



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 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 Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls 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, Daniel Defense FILOT, New Speculative Building 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. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

DINNER BREAK

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson 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 02/03/2014 – A motion to approve the 02/03/2014 minutes was made by Councilman Drayton and seconded by Vice Chairman Sauls. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Presentations - Natasha Tingman – Request for funds for Precious Jewel Program – Ms. Tingman requested \$200-\$300 for the Precious Jewel Program. Ms. Tingman explained that the program was dedicated to empower and build confidence in the young ladies in Jasper County. Ms. Tingman said this was a 12 week program. Ms. Tingman said the program has weekly workshops, a tea and it has a ball at the end of the course. Councilman Etheridge said the funding requests needed to be made at the time the Council was doing the budget. Ms. Tingman said she was advised to prepare a budget and present it then. Ms. Tingman said 10 girls participated last year and this year 12-14 girls have shown an interest. Ms. Tingman said the cost is \$111 per person. Councilman Drayton asked where the girls came from and Ms. Tingman said they are from the Community, and learn about the program by word of mouth and the School Board. Ms. Tingman said they meet at the Wagon Branch Community Center. Chairwoman Clark thanked Ms. Tingman and said the Council would take it under consideration, however, the Council generally does not fund things at the end of the budget year and that Ms. Tingman needed to make a budget request.

Kelly Chapman – Appearance of the Entrances into Jasper County – Ms. Chapman was not present.

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum – 2nd 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 – Mr. Fulghum explained that this ordinance is to approve the financing for the new runway at the

airport. Mr. Fulghum said the cost of the runway will be approximately \$20,000,000 and the County's portion is \$1,000,000. Councilman Drayton said that the federal government would pay 90%, the state government would pay 5% and the County would pay 5%. Mr. Fulghum said the County would have to spend the 5% before the County would get the money. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 2nd 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. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 039-00-06-171 located on Bush Clark Drive near Toomerville Loop from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – Mr. Edge said the request was to rezone 1.5 acres of land from rural preservation to residential. Mr. Edge provided a map of the location of the property. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 039-00-06-171 located on Bush Clark Drive near Toomerville Loop from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 048-00-01-012 located at 85 Cypress Ridge Drive N from the General Commercial Zone to the Industrial Zoning at CRBIP – Mr. Edge explained that the area was located along Hwy. 278 at the front of the park and the rezone was needed for the park could be recertified. Mr. Edge said the CRBIP review board tabled making a recommendation until their meeting next week. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map so as to transfer property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 048-00-01-012 located at 85 Cypress Ridge Drive N from the General Commercial Zone to the Industrial Zoning at CRBIP. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st reading of the Ordinance establishing Height and Land Use Limitations for Airport Safety and within the Vicinity of the Ridgeland Airport and providing for the Administration, Enforcement and Amendment Thereof (by title only) – Mr. Edge told the Council that the Planning Commission met to discuss the merit of this project and the project was to realign the airport and the request was to rezone the land around it to be properly zoned. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the 1st reading of the Ordinance establishing Height and Land Use Limitations for Airport Safety and within the Vicinity of the Ridgeland Airport and providing for the Administration, Enforcement and Amendment Thereof (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions – There were no resolutions.

Old Business - There was no old business.

Marvin Jones – Approval of Settlements for the Settings – Mr. Jones requested approval of the settlement for the Settings. Mr. Jones said the Council authorized the lawsuit against the bonding companies. Mr. Jones said the Settings held 5 bonds and 4 of the 5 bonds paid. Mr. Jones said the Council can approve accepting the \$3,500,000 and it will not hinder the continuance of the lawsuit for the other bond. Mr. Jones said there was another \$3,000,000 in contention. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to accept the settlement received for the Settings and to continue with the other lawsuit. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

New Business

Andrew Fulghum - Appointment of Member to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance-Mr. Fulghum explained that Mr. Jason Taylor’s term ends in April, 2014 and he would like to continue to continue to serve for the three year term. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to reappoint Jason Taylor to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Phil Richardson – Approval of Recommendation for Financing for the New Speculative Building – Mr. Richardson explaining that the Alliance was looking at building a new spec building in Cypress Ridge Business Industrial Park that could be expanded for 40,000 sq. ft. to 100,000 sq. ft. and that they were applying to the Dept. of Commerce for \$300,000 and the balance would be in the form of a loan from Santee Cooper. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the recommendation for funding. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of Bids for the Health Department – Mr. Malphrus told the Council that he received bids ranging from \$385,000 to \$573,550 to build the new health department. Mr. Malphrus asked the Council to approve the low bid from Beaufort Construction in the amount of \$385,000 contingent upon signing the CBDG grant from the state. Councilman Sauls asked about local builder preference and Mr. Malphrus said that cannot be done due to the special funding. Mr. Malphrus said the architect reviewed the bid and it met all the specs. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to award the contract to Beaufort Construction in the amount of \$385,000 and that it is to be paid from the CBDG grant. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Drayton asked why there was a \$200,000 difference in the bids. Mr. Malphrus responded that he did not know, but he made sure the two lower bids met all the requirements.

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of Financial Recommendation for Purchase of Fire Apparatus – Mr. Malphrus commented that several months ago the Council approved the fire plan and part of the plan was to purchase tankers to shuttle water. Mr. Malphrus said that the estimated cost for 5 new tankers was \$1,500,000. Mr. Malphrus said he spoke with the bond attorney

and they agreed that a lease purchase could be done. Mr. Malphrus said he had the RFP ready to go out to bid and he would come back for the Council to approve the bid. Mr. Malphrus said the lease purchase would be for 10 years at a cost of approximately \$140,000-\$150,000 per year.

Committee Reports- Councilman Drayton reported that he met with the Tarboro Community and they had a problem with the walking trail and they wanted to try to stop it from moving forward. Councilman Drayton said they expressed their dissatisfaction with the way it was to be built and they planned to speak during the open floor to the public segment of the meeting. **Councilman Johnson** reported that he attended a meeting concerning the airport that was very encouraging and informative. **Vice Chairman Sauls** reported that he attended an Economic Development Class and he reported on the upcoming events in the County. **Councilman Etheridge** reported that he attended the joint meeting all three entities with the exception of one individual were in agreement concerning the airport. Councilman Etheridge announced that there would be a 5K run to benefit the Resource Foundation Board on April 26, 2014. **Chairwoman Clark** reported that she attended the SCAC Conference in Columbia and the Aviation Conference. Chairwoman Clark said she attended the Senator for the Day contest and lunch at public works hosted by Mr. Terry.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum said his report was provided for information and he asked the Council to review the fire plan since it will be discussed at the retreat.

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 – Chairwoman Clark opened the floor to the public. **Mary Donovan** discussed the situation of the house located next door to her and said the Council agreed to contact the owner, Mr. Luna, about cleaning up the property. Ms. Donovan said she still has not received copies of the letters sent to him as she requested. Ms. Donovan said the open sewer pipe has not been addressed and both sides of Carters Mill Road, Hwy. 462 and Hwy 336 are covered with trash. Chairwoman Clark said the staff will follow up on her request. Councilman Etheridge asked if the property was rented and Ms. Donovan said it was not. Chairwoman Clark said that she would allow one person from Tarboro to speak for 3 minutes. Cynthia Rubino said that they went back after their 2/11/2014 meeting with the Council and talked with the people. Ms. Rubino said that they did not feel the 1 ½ inch of asphalt was adequate and they were concerned if the trees were not removed the roots would uproot the walking trail. Ms. Rubino said their committee felt that 4 inches of asphalt was needed and the community cannot go along with the 1 ½ inch and they cannot go along with something that is substandard. Chairwoman Clark said the change was made due to budget restraints and the committee needed to talk with Mr. Fulghum and Mr. Malphrus. Mr. Malphrus said that 4 inches of rock and 1 ½ inches of asphalt should not have any effect on the walking trail. Being no further comments, Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

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

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc

Barbara B. Clark

Clerk to Council

Chairwoman