



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 6, 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, and Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, I-T Director Earl Bostick, Jr., Director 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

I-T DEPARTMENT – EARL BOSTICK – Mr. Bostick requested \$39,000 for an additional employee to man the website, inventory and handle special projects. Mr. Bostick said that Mrs. Frank has been working with him making changes on the website for other departments. Mr. Bostick also requested \$75,000 to transfer lines over to voice over from analog. Mr. Bostick said this change would save the County money. Mr. Bostick requested \$70,000 for maintenance contracts that are due to expire. Mr. Bostick said that there would be about a \$40,000 savings in contractual services. Mr. Bostick's requests totaled increase of \$195,000. Mr. Bostick discussed the new website and Vice Chairman Sauls said that the Council needed to see it before it went live. Vice Chairman Sauls said the website is very important to the County. Vice Chairman Sauls asked why travel and training was so high and Mr. Bostick responded that that certification needed to be renewed and they had to travel to Columbia to accomplish this. Councilman Etheridge asked if some of the funds for the tech upgrades could come from the 911 funds and Mr. Malphrus responded that they are not directly related to 911 services and cannot be funded with 911 funds. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if something had to be eliminated from the request, what Mr. Bostick could recommend. Mr. Bostick said he could fight the Microsoft licenses. Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Bostick to look into the cost of the software prices that were going to hit communications at EMS. Councilman Johnson asked if all the radios would have to be replaced and Mr. Bostick said the radios would have to be replaced or upgraded. Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Bostick to notify the Council if he becomes aware of something related to the radios. Mr. Bostick said there are not a lot of grants for I-T, but he planned on using the new person to research grants. Councilman Drayton asked if the Microsoft leases had to be renewed annually. Mr. Bostick said he renews them at the school district prices. Mr.

Bostick said that he and Mr. Dunham work shifts, and sometime they work at night. Chairwoman Clark said technology is always changing and she thanked Mr. Bostick and his staff for their hard work.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB – MR. GUISTI AND MR. CROTZ – Chris Crotz explained that the Boys and Girls Club has been serving the youth in Ridgeland since 2001 and he thanked the Council for their support. Mr. Crotz said they were looking for ways to enhance and expand the programs and they were looking for a way to open in Hardeeville. Mr. Crotz said that 97% of the children attending the Boys and Girls Club are eligible for free lunch and 92% are from single member families. Mr. Guisti explained that they have started an Internet based reading program and they have 66 children between the ages of 6-11 participating. Mr. Guisti said the program is 4 days per week and 45 minutes per day. Mr. Guisti said one employee and 2 volunteers handle the program. Mr. Guisti said the children were just reassessed and they are making positive progress. Mr. Guisti explained that they needed funding to expand the program because they have 22 children on a waiting list to participate. Mr. Guisti said there are currently about 20 teens and he would like to get them involved in job application skills. Vice Chairman Sauls asked where the balance of the money needed for the programs would come from and Mr. Guisti responded from grants and donations. Councilman Etheridge asked if they tracked the children after they leave the Club and what programs did they have for the 6-18 year olds. Mr. Guisti responded that they hope to expand the programs for older children. Councilman Drayton asked about teenagers. Mr. Guisti said there at 12 teenagers who volunteer. Councilman Drayton asked if they were in the reading program and Mr. Guisti said the reading program was just for the 6-11 years old children. Chairwoman Clark thanked Mr. Guisti and said she was elated with the presentation he made at the Rotary.

BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER – LYN TINDAL- Ms. Tindal was not present and rescheduled her presentation.

COASTAL EMPIRE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER- Ms. Moorehead explained that they treat mental health issues in 5 counties including Jasper County. Ms. Moorehead said last year they served 355 adults and 157 children from Jasper County. Ms. Moorehead said if you include the family members of those treated, they affected 1,522 people. Ms. Moorehead explained that they receive no funding from the school district; however the school district does provide counseling space at the Hardeeville Campus. Ms. Moorehead said the County's support is important as there has been an increase in the number of people they are seeing. Ms. Moorehead said that many of the Jasper County people being treated are indigent. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if they worked with law enforcement and Ms. Moorehead responded that are trying to get support from other agencies and there has been an incredible influx of drug and alcohol counseling requests. Ms. Moorehead said Jasper County provided \$15,000. Councilman Etheridge asked if this was a State agency. Ms. Moorehead requested \$15,228 which is Jasper County's share. Councilman Etheridge asked how many people were employed and Ms. Moorehead replied they have 6 regular employees and they also have additional floating employees who travel where needed. Councilman Etheridge asked Ms. Moorehead to send a copy of their audit to Mr. Malphrus.

JOLLY ORR- RIDGELAND FOOTBALL – Mr. Orr requested \$6,000 for new helmets for the Ridgeland Youth Football team. Mr. Orr told the Council that there were 100 football and 50 cheerleaders. Chairwoman Clark asked where they were going to purchase and Mr. Orr said he was buying them from ASA since they were cheaper than Thompson’s. Chairwoman Clark asked about the funds from the concession stand and admissions. Mr. Orr said the money was used for insurance and for children, for referees and supplies. Mr. Orr said they are the only program that furnish everything. Chairwoman Clark asked where the Jamboree was being held and Mr. Orr said it was being held in Beaufort. Chairwoman Clark said that the Hardeeville program is self supporting.

VETERAN’S AFFAIRS – Ms. Terry was not present.

Executive Session – Council Conference Room – Councilman Drayton 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 – County Attorney 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 – The Settings, Hardeeville Library, Brown Campbell, Ridgeland/Claude Dean Airport, Jasper Ocean Terminal. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to appoint David Tedder as the County Attorney under the compensation arranged by the County Administrator under the current salary structure. 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 – Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – 03/16/2015- Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 03/16/2015 Council Meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations- None

Ordinances

The three ordinances to be presented by Mr. Edge were tabled due to the property not being posted and letters were not sent to the surrounding property owners. –Councilman Etheridge asked would another public hearing be needed and Mr. Edge said another public hearing was needed. Chairwoman Clark asked why the properties not posted and Mr. Edge were said he was not sure why or how the ball was dropped and he took responsibility for the mistake.

LeNolon Edge – 3rd 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 052-00-10-038 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map - Tabled

LeNolon Edge –3rd 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 052-00-10-035 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map - Tabled

LeNolon Edge – 3rd 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 080-00-03-022 located off of Green Acres Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map - Tabled

Andrew Fulghum- Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the FILOT agreement with Daniel Defense - Chairwoman Clark opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Chairwoman Clark closed the public hearing. Mr. Fulghum said the ordinance was to correct the millage and the taxes for the Town were omitted in the original FILOT. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the FILOT agreement with Daniel Defense. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum –2nd 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 tenant of the Brown Campbell Building has executed a contract to purchase the building for \$515,000 and have provided earnest money in the amount of \$87,840. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 2nd 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.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum - Resolution supporting State efforts to find solutions to the funding needs for State maintained and operated roads and bridges without transferring the burden to local government and opposing any actions taken by the General Assembly that through lack of State funding will lead to increased taxes of the citizens of Jasper County- Mr. Fulghum said that SCAC requested that the ordinance be passed opposing the transfer of State roads to the County for maintenance. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to pass the resolution supporting State efforts to find solutions to the funding needs for State maintained and operated roads and bridges without transferring the burden to local government and opposing any actions taken by the General Assembly that through lack of State funding will lead to increased taxes of the citizens of Jasper County. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of additional resources for the Special Election - Mr. Fulghum discussed a memo he received from the Chairman of the Election Commission dealing with the special election for the School Board. Mr. Fulghum said that 3 additional staff members, and 2 laptop computers were needed to be provided for the election. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the request. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Mr. Fulghum asked about any restrictions on hiring the 3 individuals for 3 weeks. Chairwoman Clark said this is also to authorize the administrator to hire people from a temporary agency and not anyone from Jasper County. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that the temporary help for the Election Commission is to be hired by the County Administrator and he is to use a temporary agency for fill those positions and the individuals will be employees of the agency and not Jasper County. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Chairwoman Clark – Discussion regarding the appointment of members to various County Boards and Commissions – Chairwoman Clark announced that the Council would be appointing members to the various Boards and Commissions that have openings. Chairwoman Clark said the Delegation Boards also have openings and both applications are on the County website or can be picked up at the office of the Clerk to Council. Applications for the Delegation appointments can be picked up at the delegation office. Councilman Drayton said he would like to see the individuals before they are appointed. Councilman Drayton said he did not think anyone should be appointed until they appear before Council. Vice Chairman Sauls and Councilman Johnson agreed.

Committee Reports – Councilman Drayton reported that he attended the re-opening of the Boys and Girls Club. **Councilman Johnson** reported that he attended Jasper on the Move and

he supported the Hardeeville Bass Tournament. **Councilman Etheridge** discussed the spec building and he met with Malzone Russell about beautifying I-95 and Mr. Russell is supposed to check where he is to get some additional funds. Councilman Etheridge said he visited 1/3 of the roads that the State wants to turn over to the County and they all needed to be paved. Councilman Etheridge said he visited the Boys and Girls Club and was impressed with what the children were doing. **Vice Chairman Sauls** announced the various events being held by the Chamber. Vice Chairman Sauls said that Councilman Johnson received the Sgt. Jasper Award. Vice Chairman Sauls discussed the Alliance Meeting and that he went to Columbia with Brad Talbert and he also attended a community meeting regarding littering and crime. **Chairwoman Clark** reported that she attended all the same meetings and events and she also met with the Mayor of Savannah and representatives from Palm Key.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum said that he met with the Mayor of Savannah concerning a sister city relationship and a woman from Charleston is putting it together. Mr. Fulghum reported that he met with Jerry Stewart about regional transportation and discussed the bridge issue on Hwy. 17 with the Transportation Committee. Mr. Fulghum said that Rep. Newton has been very helpful with this issue. Mr. Fulghum updated the Council on entrance improvements at TICO, the runway project at the Claude Dean/Ridgeland Airport and that the CBDG grant application for the water project was not approved. Mr. Fulghum explained that the Historical Society wanted to make a budget request in the amount of \$52,000 to create a memorial garden at the Courthouse. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that Mr. Edge has been working on the drainage issues at Ridgeland Lakes. Mr. Edge added that the project should be completed in about a week and the problem was caused by misplaced pipes.

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. Mr. Horace Newton said that he was the victim of tax fraud and that the county was charging him too much money for 2 parcels of land that he owns in Jasper County. Mr. Newton said he spoke with Mr. Fulghum and Mr. Malphrus about this and Mr. Newton said he is being charged \$60 for one acre of land. Being no further 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 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman