulghum said that questions will be formulated for the referendum which would be voted on at the general election. Councilman Etheridge said the voters would make the decision regarding this tax, not the Council. Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance regarding the transportation facilities sales tax. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

David Tedder – 1st Reading of the Ordinance To Amend Section 8-48 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, *Classification Rate Schedules*, to provide for the adoption from time to time of a revised schedule of license fees; to provide for the adoption of a revised schedule of license fees for Billboards and off-premises signs; to amend Section 15:6 and Section 15:8.7 of Appendix A of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances to provide clarification on the measurement of sign area for license fee purposes, as opposed to structure size for zoning purposes; and to correct a typographical error in Section 2-42, *Ordinances and Resolutions*, regarding a cross reference to the Section on Public Hearings –Mr. Tedder explained that this is a clarification ordinance to revise the schedule license fees and it corrects and clarifies the sign measurements and fees. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that his be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance To Amend Section 8-48 of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, *Classification Rate Schedules*, to provide for the adoption from time to time of a revised schedule of license fees; to provide for the adoption of a revised schedule of license fees for Billboards and off-premises signs; to amend Section 15:6 and Section 15:8.7 of Appendix A of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances to provide clarification on the measurement of sign area for license fee purposes, as opposed to structure size for zoning purposes; and to correct a typographical error in Section 2-42, *Ordinances and Resolutions*, regarding a cross reference to the Section on Public Hearings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum - Resolution of Jasper County to designate April, 2016 as Fair Housing Month in Jasper County, South Carolina and Andrew Fulghum – Resolution of Jasper County to renew the Equal Opportunity Plan theretofore adopted by Resolution 05-02. - Mr.

Fulghum told the Council that these resolutions must be passed every year to remain compliant.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to pass the Resolution of Jasper County to designate April, 2016 as Fair Housing Month in Jasper County, South Carolina. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to pass the Resolution of Jasper County to renew the Equal Opportunity Plan theretofore adopted by Resolution 05-02. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business - None

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of Smith Data Contracts – Mr. Malphrus said the contracts are renewed annually and they are for all the tax bill processing and the tax software maintenance. Mr. Malphrus said the cost was \$181,602.08. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the Smith Data and QS/1 Contracts in the amount of \$181,602.08 The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Appointment of 3 members to the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors- Mr. Fulghum told the council that Mayor Bostic’s position on the Board will expire in April and the Board asked for 3 members to be appointed. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to nominate Jason Taylor, Harry Williams and Marty Sauls to serve on the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum- Approval of JCTAC recommendations for Hardeeville TAP Grant –Mr. Fulghum provided the Council with a copy of the recommendations from the JCTAC to approve \$50,000 for matching funds for the Hardeeville TAP grant. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council Members’ Comments- Councilman Etheridge reported on the LCOG meeting he attended and that he met with a group about community centers and that they needed to get funds from the Promise Zone to fix the centers and to build new ones. **Councilman Drayton** said that he attended several meetings regarding Promise Zone funding for the centers. **Vice Chairman Johnson** said he has been working on bringing 4-5 companies to the County and he hoped to be able to report on this at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Johnson said he attended the investiture of the new chancellor at USCB. **Chairman Sauls** discussed the meetings he attended and the new Subaru dealership that opened in Jasper County. Chairman Sauls also provided the dates of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce events.

Administrator’s Report- Mr. Fulghum said that Mr. Terry and Mr. Daley would present information to the Council. Mr. Terry discussed the Zika virus and Mr. Daley reported on the co-located shelter. Mr. Daley said it would be the first one in the state and it will accommodate 5,000 people, 400 medical needs individuals and a number of animals. Mr. Daley said the

shelter would cost \$1,700,000 and there is a 25% match. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about funding from the federal and state governments. Mr. Daley said it would be a regional shelter and Councilman Etheridge said the other Counties should help with the funding.

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

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman