



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
RIDGELAND, SC
APRIL 18, 2016
MINUTES**

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

Officials Absent: Councilman Theodus Drayton

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

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 4:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

Andrew Fulghum- Budget Presentation – Mr. Fulghum presented the Council with the budget and told the Council that the value of the mil has increased. Mr. Fulghum said the budget was in the amount of \$26,151,091 and that \$1,400,000 of last year’s surplus was used. Mr. Fulghum said there would be no millage increase. Mr. Fulghum provided the Council with a list of items that are included in the budget. The Council discussed the new vehicles for the Sheriff and Chairman Sauls commented that he thought they should do a lease for the 20 vehicles and start a rotation process. Mr. Malphrus said he was not comfortable going into a lease at this time since they are using \$1,400,000. Mr. Fulghum said the County is also involved with a few ongoing leases right now. Mr. Fulghum said there will be 3 payments of \$300,000 per year for the next 3 years for the EMS radios. Chairman Sauls said they needed to do something for the Sheriff because of all the crime. Mr. Malphrus said they received 12-14 new cars last year. Councilwoman Clark said they could not even be sure if the new ones would hit the road because last year a resource officer and an investigator got the new cars and one of the new cars has been totaled. Councilman Etheridge recommended going with leasing 20 cars. Mr. Malphrus said the Sheriff requested 30 new cars. Councilwoman Clark said they have about 13 or 14 cars that are less than 2 years old. Mr. Fulghum discussed the salary, rank and organizational study. Mr. Fulghum said a study like this has not been done since 2008. Mr. Fulghum said he budgeted \$45,000 for the study. Mr. Fulghum said the study would use regional salaries and having someone outside the organization has more credibility. Mr. Fulghum said the ranking system is needed for the EMS, Detention and Sheriff Departments. Mr. Malphrus said the last raise the employees received was based on longevity and he felt

merit and longevity raises would help. Mr. Fulghum said that \$12,000 was included in the budget to repair the cracked slab at the Roseland Fire Station. The Council discussed the maintenance contract for dispatch and Councilman Etheridge asked if 911 funds could be used. Mr. Malphrus said he would check. The dispatching contract with the municipalities was explained as well as the increase to the post mortems. Mr. Fulghum discussed the Development Co-coordinator and changing the part-time positions in IT and the VA to full time position. New vehicles for Public Works and Parks and Recreation were included in the budget presented. Mr. Fulghum said a new check folding machine for HR was also included in the budget. Mr. Fulghum said the vehicle maintenance line was increased \$10,000 due to the cost of tires. Mr. Fulghum said that 3 used trucks for Public Works are also included in the budget. Councilman Etheridge asked why revenue from Business Licenses was down again since there are more businesses in Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum said he would get a list of all the businesses and the amount they paid. Chairman Sauls asked about the \$20 road maintenance fee and Councilman Etheridge asked about weaning off of it \$5.00 per year. Mr. Fulghum said if they eliminate it, they would need to find the income elsewhere. Chairman Sauls adjourned the budget workshop.

Executive Session – 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 –Okatie Crossing 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– Levy Volunteer Fire Department, The Settings, Cypress Ridge Speculative Building Professional Service Contract Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) and the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving an employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly nothing, contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing – Parks and Recreation, Engineering Services Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to open Session - Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Action from Executive Session – Councilwoman Clark moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to authorize the administrator to execute a MOU regarding Okatie Crossings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to instruct the County Attorney to advise Taber Vaux and his law firm that the County waives any perceived conflict of interest that arises from his law firm representing the County. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Sauls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Councilwoman Clark gave the invocation.

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

Approval of the Minutes – April 4, 2016 – Councilwoman Clark moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the April 4, 2016 minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Rudy Smith, JCTAC, roads for H.4230 funding update – Mr. Smith was not present and Mrs. Frank provided the Council with information that the estimate from the state to pave the roads previously presented was \$1,028,073.60 higher than the estimate provided earlier by Mr. Russell. Mrs. Frank explained that the new cost was determined by the engineers in Columbia and the amount was still within the amount of the H.4230 funds. Mrs. Frank asked the Council to approve the additional funds as presented. Mrs. Frank also reported that the JCTAC also recommended the approval of an additional \$67,409.68 for the Cypress Ridge Road Extension as the bids were higher than the original amount allocated to this project. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the additional H. 430 funds in the amount of \$1,028,073.60. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Barbara Johnson – LCOG Public Hearing for the Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium 2016 Annual Action Plan – Ms. Johnson stated that 4 houses in each of the counties were being improved. Ms. Johnson said the funds were divided equally between the 4 counties. Mr. Fulghum said more Jasper County jobs were needed on the list. Chairman Sauls opened the Public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing.

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. – There were not comments.

Ordinances

David Tedder – Public Hearing 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-premise 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 the Planning Commission recommended approval and the ordinance clarifies the way signs are measured. Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing.

Andrew Fulghum – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax – Mr. Fulghum explained that the sales tax projects would be listed in the ordinance and the cost would also be included. Mr. Fulghum said that they projected \$27,000,000 would be collected over 10 years. Mr. Fulghum also provided the approval schedule. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Old Business

Andrew Fulghum – Cypress Ridge Drive Extension - Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the additional \$67,409.68 for the Cypress Ridge Road Extension. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Old Bailey Road Sewer CDBG Project Capacity Fee Agreement – Mr. Fulghum said that there was a shortfall of \$296,945 and BJWSA was going to come up with the additional funds providing that Jasper County would provide capacity credit and the amount would be deducted from Jasper County’s capacity credit balance. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve using the capacity credit and to deduct it from the County’s capacity credit balance. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of Bids for Cypress Ridge Drive – Mr. Malphrus requested that the Council approve the low bid from Cleland Site Prep in the amount of \$176,732.28 for the Cypress Ridge Drive Extension. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the low bid from Cleland Site Prep in the amount of \$176,732.28 for the Cypress Ridge Drive Extension. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Appointment of Members to the Assessment Appeals Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals- Mr. Fulghum explained that the openings have been advertised and the applications received were included in the Council’s packet. Councilwoman Clark moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to appoint Marie Rawl to the Assessment Appeals Board and to appoint Barbara Bartoldus to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council Members' Comment – Councilwoman Clark reported that she attended a meeting in Levy concerning the other community centers and the Promise Zone and she also went to the Cherry Hill Park. Councilwoman Clark said that she attended the event at the Morris Center, the festival in Tarboro and the ribbon cutting at the new pharmacy in Hardeeville. Vice Chairman Johnson said he also attended the event at the Morris Center, the Cherry Hill dedication and the opening of the new pharmacy. Councilman Etheridge said he attended the dedication at Cherry Hill, the Tarboro celebration, the Morris Center event and the grand opening of the pharmacy. Councilman Etheridge said that he and Mr. Terry met regarding the ditches from Jenkins Ave. to Savannah. Chairman Sauls reported that he attended the SCA Board Meeting, Jasper on the Move and the other events that the other Council members attended. Chairman Sauls provided an update on the events being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Sauls said there are a lot of exciting opportunities going on and there are going to be some good announcements soon.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum discussed a meeting with the State infrastructure Bank and they visited the site for Exit 3. Mr. Fulghum said there was also a meeting scheduled for the new Hardeeville Library.

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

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman