



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**April 21, 2014
MINUTES**

4:00 P.M.

Budget Workshop

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, Planning and Zoning Coordinator Lisa Lamb

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 4:00 p.m.

Antioch Education Center – Jackie O’Bannon- Ms. O’Bannon requested \$6,500 to pay for an instructor for a CAN class to be taught at the AEC (Antioch Education Center). Ms. O’Bannon said the money would cover the instructor and supplies. Ms. O’Bannon said TCL offers the class, but they do not offer anything in this area of the County and they only accept 8 students. Councilman Etheridge asked if this would be held in the Tarboro Center and Ms. O’Bannon said it would be held at the old high school. Ms. O’Bannon said an assistant for the AEC is also included in the request. Councilman Etheridge asked if everyone who signed her list lived in Jasper County and Ms. O’Bannon said some live in Savannah. Chairman Etheridge said he wanted the addresses for the people who signed up requesting the class. Ms. O’Bannon said the class would be offered twice a year in conjunction with the Ridgeland Nursing Center. Ms. O’Bannon said the training is for 8 weeks. Councilman Drayton asked if the state restricted the class size to 8 per class. Ms. O’Bannon said there needed to be one instructor per 8 students. Ms. O’Bannon said those who receive a certificate of completion can take the state exam for certification. Ms. O’Bannon also discussed the “Reading Across America” program they sponsor in Jasper County, Hampton County and Allendale County. Councilman Sauls asked where the funds came from to purchase the books and Ms. O’Bannon said they received a grant and hold two fundraisers a year.

Helping Hands, Inc. – Nancy Morgan – Ms. Morgan explained the services provided by Helping Hands, Inc. and she was requesting funds for Senior Assistance Programs they offer and equipment. Ms. Morgan requested \$3,000. Councilman Etheridge asked the location of her sites. Ms. Morgan said they meet in Robertville, Estill, Hampton and Yemassee. Councilman Etheridge asked if Hampton County provides any funding and Ms. Morgan said they have not received any money from Hampton County to date. Ms. Morgan said they are also looking for a site in Hardeeville. Ms. Morgan said everyone who works with Helping Hands, Inc. are volunteers. Councilman Johnson asked if the programs interact with the Council on Aging and Ms. Morgan said they are not connected with the Council on Aging. Ms.

Morgan said they do health monitoring at three of the sites. Ms. Morgan said she is very committed to her program and they have fundraisers to help with the expenses and what she cannot raise in fund raisers, she provides the funds herself.

Magistrate Office- Joanne McDonald – Judge McDonald requested increasing the number of hours that Judge Badgett works. Judge McDonald said she met with the Senator and he had no objections to increasing the hours from 20 hours to 30 hours, but he did not want them to be increased to 39 hours. Councilwoman Clark asked how the hours are calculated for a part-time person and she asked Judge McDonald for a schedule. Judge McDonald responded that she did not bring the schedule to the meeting. Councilman Etheridge said that Judge Williams asked for a part-time clerk and a security system. Judge McDonald said she requested security for the other offices. Judge McDonald said she did not include funds for reimbursing the judges for traveling to Ridgeland. Chairwoman Clark asked how many clerks are in Dept. 64. Mr. Malphrus said 3 clerks and the other clerks are covered in each of the magistrate’s budget. Judge McDonald said that basically she was requesting the same amount of funding that she did last year. Councilman Johnson said the budget request does not reflect an increase for Judge Badgett if the additional hours are approved. Chairwoman Clark said the Hardeeville Magistrate requested an additional clerk and that the clerk can be paid without costing the County any money. Chairwoman Clark questioned the phone bill and Judge McDonald said that internet and DSL line are included in the phone line. Chairwoman Clark asked about the cost of the security system and Judge McDonald said that was an estimate based on the cost of the security system at the City of Hardeeville’s magistrate’s office. Chairwoman Clark said the County’s IT department can handle the installation of the security system. Judge Williams said there is a security system at his office and it only needed to be activated. Judge Williams said he requested a desk, but if the County had one that was not being used, he could use it instead of purchasing a new one. Chairwoman Clark asked if Judge Lynch was paid her full salary when she was out sick and Judge McDonald said she thought she had enough sick days and vacation days to cover the time she was out, but that was handled by the HR department. Chairwoman Clark said told Judge McDonald that she may be called back because she still had a lot of questions concerning her budget request. Chairwoman Clark said that Judge McDonald was asking for more hours for Judge Badgett and the cases could be heard by the Hardeeville Magistrate.

Coroner – Martin Sauls III – Mr. Sauls thanked the Council for the funds they provide to the coroner’s office and he said he is happy for whatever is given and he works within that amount.

Hunger Free Zone- Dr. Singleton – Dr. Singleton made the presentation for Ms. Goings. He made requests for 3 programs. The request included \$5,000 for the Hunger Free Zone to help defray the cost of feeding the needy in the community. Dr. Singleton discussed the Med-I-Assist Program that provides prescription assistance. Dr. Singleton reviewed the goals and objectives of this program and requested \$7,500. The third portion of the request was for Parent University. Dr. Singleton said this program educates adults by offering numerous classes. Dr. Singleton requested \$2,500 for Parent University. Dr. Singleton said the programs are for Jasper County residents and they must show identification to participate. Dr. Singleton said the mass food distribution is open to anyone and at times there are 300-500 people participating. Dr. Singleton said the Med-Assist Program is paid from the Beaufort Fund. Chairwoman Clark asked if they can go to comp. health and Dr. Singleton said comp. health will write a prescription.

Election Commission- Mr. Arzillo told the Council they were requesting \$233,000 and last year they received \$210,717. Mr. Arzillo said the increase was due to the additional board members and the maintenance contract. Mr. Arzillo explained that not all the commissioners will attend the SCARE conference and they will alternate who attends. Mr. Arzillo said that since this is an election year and

there has been a population shift they felt 20 more poll workers will be needed. Mr. Arzillo said the budget has about a 6%-7% wiggle room. Mr. Arzillo said the new machines were removed from the budget request and other things like mother boards and batteries were needed. Mr. Arzillo said that if a machine fails, they feel they should have enough machines to cover it. Mr. Arzillo said the \$40,000 for part-time help is for the poll workers and a lot of that is refunded to the County from the State. Chairwoman Clark reviewed the SCARE Conference Schedule and she said she felt that whoever went only needed to be there for 2-3 days. Chairwoman Clark said the SCARE Conference Schedule should be available to the public and you should not need a special password to see it. Councilman Etheridge asked if the \$17,000 was just for one year for maintenance for the machines. Mr. Arzillo said that it will be about \$14,000 per year in the future since the County signed a 5 year contract so that the cost does not increase. Mr. Arzillo said they provided a buffer in the event that something goes wrong, but he felt there should not be any problems. Councilman Etheridge asked about the \$40,000 in part-time salaries. Mr. Malphrus said that after the election, the expenses are sent to the state and he budgeted a reimbursement from the state of \$25,000. Mr. Malphrus said the State reimburses the County \$60 per poll worker and the County pays them \$50. Chairwoman Clark said no other County supplements the poll workers and she asked Ms. Bostick why this is done. Ms. Bostick said this started prior to her being hired. Chairwoman Clark said people should work the polls because it is their civic duty and the County cannot afford to pay an additional \$50. Ms. Bostick said she was not aware that any other County paid the supplement. Mr. Arzillo said the Committee discussed this and it is on the horizon to eliminate it. Chairwoman Clark said that the Council is in the budget process and they needed to bring the budget into line and there is a lot of expense. Chairwoman Clark said if you lose 10 poll workers because of the \$50, 15 more will come out. Chairwoman Clark said Mr. Arzillo could break the bad news during the training. Jeanine Bostick said they appreciated that the County supplemented the payment to the poll workers. Chairwoman Clark said they have to make the changes. Councilman Drayton asked the difference between fees and dues. Mr. Arzillo said the fees cover some activities and dues were for membership to the organization. Chairwoman Clark discussed the \$60 per diem and said if meals are provided, then that portion should be deducted from the per diem.

Dinner Break

Executive Session – Council Conference Room

Executive Session – Vice Chairman Sauls 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 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 – Ridgeland Airport, Project Pioneer; 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 - Prospect Update, Jasper Ocean Terminal; 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 – Personnel Matters – County Administrator. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

No action was taken as a result of executive session.

Call to Order- Chairwoman Clark called the meeting back to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Invocation - Councilman Etheridge gave the Invocation.

Approval of the Minutes – 04/07/2014 – Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 04/07/2014 Council Meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Presentations

Kathy Hightower – Grays Senior Center – Ms. Hightower, Executive Director of the J.C. Council on Aging explained to the Council that currently only 2 people were getting meals at the Grays Center. Ms. Hightower said the building was not being utilized so she met with her board of directors and they approved having those 2 meals delivered to the individuals. Ms. Hightower said they would no longer be using the center in Grays, but she would appreciate the option to use the building in the future if more Seniors from that area became involved. Ms. Hightower said she would like to deliver more meals to the Grays area, but she needed the names provided to her.

Rev. Ring – Volunteering in Schools – This presentation was delayed until the May 5th meeting.

Ordinances

Ronnie Malphrus –2nd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments Relating to the Acquisition, Construction, Equipping, Use, Leasing, and Renovation of Certain County Facilities; Approving the Issuance of St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation Instalment Purchase Revenue Bonds; Consenting to the Form of a Second Supplemental Trust Agreement Between St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation and the U.S. Bank National Association as Corporate Trustee; Authorising the Execution and Delivery of a First Amendatory Public Facilities Purchase and Occupancy Agreement Between Jasper County and St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation; and Other Matters Relating Thereto – Mr. Malphrus explained this was the last BAN for the County and they were ready to bond they funding . Mr. Malphrus said that a bond in the amount of \$2,260,000 would be issued. Councilman Etheridge asked for the interest rate. Mr. Malphrus said it would be about 3%-4%. Mr. Malphrus said the schools still a BAN in place. Mr. Malphrus said they were borrowing enough to cover the debt service reserve fund. Chairwoman Clark thanked Mr. Malphrus for the way he has handled the financing and for saving the taxpayers money. **Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments Relating to the Acquisition, Construction, Equipping, Use, Leasing, and Renovation of Certain County Facilities; Approving the Issuance of St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation Instalment Purchase Revenue Bonds; Consenting to the Form of a Second Supplemental**

Trust Agreement Between St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation and the U.S. Bank National Association as Corporate Trustee; Authorising the Execution and Delivery of a First Amendatory Public Facilities Purchase and Occupancy Agreement Between Jasper County and St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation; and Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer a Property Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-021 Located on Green Acres Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map- Mr. Edge said the application was to rezone 2.6 acres from residential to general commercial. Mr. Edge said there was a public hearing held, but the 2nd reading was tabled. Mr. Edge said the owner would like to move forward with the rezoning. Mr. Edge said the planning commission recommended approval. Councilman Etheridge said he thought they wanted to rezone the property all the way back. Mr. Edge said it was almost 3 acres and they were only going to split and sell wood there. Mr. Edge said the use was not allowed and the company moved to another location. Mr. Edge said the request was for a zoning change. Councilman Drayton asked who owned the lot ending in tax map number 22. Mr. Edge said he did not know the owner. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if the other residents were notified and how did they feel about the rezoning. Mr. Edge said the residents were not notified recently and he added that most of the properties are zoned general commercial, but are used as residential property. Vice Chairman Sauls asked what the intended use of the property was. Mr. Edge said the request was only for rezoning and he was not sure what kind of business was going to go in. Vice Chairman Sauls said the residents came to a meeting and he asked Mr. Edge what uses were allowed in general commercial. Vice Chairman Sauls said he did not want to have something go in there that would affect the quality of life of the surrounding residents, but he wanted to be fair to the landowner making the change in zoning request. Mr. Edge said the other residents could have the same zoning. Vice Chairman Sauls asked what kind of businesses can go into community commercial. Mr. Edge said stores and a lot of different uses. Vice Chairman Sauls said he wanted to be 100% sure what they are doing and that it be fair to everyone. Councilman Johnson asked if it conformed to the other properties out by the highway. Vice Chairman Sauls said the closest homes are on the dirt road. Councilman Johnson said the Planning Commission recommend approval. Mr. Edge discussed the location of the properties that are zoned residential. Councilman Drayton asked if the neighbors were aware of the change in zoning request. Mr. Edge said a petition was done to allow the business to relocate and he did notify people about the rezoning. Chairwoman Clark said she has concerns about what will show up there. Vice Chairman Sauls asked Mr. Edge what were the allowed uses. Mr. Edge said he would bring it up on the computer. Vice Chairman Sauls asked Mr. Edge just to state the uses. Mr. Edge said he could put them on the screen for everyone to see. Chairwoman Clark asked Ms. Lamb if she knew what uses were allowed. Ms. Lamb said general business offices, trucking companies and office space. It was the consensus to the Council that another public hearing be held. Chairwoman Clark said that the staff report provided by Mr. Edge stated the use was splitting and selling wood. Mr. Edge said the splitting of wood is what makes the noise and that is why the company relocated, and he was not sure what they planned on putting in there. Vice Chairman Sauls said the site was not cleaned up as it was supposed to be. Vice Chairman Sauls said that another public hearing needed to be held before any decisions are made.

LeNolon Edge –1st Reading of Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer Property Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 039-00-05-032 located at 8406 Speedway Blvd. from the Community commercial Zone to the Industrial Development Zone o the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – Mr. Edge said the property was located north of the speedway to the Freedom

Highway. Mr. Edge said there are several industrial sites and some residential sites. Mr. Edge said the Planning Commission recommended denial, but the staff felt the rezoning was correct. Councilman Johnson said that the only way to lower taxes is economic development. Councilman Johnson said he was for anything that will enhance economic development. Mr. Edge said the Industrial zone allows more intense uses and the comprehensive plan talks about urban uses. Councilman Johnson said what is in the City of Hardeeville is already zoned industrial. Mr. Edge said that was correct. Vice Chairman Sauls said the use for whatever is already there is grandfathered in. Vice Chairman Sauls said that a granite business was located there and the new company will be performing all their work inside. Vice Chairman Sauls said they have been working with the prospect for a while and this new business will create 30 new jobs. Vice Chairman Sauls said that some residences are nearby, but they are not that close. Councilman Etheridge said he was not opposed to economic development, but he asked why the Planning Commission recommended that the request be denied. Mr. Edge said there are residents in the area and it allows more things in the area and intense urban use does not allow industrial activities. Mr. Edge said he did not agree with the Planning Commission. Councilman Etheridge said he wanted to have a meeting with the Planning Commission prior to the 3rd reading. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer Property Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 039-00-05-032 located at 8406 Speedway Blvd. from the Community Commercial Zone to the Industrial Development Zone to the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Mr. Edge said a public hearing was scheduled for the next meeting and letters were sent out.

Wilbur Daley – 2nd Reading of Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Property by Jasper County by Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of not Exceeding \$300,000; the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments, Including a Lease-Purchase Agreement by Jasper County; and other Matters Relating Thereto - Mr. Malphrus explained that there was a special meeting held and the Council approved up to \$300,000 for the purchase of 5 tankers for the fire departments. Councilman Johnson said there was a typo in the ordinance where it said up to 5 trucks and the motion was 5 trucks and up to \$300,000. Vice Chairman Sauls told the public that this was being done to lower the ISO ratings in the County. Vice Chairman Sauls said lower ISO ratings meant lower insurance bills. Vice Chairman Sauls said they also needed more volunteers. Vice Chairman Sauls said this is going to be done by the end of the year. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that 5 tanker trucks be purchased for an amount not to exceed \$300,000. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Mr. Fulghum provided an update on the tanker issue and what they were able to negotiate. Mr. Fulghum said the purchase of older tankers and more volunteers should line up in the timeline. Mr. Daley provided the Council with a proposal from Deep South and said they could build 5 tankers for \$300,000 but the chassis would be different on the trucks and they would be older. Mr. Daley said the chassis would be from 1995-2000, but everything in the back of the cab would be brand new. Mr. Daley said delivery would take 4-6 months. Mr. Daley said the Company wants the County business and will work with them. Vice Chairman Sauls said that he appreciated them wanting everything the same, but \$300,000 was approved and that is what the Council expects. Mr. Daley said the trucks come to \$300,000 and there would be \$10,000 additional for the pumps. Vice Chairman Sauls said the staff needed to adhere to what the Council approved and he is not in favor of spending more than what was budgeted. Mr. Fulghum said the pumps are optional and they could be paid for from the fire fund. Vice Chairman Sauls asked what affect it would have on the ISO ratings if the tankers did not have pumps. Mr. Daley said the ISO does not require pumps, but he wanted the trucks to have additional uses. Vice Chairman Sauls said he thought Mr. Daley could find trucks with pumps for the \$300,00. Chairwoman Clark said no more discussion was needed on this topic. She said the 5 trucks

are to be purchased for \$300,000 and no more than that. Mr. Daley told the Council he had a volunteer meeting scheduled in Tillman on June 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Daley said he was going to put signs up at all the stations regarding volunteers. Mr. Daley said he was working on a meeting at the Firetower Road Station for either May 12 or May 17, 2014.

Andrew Fulghum – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to Establish a Multi-County Industrial Park Designation for Project Pioneer (by Title Only)- Andrew Fulghum – 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Granting of Special Source Revenue Credits for Project Pioneer (by Title Only) – Mr. Fulghum explained that both ordinances were for part of an incentive package for Project Pioneer. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to Establish a Multi-County Industrial Park Designation for Project Pioneer (by Title Only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Granting of Special Source Revenue Credits for Project Pioneer (by Title Only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to Adopt the Exit 8 Master Plan for Jasper County (By Title Only)- Mr. Edge told the Council that the Planning Commission reviewed the plan and that the Council has a copy of the plan and the Power Point Presentation. Mr. Edge requested 1st reading by title only. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to Adopt the Exit 8 Master Plan for Jasper County (By Title Only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions- None

Old Business - None

Proclamation April Autistic Awareness Month- Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to pass the Proclamation that April is Autistic Awareness Month. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of Smith-Data Contract – Mr. Malphrus asked the Council to approve the Smith Data Contract. Mr. Malphrus said they renew the contracts annually and they are for forms, supplies, maintenance agreement and taxes. Mr. Malphrus said the contracts are in the amount of \$9550.03 and \$166,722.96. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the Smith Data Contracts. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Committee Reports – Councilman Drayton reported that he attend the special called meeting for the fire plan and he also attended agenda prep. **Vice Chairman Sauls** reported that he attended the Ambassador Event in Columbia. Vice Chairman Sauls said tickets were available for the Jasper Community Fund banquet. Vice Chairman Sauls said that he attended the meeting regarding the new fire plan. **Councilman Etheridge** said he was very concerned that the Council and the Planning Commission are not on the same track and he commented that he wondered if they were given the same information. Councilman Etheridge said the Planning Commission and the Council should not be so far apart so many times on the same projects. Councilman Etheridge said he wanted a meeting with the Planning Commission to resolve the problems and he wanted to make sure they were getting the same

information as the Council. Councilman Etheridge said he was excited about working on the fire contracts and fire plan. **Chairwoman Clark** stated that she attended State House Day in Columbia and she met with the citizens regarding their concerns about the Levy Community Center. Chairwoman Clark said it is going to take everyone working together to get things done to help the citizens.

Administrator's Report –Mr. Fulghum provided the Council with information regarding the Joint Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2014 and about the bridge work being done on Cat Branch Road. Mr. Malphrus explained why the County does not accept credit card payments for delinquent taxes over the phone.

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. There were no comments. Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

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

The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairman