



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, April 15, 2014
MINUTES**

9:30 A.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, Planning Director LeNolon Edge, Clay Lucas

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 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION - Councilman Johnson gave the Invocation.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PURCHASE OF TANKERS – Mr. Daley provided a hand-out regarding the purchase of tankers. Mr. Daley discussed used tankers and rebuilt tankers. Mr. Daley recommended 2,000 gallon tankers with a 500 gpm pump. Councilman Johnson asked what was the percentage of fires that would not allow a drop tank. Mr. Daley said about at about 50% of the fires it would not be necessary. Mr. Daley said a drop tank is used when they would be pumping for a long period of time. Councilman Johnson asked how many fires would they not be able to use a drop tank. Mr. Daley said each situation was different. Councilman Johnson asked if the ISO rating was done by a drill or a report for ratings. Mr. Daley said he would provide the Council with a breakdown for everything. Mr. Daley said they come in and look at everything and then they do an actual drill and they will time the water shuttle. Councilman Johnson asked if they could use a drop tank and Mr. Daley said they could. Mr. Lucas said on the last 9 calls tankers without a pump would not have been useful. Councilman Johnson asked why and Mr. Lucas responded that the ISO team judges the needed amount of flow and that doesn't warrant a dump tank. Mr. Lucas said it takes more people and more trucks to utilize a dump tank. Mr. Daley added that there would be an engine at the fire and a tanker at the dump tank, which will make it more involved. Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Daley to provide the Council with the ISO protocol and regulations. Councilman Johnson asked if a drop tank could be used at an ISO drill and Mr. Daley said that it could be used. Councilman Drayton asked if they would be happy with five trucks and that they were requesting that 5 identical trucks be purchased. Mr. Daley said they were looking to purchase 5 identical trucks for consistency in training everyone to operate them. Mr. Daley said that it is limited to what you can find on the internet and most of those are old and have high mileage. Mr. Daley said he recommended a 500 gpm pump. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if a 500 gpm meets the ISO

standards. Mr. Daley said it would meet it, but he was not sure that it had to be 500 gpm, but that is what he would like to have. Clay Lucas said the 500 gpm was adequate. Mr. Daley said a lot of areas do not require a large pump. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about the volunteers and when ISO testing can be scheduled to come here. Mr. Daley said they can be scheduled to come when the County has the correct number of trained personnel and when the water shuttle can be provided. Vice Chairman Sauls asked how long it will take to get the ISO people here to make something happen. Mr. Daley said he could not determine that because he needs people. Vice Chairman Sauls asked how many volunteers did they have and Mr. Daley said about 30. Mr. Daley said it fluctuates because some new people come and some others leave; Mr. Lucas said currently the trained volunteers are in the low twenties. Chairwoman Clark asked why they leave. Mr. Daley said they do not have the time. Vice Chairman Sauls asked how many volunteers were needed. Mr. Daley said they needed 27 volunteers to drive the trucks. Mr. Daley said they do not have enough volunteers to do both. Mr. Lucas said the test is limited and a portion is actually timed and the balance is calculations. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if the staff will know when ISO is coming and Mr. Daley said when they have most things in place. Vice Chairman Sauls said they needed to focus on volunteers and the Council needed to know what needed to be done and the Council wanted this to happen this year. Mr. Lucas said if all the trucks are not the same, training will take longer. Vice Chairman Sauls told Mr. Daley to only purchase automatic transmission trucks. Mr. Lucas said the training is in place and personnel are trained to do what they needed to do. Mr. Lucas said the number of volunteers has not changed, the activity and training changed significantly. Vice Chairman Sauls said he wants this done by the end of the year. Mr. Daley said 5 months is a realistic time frame from the date the trucks are purchased. Mr. Fulghum said providing the trucks are available. Mr. Fulghum said the trucks would need to be checked out and a delay in timing could be involved. Mr. Fulghum said if the County bought the trucks that are built; they would know when they can get them. Mr. Daley said the built ones would cost about \$600,000. Councilman Johnson said the trucks they are suggesting would cost \$725,000. Councilman Etheridge said the ISO does not require a pump on a water shuttle. Mr. Daley said the ISO only looks at the time it takes to deliver the water. Councilman Etheridge said he understood that they would like to have a pump. Councilman Etheridge asked if most of the training could be done at the fire stations. Mr. Lucas said not all of it. Councilman Etheridge asked if a man volunteers in Okatie is he only counted in Okatie. Mr. Daley said if they volunteer for the County, they are counted as County volunteers. Mr. Malphrus said they like to have the drivers close to the station. Councilman Etheridge asked how many more volunteers do they have this year. Mr. Daley said three. Mr. Lucas said 30 are currently trained volunteers. Councilman Etheridge asked if ISO would recognize the volunteers and how many volunteers were certified. Mr. Lucas said in the low twenties are certified and some are scheduled to be finished in June. Councilman Etheridge said they needed to go into the communities and have meetings and explain the importance of volunteers and how it will affect their insurance rating. Mr. Fulghum said they have not had any meetings. Mr. Daley said he will make it happen and it is not Mr. Fulghum's problem, it was his problem. Councilman Etheridge asked Mr. Daley if he contacted the lady they discussed last week. Mr. Daley said he has not. Mr. Fulghum said Mr. Daley need to schedule the meetings and provide the Council with the place, date, and time so the Council can attend those community meetings. Councilman Johnson said he would like meetings held at the schools. Mr. Daley said they go to the schools every opportunity they get and they also tried recruiting at the Gopher Hill Festival. Mr. Daley said they also use the social media. Chairwoman Clark told Mr. Daley to contact the guidance counselor at the schools. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if there were any paid openings. Mr. Daley said 2 vacancies are in the process of being filled. Vice Chairman Sauls said they needed to set a timeline and do whatever it takes to make it happen. Councilman Drayton asked if the volunteers who leave get an exit interview. Mr. Daley said he talks with them, but generally it is work related. Mr. Daley said the current fleet of vehicles are from 2005 and the South rebuilds will be ready in 5 months and training would be included in the \$725,000. Mr. Daley said they

would also have a warranty and the County can make payment. Councilman Sauls asked why they could not just buy a truck with a tank and pump because the fire trucks are already equipped. Vice Chairman Sauls said they needed to try and keep it economically feasible. Mr. Daley said there is a difference between what is required for ISO and what is useful. Mr. Daley said they have no spare trucks and if one goes down the tankers he is recommending would have the ability to be a pump tanker. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if neighboring fire departments would come. Mr. Daley said they would come if they were called. Mr. Daley said the trucks could just have minimum equipment and additional equipment could be added in the future. Vice Chairman Sauls said that right now the Council wants to keep it simple. Vice Chairman Sauls said the Council wants him to get what is needed without spending \$700,000. Vice Chairman Sauls said the Council wanted him to get a 500 gpm pump on a 1,500-2,000 gallon tanker. Chairwoman Clark said the Council simply wants a truck to haul water and not to exceed \$400,000 or less for the purchase of five trucks. Chairwoman Clark said the taxpayers do not want their taxes to increase. Chairwoman Clark said she felt any of the volunteers should be able to drive an automatic truck. Chairwoman Clark told Mr. Daley to look at Fire Tek and Fenton Fire Equipment for the trucks. Mr. Fulghum said that the cheapest scenario that the Director wants to purchase would be \$600,000 and that amounts to 5+ mills. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about the money in the reserve fund and Mr. Fulghum said the County also needed ambulances and sheriff cars and the budget will be presented in May. Mr. Fulghum said equipment and people are needed to get this started. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to direct Mr. Terry, Mr. Daley and Mr. Malphrus to purchase 5 used tanker trucks at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 and if the purchase is going to improve the ISO ratings, they should be purchased immediately as the budget allows. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Etheridge asked about financing the trucks and Mr. Malphrus said if they were financed in would increase the millage by ½ mil. Mr. Daley said if they purchased used road trucks, they could not carry as much water due to the weight of the water.

DISCUSSION OF FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS - Mr. Fulghum told the Council that the three fire contracts are due to expire and the Hardeeville/Cherry Point contract was the most complicated. Mr. Fulghum said he was recommending a 5% increase in the contracts. Mr. Fulghum said the fire marshal is also an issue that needed to be addressed. Mr. Fulghum told that Council that at the first meeting in May he would have a term sheet for the 3 contracts and they will be ready to put in place. Mr. Fulghum said that if they are being paid to cover an area, they should also provide the fire marshal for that area. Mr. Fulghum said that Ridgeland has a fire marshal, Hardeeville does not and they want to continue to use the County's fire marshal and they only cover what has been annexed into the city. Mr. Fulghum said his recommendation is going to be that the fire marshal duties go with the contract. Mr. Daley said it takes 6 months to be certified as a fire marshal. Chairwoman Clark said they needed to get started and transition it. Mr. Fulghum said they need sufficient language in the contract to pass that liability with the contract. Mr. Jones said they are not covered under the liability insurance. Mr. Fulghum said Med-Control is also an issue in the contract that will not be easily solved because DHEC is involved. Mr. Daley said other agencies respond to medical calls. In order for them to utilize there medical skills is an issue that needs to be resolved. Mr. Daley said they are contracted and they are not certified and they do not have a medical licensed provider and they are not operating under the County. Councilman Etheridge said he would like for them to provide their own. Mr. Fulghum said they are not certified and they augment EMS until the ambulance arrives. Mr. Lucas said there is a possibility that the state law regulates this. Mr. Lucas said EMS personnel have different levels of certifications and 1st responders are not licensed medical providers. Mr. Lucas told the Council that anything done by 1st responders and EMS must be backed up by a physician. Mr. Daley said that if they are not covered under the EMS license, they cannot operate under the county's physician. Mr. Fulghum said he didn't want to be in a

position that they cannot provide. Chairwoman Clark asked if Mr. Daley has set up the first responder class in Levy. Mr. Daley said he is working on it. Chairman Clark discussed a roll-over accident in Levy. Chairwoman Clark said the individual wanted to leave, but the first responders kept him there until the ambulance arrived and released him. Mr. Daley said he spoke with Mr. Graham and he told him that if a person is in their right mind and they don't want help they cannot require it. Mr. Daley said if they are not in their right mind it is better to have them sign the release. Mr. Fulghum said he would work with the attorney and address this topic in the contract. Mr. Fulghum said he was going to recommend renewing the contracts for five years. Chairwoman Clark asked Mr. Fulghum to meet with the fire chiefs.

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

The meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc

Barbara B. Clark

Clerk to Council

Chairwoman