



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
RIDGELAND, SC
APRIL 11, 2016
MINUTES**

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, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus

Staff Absent: 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 special called meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Invocation – Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

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

Executive Session

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton 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–The Settings Section 30-4-70 (a)(2). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to open Session – Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to return to open session.

Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to authorized the Administrator and the attorneys to enter into a settlement agreement if the proposed settlement is consistent with the wishes of Rivers Reach regardless of the amount received from the bonding that it meets the amount necessary to complete construction; in the absence of an agreement from Rivers Reach, the attorney is not to settle, but pursue to the final

conclusion therefore setting a precedence to the development agreement. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Transportation Facilities Sales Tax

Consideration of Potential Projects – Mr. Fulghum explained that the timeline has been approved and will be made part of the Ordinance and he asked if the Council wanted to add or strike any of the proposed projects. Councilman Etheridge asked about money being collected by the Municipalities. Mr. Malphrus responded that some money will come from the state, however more money would be coming from the Municipalities. Councilman Etheridge said that a lot of the projects are in the municipalities and not on the roads that the citizens use daily. Councilman Etheridge said he felt the tax would be a hard sell if it was not used for the roads that citizens travel. Mr. Fulghum said it can be any configuration the Council decides. Councilman Etheridge said the people are more concerned about the roads they drive on. Councilwoman Clark said she had the same concerns and she felt the roads people ride on is what is important to them. Councilwoman Clark said walkways and lighting are not what is important. Councilman Etheridge asked about the amount of money from each area and Chairman Sauls said that the municipalities have the majority of the commerce in the County, and the projects would be within the limit of the amount of money raised. Councilman Drayton said everything on the list is needed, but in order for the people to approve it, it needs to be about the roads they drive on. Vice Chairman Johnson said it is not about where the money is collected, but it is about where the money comes from. Vice Chairman Johnson said more money will be collected in the towns because that is where the businesses are located. Vice Chairman Johnson said the projects should have county-wide significance. Vice Chairman Johnson commented that he had concerns about working on State roads because they will expect the County to do more. Vice Chairman Johnson said there are already a lot of State mandated things the County has to do. Vice Chairman Johnson said he hoped that the money would be used as matching funds. Vice Chairman Johnson said he would like as much flexibility as the law allows. Chairman Sauls agreed that it is an opportunity to benefit the citizens. Chairman Sauls discussed Hwy. 321 and said the County would not have enough money to repair it, and he too hoped some of the funds could be used to match state and federal dollars for Hwy. 321. Councilman Etheridge said the people want to know how the money is being spent and they have been driving on roads that need repair for several years. Vice Chairman Johnson said he would like the roads to be improved, not build new roads. Chairman Sauls said the Delegation needs to work harder to get more money for Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum said the list contained potential projects, but the Council needed to make priority decisions. Milton Woods asked about the funds that the Transportation Committee gets and the money from the referendum. Vice Chairman Johnson said they should choose the list of roads after they have the funds. Councilwoman Clark said the funds would not overlap, and she hoped that the State would come in and do something with Hwy. 321. Mr. Woods said the sales tax in Jasper County is already at 10%.

Glover Plantation Road – Mr. Fulghum said the attorney was researching the statue to establish a speed limit and 30 MPH signs have been ordered. Mr. Breland said he felt 30 MPH was too

fast and the people would like the speed limit set to 20 MPH. Mr. Breland said there have been 5 wrecks on Cherry Hill Road. Vice Chairman Johnson added that the state law also states that a person cannot travel too fast for conditions. Mr. Breland said the speed limit in subdivisions is 15 MPH. Councilwoman Clark said the speed limit in school zones is 25 MPH. Mr. Fulghum said that the County will continue to work with the community. Chairman Sauls told Mr. Fulghum to have Mr. Tedder send in a request to the State to change the speed limit for Glover Plantation Road to 20 MPH.

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

The meeting ended at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman