



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 20, 2015**

3:30 P.M.

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

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney Marvin Jones, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, I-T Director Earl Bostick, Jr.

Staff Absent: 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 3:30 p.m.

Budget Workshop

MR. STRAWN – AHJ LIBRARY – Mr. Strawn was not present; rescheduled to May 18, 2015.

JARM – Ms. Deaton, President of JARM, explained that the shelter takes in every animal that comes to the shelter. Ms. Deaton said that JARM has a contract with the County to run the shelter. In the past year, 1395 animals were handled by JARM. Ms. Deaton said they have been very successful finding homes. Ms. Deaton said the funds received from the County only covers part of the payroll and the employees do not receive any benefits. Ms. Deaton said they have many volunteers including children from the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Deaton said that they receive discounted food from Rainbows Edge and currently they have 23 animals in foster care. Ms. Denton said they hold adoption events, fund raisers and there are people who regularly make donations. Councilman Etheridge asked about the income from the thrift store and Ms. Deaton said they get \$2,500 each month from the thrift store.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Jenkins reported that he had not received anything regarding the grants that they applied for and the Royal Live Oaks situation is not an issue. Sheriff Jenkins provided the Council with the number of incidents since January, 2015. Chairwoman Clark asked about the missing persons listed on the handout. Sheriff Jenkins responded that they are mostly juveniles and most likely they have been resolved. Sheriff Jenkins said they handled 4,637 incidents. Councilman Etheridge asked about the drug cases and Sheriff Jenkins that 14 cases have been closed and the people were either arrested or they have gone before the court. The Council and Sheriff Jenkins discussed the number of murders and the status of them. Councilman Etheridge asked about the inmate who has been in jail for over 1,000 days. Sheriff Jenkins said

the inmate did go to trial, but a mistrial was declared and they are waiting for the new trial to be scheduled. Councilman Johnson commented on the non-ferrous metal permits and that there seems to be an epidemic of HVAC and wiring being stolen. Councilman Drayton discussed the 8 murders last year and 2 murders this year. Sheriff Jenkins said arrests are being made and citizen involvement, hard work and technology have been a great help. Councilman Drayton asked about the drugs and Sheriff Jenkins said it is not so much the cocaine and heroin, but pills. Vice Chairman Sauls asked how many individuals work in administration. Sheriff Jenkins said about 5 officers, but they all still answer calls. Chairwoman Clark asked why people were working in the old sheriff's office. Sheriff Jenkins said that there was not enough room in the new building so 5 investigators and 1 secretary work there. Vice Chairman Sauls asked how much more money was the Sheriff requesting this year over last year. Mr. Malphrus said \$600,000, but that also included raises and vehicles. Chairwoman Clark asked about body cameras and Sheriff Jenkins said they all have them. Vice Chairman Sauls said the Council needs to know the results of the grant application for the new vehicles before the budget is passed. Chairwoman Clark asked what was going to happen if Dr. Washington did not sign the contract. Sheriff Riley said he has open positions and he will fill those positions. Councilman Drayton asked about the personnel covered by the grant and Chairwoman Clark said that when the grant runs out, the County would have to pay for those positions. The Council discussed the vehicles and equipment the Sheriff requested and thanked him for his presentation.

PROPOSED BUDGET – Mr. Fulghum presented the Council with the proposed budget and he provided the value of the mill. Mr. Fulghum asked the Council to review the budget and the budget they received did not include a millage increase, but \$1,200,000 of last year's surplus was included. Councilman Etheridge asked about the code enforcement officer and Mr. Fulghum said he did not include one. Councilman Etheridge said he felt one was needed. Mr. Fulghum discussed the way salary increases were calculated. Mr. Fulghum said there were a few adjustments and one title change. Mr. Fulghum said the temporary full time positions were made permanent and a salary and job description was needed for the risk manager position. The Council discussed a person for the maintenance of the Detention Center and the inmates helping to take care of the building. Mr. Fulghum said that it needed to fix the problems first and then consider hiring a maintenance person. Chairwoman Clark asked if MB Kahn looked at it. Mr. Fulghum said MB Kahn did look at it, but he wanted to have someone else look at it. Mr. Fulghum also provided an adoption schedule for the budget.

The budget workshop ended at 5:10 p.m.

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Executive Session – Council Conference Room

Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to go into executive session for 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 –Board Appointment 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 Handler. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session- Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session.

Action as a Result of Executive Session:

Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to execute the letter of intent and subsequent contract for the provision of architectural services for the Cypress Ridge Business Industrial Park Building after he and the County staff made the modifications as discussed in executive session and proof read for consistency with usual and customary County provisions. 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 – Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations - None

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum- 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the FILOT agreement with Daniel Defense – Mr. Fulghum explained that the ordinance is being amended to include the millage rate for the Town of Ridgeland. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the FILOT agreement with Daniel Defense. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the sale of certain real property belonging to Jasper County to Campbell Enterprises and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute and deliver necessary documents – Mr. Fulghum explained that the sale was for a County owned building currently leased to Brown Campbell. Chairwoman Clark opened the public hearing; there were not comments; Chairwoman Clark closed the public hearing. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the sale of certain real property belonging to Jasper County to Campbell Enterprises and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute and deliver necessary documents. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus – Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an industrial building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; providing for conveyance of real property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation for the location of an industrial building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; and other matters relating thereto- Mr. Malphrus explained that the loan was for a new spec building at CRBIP. Mr. Malphrus said the loan was for \$850,000 and it would go through St. Peters Parish/ Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation so that it would not go against the County’s credit. Chairwoman Clark opened the public hearing; there were no comments; Chairwoman Clark closed the public hearing. Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an industrial building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; providing for conveyance of real property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation for the location of an industrial building in the Cypress Ridge Industrial Park; and other matters relating thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Marvin Jones – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to realign the four Jasper County Townships and to adopt them as residence districts for the election of four members of Jasper County Council – Mr. Jones explained that the Council positions are elected from 4 townships and one at large, and all the positions are voted on at large. Mr. Jones said the changes were made so each township has the same number of residents. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to realign the four Jasper County Townships and to adopt them as residence districts for the election of four members of Jasper County Council. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Chairwoman Clark said the districts are being proportioned to have the right number of people and that everyone is represented equally. Mr. Jones said the maps are available in the Clerk to Council’s office or his office.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution for Inducement for Project Handler – Mr. Fulghum said the resolution was for an economic development prospect that wants to locate in Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum said they will be investing \$2,500,000 and they will have 11 full-time employees. Mr. Fulghum said the County will designate the project as a MCIP and it would have a floating millage rate. Councilman Johnson moved and vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to pass the Resolution for Inducement of Project Handler. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

Dale Terry – Sale of Cypress Ridge Dirt Stockpile – Mr. Terry requested approval of the sale of the dirt stockpiled at CRBIP. Mr. Terry said they would be selling it by the truck load and the cost would be \$1.00 per yard if they load it and \$2.00 per yard if County loads it. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the sale of the Cypress Ridge Dirt Stockpile. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of bids for improvements at the Mary Gordon Ellis Bldg. – Mr. Malphrus said he received two bids, however one of the bids was not complete. Mr. Malphrus asked the Council to approve the bid from DP Lowther in the amount of \$61,350. And the estimate did include removing the steeple. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the bid in the amount of \$61,350 from DP Lowther. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Appointment to County Boards – Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to appoint William Young, Thomas Jenkins and Randy Waite to the Planning Commission; Leroy Mervin, William Tuten and Dohette Polite to the Assessment Appeals Board; Claude Dean to the Aeronautics Board and Jeffrey Richardson and Anthony Lento to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

County Attorney – Chairwoman Clark announced that Attorney Jones was retiring and she thanked him for his hard work. Chairwoman Clark said that Attorney Jones would be around during the transition. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to appoint David Tedder as the new County Attorney. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The Council Members individually thanked Mr. Jones and Chairwoman Clark said a send off event will be held for Attorney Jones.

Committee Reports- Councilman Drayton reported that he attended the Hampton/Jasper Health Initiative Alliance and said they needed a building to house them. Chairwoman Clark said she told them the Council would discuss some options with the Administrator and get back to them. Councilman Etheridge reported that he met with the LCOG Director and the board was going to have a retreat to set priorities and the #1 priority is roads and bridges. Councilman Etheridge said he also met with Malzone Russell, SCDOT, regarding improvements at the interchanges. Councilman Etheridge announced that the Head Start Director was leaving and that he has done a great job. Vice Chairman Sauls reported that he attended the SC Economic Development Alliance Meeting and all six Counties attended. Vice Chairman Sauls reminded the citizens about State House Day in Columbia on April 22. Chairwoman Clark said if all the boards are doing what they say they are doing; the County should be in good shape. Chairwoman Clark said a list is being prepared for the citizens so that they know whom to contact if they need help. Chairwoman Clark said there are a lot of programs that deal with health and more can be accomplished if they work together. Chairwoman Clark said the Council is working on the budget and the Council does not want to increase the taxes. Chairwoman Clark reminded the citizens that the Council has an open door policy and to contact them anytime.

Administrator's Report- Mr. Fulghum said he provided his reports in the Council's packet for information and they can contact him with any questions.

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 no comments.

Chairwoman Clark announced that there was still opening on the BZA, the Planning Commission and the Assessment Appeals Board and to contact the clerk for an application.

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

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman