



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
RIDGELAND, SC
APRIL 4, 2016
MINUTES**

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

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

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.

Transportation Facilities Sales Tax Workshop – Mr. Turano and Mr. Longo provided information they compiled for potential projects for the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax. Mr. Fulghum provided a timeline for the Ordinance to get the project ready for the referendum. Mr. Longo said they worked with the County, City of Hardeeville and the Town of Ridgeland to identify projects. Mr. Turano explained how they approached determining the needs of the County and the Municipalities. Mr. Turano said they also spoke with Mr. Russell (SCDOT) and they received a list of projects that have been approved by the JCATC. Mr. Turano said this was done so that they did not overlap projects. Mr. Longo described the projects and provided a map with the locations of the projects. Mr. Longo also provided a handout with the list of projects and the cost for each project. Mr. Fulghum said the Council needs to come up with a list of projects for the 4/18/2016 Council Meeting and they will have a public hearing at the May 2, 2016 Council Meeting. Chairman Sauls said he thought it was a good start and he liked that Highways 321 and 17 were included. Chairman Sauls said he hoped that the funds could be used for matching funds to enhance the program. Mr. Fulghum said that can be done. Councilman Etheridge said he felt it would be a harder sell based on the breakdown provided because the citizens are tired of the current road conditions. Mr. Fulghum said roads can be paved or resurfaced depending on what the Council decides. Chairman Sauls said that parts of Hwy. 278 were also in bad condition. Councilwoman Clark said there was concern about getting 4 lanes from the new bridge on Hwy. 17 to Hwy. 315. Councilman Drayton said work was needed on Hwys. 321, 278 and 17 and the citizens need to be able to see what is being done. Mr. Fulghum said he would come back with a plan for the Council to prioritize.

Budget Workshop

4:00 p.m. **Voters Registration-** Mr. Arzillo and Ms. Bostick presented the budget request for voter's registration and the election commission. The request included a 3% raise for Ms.

Bostic and Ms. Livingston. They also asked for an increase for the poll workers. Ms. Bostick said that the maintenance line was increased by \$11,000 because she wanted to have all her files scanned. Ms. Bostick said that All Pro Solutions quoted \$3,780.10. Councilman Etheridge said he was concerned about sending the records off site to have this done. Councilwoman Clark asked why they have not scanned them in house. Ms. Bostick said it was very time consuming and so far they have only scanned the 1st section of the letter A. Mr. Arzillo said it is a huge task, but once it is done, it will be easy to keep up to date. Councilwoman Clark asked if the information went to the State and Ms. Bostick said it would go to her data base. Vice Chairman Johnson asked if it is searchable and Ms. Bostick said it can be tailored to whatever is needed. Mr. Arzillo said the travel and training was increased \$5,000. The SCARE Conference was discussed and Councilwoman Clark asked how many credits did they get at the SCARE Conference and could they get the credit in Columbia. Ms. Bostick said they get 1 credit and it was also offered in Columbia. Mr. Arzillo said there were other benefits to the SCARE Conference has other benefits and the Board has included it in the budget. Mr. Arzillo requested \$5,000 emergency funds for unbudgeted costs that may come up through the year. Mr. Arzillo said that \$5,000 was added for building upkeep and to make sure everything is ADA compliant. Councilman Etheridge said he thought all the County Buildings were compliant and Mr. Arzillo said they use some buildings that are not County Buildings and they need portable ramps. Mr. Arzillo said door knobs, thresholds and curbside doorbells were needed. Councilman Etheridge said the 3% raise would only be approved if all the County employees got a 3% raise. Councilwoman Clark said the Council has not received the budget from the administrator so all the Council was doing was listening to their wish list. Gladys Jones, on behalf of the poll managers, requested that the \$50 that was dropped be added back in the budget for the poll managers. Ms. Jones discussed the duties of the poll managers.

4:30 p.m. **First Steps** – Dchette Polite provided an overview of how the funds were used and requested \$20,000, the same amount as they received last year. Ms. Polite said they have 3 employees their annual budget is \$170,000 and they get \$138,000 from the State.

4:45 p.m. **Soil and Water Conservation** - Ms. Tindal provided a list of accomplishments they have achieved and she also discussed the programs that are offered. Ms. Tindal added that she works with the home schooled children and the 1st and 2nd graders. Mr. Tindal said they host many fundraisers and on March 12, 2016 they raised \$17,000 net. Ms. Tindal said they provide two scholarships of \$500 for students going into the science field. The scholarships are available to high school seniors or college freshman. Diane Lioni discussed the programs and funding available through the Natural Resource Conservation District. Ms. Tindal said she was requesting \$7,000 which is the same amount as last year.

5:00 p.m. **JARM**- Mr. Garbade requested \$145,000 for the animal shelter. Mr. Garbade said that from July, 2015 to March, 2016 there have been 1,153 animals at the shelter. Mr. Garbade discussed the number of employees and the various ways they receive funding. Mr. Garbade said the employees only make minimum wage and they would like to be able to pay them better. Councilman Etheridge asked about the Thrift Store and Ms. Sphake said they

have only been breaking even the last few months. Councilman Etheridge asked how long they keep an animal and Ms. Sphake said 6-9 months or as long as they are physically and mentally good.

Executive Session

Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton 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 –Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, Project Gatherers, Project Sand, Project ICON Section 30-4-70(a)(5) and 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 –Signage, Levy Volunteer Fire Department, Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) and 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 – Magistrate’s Office Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session: Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Call to Order- Chairman Sauls called the special called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Invocation – Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of the Minutes – March 21, 2016 – Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Wilbur Daley – National Public Safety Telecommunications Week - The Council approved the Proclamation naming April 10-16, 2016 as National Public Safety Telecommunication Week in Jasper County.

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. Chairman

Sauls opened the floor to the public. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the floor to the public.

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum - 3rd Reading and Public Hearing of the Ordinance authorizing (1) execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and incentive agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (the "County"), Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (the "company"), and, in a limited capacity, Town of Ridgeland, South Carolina, pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to the establishment of certain facilities in the County (the "project"); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto - Mr. Fulghum explained that there was a public hearing held in Hardeeville and this is an additional public hearing. Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing; there were no comments; Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading and Public Hearing of the Ordinance authorizing (1) execution and delivery of a Fee in Lieu of Tax and incentive agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (the "County"), Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (the "company"), and, in a limited capacity, Town of Ridgeland, South Carolina, pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to the establishment of certain facilities in the County (the "project"); (2) the benefits of a Multi-County Industrial or Business Park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 3rd Reading and Public hearing of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section -1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the "park"), such park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in Jasper County and to include certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, or one or more of its affiliates, other related companies, or successors; (2) the execution and delivery of a written park agreement with Hampton County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Jasper County; and (4) other matters related thereto - Mr. Fulghum explained that there was a public hearing held in Hardeeville and this is an additional public hearing . Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing; there were no comments; Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading and Public hearing of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to Section -1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the "park"), such park to be, at the time of its initial development, geographically located in

Jasper County and to include certain property now or to be owned and/or operated by Ridgeland Solar Farm I, LLC, or one or more of its affiliates, other related companies, or successors; (2) the execution and delivery of a written park agreement with Hampton County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park within Jasper County; and (4) other matters related thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance authorizing and approve the creation of the Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to section 4-1- 170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”) for Project Sand and – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance authorizing Special Revenue Credits for Project Sand – Mr. Fulghum explained that this was an existing company located in Hardeeville and they were going to expand creating 13 new jobs and the owners would be investing \$13,000,000. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance authorizing and approve the creation of the Joint County Industrial and Business Park pursuant to section 4-1- 170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Hampton County (the “park”) for Project Sand. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be 2nd Reading of the Ordinance authorizing Special Revenue Credits for Project Sand. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

David Tedder – 2nd Reading of 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-premises 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 ordinance was regarding signs and business licenses fees. Mr. Tedder said the ordinance also clarified a measurement change. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the

2nd Reading of 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-premises 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. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to approve extension of licensing agreement with Jasper County Radio Control Club – Mr. Fulghum said the 1st reading of this ordinance was by title only. Mr. Fulghum said the ordinance involves permission to operate at CRBIP, it renews the licensing agreement and the location in the park where they operate has been changed to the back area of the park. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to approve extension of licensing agreement with Jasper County Radio Control Club. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Wilbur Daley – Resolution to endorse and adopt the Lowcountry Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Mr. Daley told the Council that every 5 years the mitigation plan must be updated. Mr. Daley said that LCOG helps with the plan and it is needed to qualify for FEMA funding. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to pass the Resolution to endorse and adopt the Lowcountry Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business

David Tedder-Litigation Update – Mr. Tedder said that 3 cases have been cleared in the past few weeks and that SC declined to take jurisdiction for the timber management plan. Vice Chairman Johnson requested that Mr. Fulghum and Mr. Tedder write a letter to the Forestry Association.

Andrew Fulghum – Discussion of Transportation Facilities Sales Tax- Mr. Fulghum discussed the progress in preparing the ordinance to place the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax on the ballot referendum and he also provided a schedule for passage of the ordinance. Chairman Sauls said a list of possible projects for transportation issues and economic development is being worked on and will be included on the ballot. Vice Chairman Sauls said the citizens will decide if this tax is passed. Councilman Etheridge said the Council decides if it goes on the ballot, but the citizens decide if it passes. Councilman Etheridge said that currently there are not enough funds to repair the roads. Councilwoman Clark said that Hwy. 321 is in bad need of repair and that many lives have been lost traveling that road. Councilman Drayton said the Council will not impose the tax, it will be on the ballot and the people will decide. Vice Chairman Johnson said he agreed with what the other members of Council said, but this is only a bandage to help. Chairman Sauls added that the tax will add about \$30,000,000 over 10 years and will leverage money and make it go as far as it can go.

New Business

Wilbur Daley – Smart 911 Project- Mr. Daley said that the Smart 911 Project is a nationwide program system and all the citizens can input their medical information so responders will have the vital information as they respond to a call. Mr. Daley said this program costs \$35,000 annually and it can come from the 911 funds and 80% will be reimbursed by the State. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the

purchase of the Smart 911 Project. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Professional services order acquisition services for the Ridgeland/Claude Dean Airport – Mr. Fulghum presented the professional service order from Holt Consulting, LLC and explained that certain properties are going to have to be condemned. Mr. Fulghum also provided the condemnation services rate and the contract was not to exceed \$120,000. Mr. Fulghum said the cost for the design of the taxi lane for the new runway is \$10,312. Mr. Fulghum said that phase one of the bidding of the runway project including site work and go to bid services would be reimbursed from the FAA Grant Funds. Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the professional services order acquisition services for the Ridgeland/Claude Dean Airport. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum –Operational agreement with the City of Hardeeville for New Hardeeville Library- Mr. Fulghum said the funds were in place and the MOU has been worked on and it spells out what services will be provided by the County. Mr. Fulghum said the services will go into effect once the library opens. Mr. Fulghum said the County would be responsible for \$65,000 of the operational costs and they were continuing to establish a capital improvement fund of \$5,000 each year. Mr. Fulghum said they will reevaluate the agreement after the library has been open for a year. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the MOU concerning the new library. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council Members’ Comments- **Councilwoman Clark** reported that she attended the ground breaking for the new playground at Royal Live Oaks Academy and she also met with the new chancellor of USCB. Councilwoman Clark said she also met with a few concerned citizens. **Councilman Drayton** asked Mr. Daley if the fee for the 911 Smart Project was \$35,000 per year for the first three years and Mr. Daley said that was. **Vice Chairman Johnson** said he spoke at the investiture of the new chancellor at USCB and he also met with a group of industrial prospects. **Councilman Etheridge** reported on the water problems in Hardeeville and Hardeeville’s engineer is trying to find a solution. Councilman Etheridge said he met with some citizens concerning the School Board and he told them they needed to meet with the School Board to resolve their issues. Councilman Etheridge said the only control the Council has over the Schools is their funding. Councilwoman Clark said there was a lot of talk about ACE and the Council is not over the School Board. **Chairman Sauls** provided an update on the upcoming events of the Chamber of Commerce and asked Ms. Steele to update the Council on the economic development projects. Ms. Steele reported that both of the spec buildings were moving along and the one at Point South is being grassed and pictures will be done in about 2 weeks. Ms. Steele said the CRBIP spec building will be going vertical in a few days and the Dept. of Commerce and SCA are working with a few industrial prospects. Ms. Steele said that SCA went to the United Kingdom promoting the area.

Administrator's Report-Mr. Fulghum told the Council that SCDOT is working on Hwy. 278 and University Park Drive and they are not going to provide the safety lighting. Mr. Fulghum said he would get a price and bring it to JCTAC. Mr. Daley said he was working on the dispatch contract with the municipalities. Mr. Daley said the original contract was done in 2003 and there has been a large increase in the services, supplies and calls. Mr. Daley said the County has 12 dispatchers who handle all calls for the County and the two municipalities. Mr. Daley told the Council that dispatch handled 173,542 calls. Mr. Daley said he was working with the municipalities and currently they pay \$55,000 and he is requesting a \$45,000 increase this year and an additional \$25,000 a year for the next 6 years. Chairman Sauls asked if the municipalities have reviewed the contract and Mr. Daley said the municipalities have it. Vice Chairman Johnson asked if he could provide the statistics relating to the Municipalities' calls. Mr. Fulghum said they have it from 2005-2015.

Chairman Sauls requested that the Council take a serious look at a way to honor Sen. Pinckney. Chairman Sauls said perhaps a statue. Chairman Sauls asked the Council to get recommendations from the citizens and he would like to have it completed by the end of the year.

Adjourn - Councilwoman Clark 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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman