



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
RIDGELAND, SC
MAY 16, 2016
MINUTES**

4:00 P.M.

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

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 4:15 p.m.

Budget Workshop

Council On Aging – Judy Frank and Marvile Thompson thanked the Council for their support of and participation with the Council on Aging. Ms. Frank explained that she was also requesting financial support from the two municipalities. Ms. Frank said that over 45,000 meals were provided throughout the County and there were more seniors who wanted to participate in the program. Ms. Frank explained that due to budget constraints some hard decisions were made and that the Board and the Director feel they have things moving in the right direction. Ms. Frank requested the same amount of funding that was provided last year.

TCL – Dr. Gough, Mary Lee Carns and Hayes Wisner discussed funding for TCL. Dr. Gough told the Council that 5,000 students were enrolled in TCL and that 400 students graduated this year. Dr. Gough said that there was a need to develop more medical programs and also culinary training. Dr. Gough requested \$50,000 for services that are used by Jasper County Students. Ms. Carns explained that Dr. Gough would like for TCL to be tuition free to the students and they wanted to start a three year pilot program that would cost Jasper County \$50,000 per year. Ms. Carns explained how the program would work and she listed the requirements that must be met by the students. Vice Chairman Johnson asked about the cost for all the students and Ms. Carns said that there were currently 62 students from Jasper County that attend TCL full-time and it would cost \$52,000 per year.

Council Discussion – Councilman Etheridge asked about the overage to the school district.. Mr. Malphrus said that last year there was \$813,000 more in tax revenue that was in the budget.

Councilman Etheridge said the school district wanted to hire 10 teachers from K-3rd grade and he asked that they find 1% to cut from their budget and he wanted them to build up their reserve. Councilman Etheridge asked about debt service collections and Mr. Malphrus said that if more money is collected than required, it cannot be used for operations and they do not have to use it for debt service as long as they are making the payments. Mr. Malphrus said the County does not get much excess revenue from debt service. Chairman Sauls said the School District got \$800,000 more last year and he wanted to know why they were asking for more money. Mr. Malphrus said they can use it as 1 time revenue and go to ongoing operation, and the budget would have to be amended. Mr. Fulghum said he met with Mr. West and he has all the information regarding the development agreements. Councilman Etheridge asked Mr. Fulghum to cut 1% from the School Board's budget. Councilwoman Clark asked about funding for the microphones. Councilman Etheridge said Mr. West needed to find out where the \$813,000 is recorded and how it was used. Chairman Sauls instructed Mr. Malphrus to find out the information regarding the \$813,000. Councilman Etheridge said the School Board needed to find \$400,000 to cut.

5:30 P.M.

Executive Session

Councilman Etheridge 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 – Project Silver Thunder -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 – Coastal Carolina Hospital and Levy Fire Dept.–Section 30-4-70 (a) (2). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

6:30 P.M.

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

Invocation- Councilwoman Clark gave the invocation.

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

Approval of the Minutes - 04/18/2016 – Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations

Rudy Smith – JCTAC Recommendations-Mr. Smith explained the original quote provided by Mr. Russell and there was a balance in the one time funding account in the amount of \$285,080 and the JCTAC was recommending that those funds be used on Hwy. 304. Mr. Smith said that the JCTAC also recommends approval of \$20,000 for Stock Farm Road for an ash product to improve the road. Mr. Smith said that 25% of the money received must be spent on State Roads. Mr. Smith said the committee plans to recommend using the funds for Hwy. 3. Mr. Smith said they will move forward with this in July so that they will receive credit in the next budget year. Councilwoman Clark said that stripes were needed on Toomerville Road. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the \$285,080 for Hwy. 304 and the funds to be used are the one time funds. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve \$20,000 for improvements to Stock Farm Road. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation to the Royal Live Oaks Academy Robotic Team- The Council presented the Royal Live Oaks Academy Robotic Team and coach individual certificates and the Academy with a plaque for their outstanding accomplishment.

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. **Priscilla Frazier** discussed the ISO ratings and said that her insurance is costing \$3,309 per year because she is not within 5 miles of a fire station. She asked who decided where the fire stations are located and she hoped one was planned for her area before 2017. **Dr. McBrair** said that he relocated to Jasper County and he and his business has been well received. Dr. McBrair said the students in Jasper County can step up and do the job like the students of Royal Live Oaks Academy. Dr. McBrair thanked the Council for being proactive. Being no further comments, Chairman Sauls closed the floor to the public.

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum – Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax – Mr. Fulghum explained that once the ordinance is passed, it would go to referendum and the citizens would vote. Mr. Fulghum said the projects that would be paid for from the tax are listed in the ordinance. Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance regarding the Transportation Facilities Sales Tax. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Lisa Wagner – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to create within the Zoning Ordinance of Jasper County a Solar Farm Floating Zone, to amend Article 4, Definitions; Article 5:1 so as to add the

Solar Farm Floating Zone (SFFZ) to the list of Special Purpose Districts; to amend Article 5:4 of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance so as to add a purpose and intent for the Solar Farm Floating Zone; and to amend Article 8 of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance so as to add Article 8:7 related to the Solar Farm Floating Zone – Ms. Wagner reviewed the ordinance and said that the Planning Commission has reviewed the ordinance and they recommend approval. Ms. Wagner said that the Floating Zone would require a map amendment, a concept plan and a public hearing process to discuss the buffers and the provision to reduce buffer distances. Ms. Wagner also discussed screening, protected areas, access roads, fencing and that living buffers would be required to screen the fencing and the solar panels. Ms. Wagner added that stabilization and decommissioning bonds will be required. Ms. Lamb asked if the Council wanted to move forward with the public hearing that was scheduled for June 6, 2016. Councilman Etheridge said there was not a section where the Council could increase the requirement, but there was one that the Council could decrease them. Councilman Etheridge said it is no secret where the solar farm wants to locate and he has a problem with the number of sides that wrap around a property owner's property. Councilman Etheridge said he could not see it wrapping around 3 sides on an individual's property. Ms. Wagner said each application can be looked at individually. Vice Chairman Johnson said he did not think all the fencing was good and he would like to see some discretion regarding fencing. Vice Chairman Johnson said that too much fencing will cut off wildlife migration. Ms. Wagner said the fencing is to protect the panels and for security reasons. Vice Chairman Johnson said he wanted the Council to have the right to consider alternative areas. Councilman Drayton asked if the Planning Commission approved this ordinance and Ms. Wagner said that they did. Councilman Etheridge said that the DSR may determine if further screening is needed and Ms. Wagner said they would use consultants to do site review. Councilwoman Clark said they were going to visit a site on June 6 and she felt they should wait. Councilman Etheridge moved to table this until after June 8, 2016. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Fulghum said the Public hearing was scheduled and the Council could schedule additional public hearings. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion to have the public hearing and 1st reading at the June 6, 2016 meeting. Councilwoman Clark said if the public hearing was prior to the Council's site visit, the Council would know what the people want. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus – 1st reading of the 2016-2017 Jasper County Ordinance to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2016 and ending June 30th 2017 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget for FY 2016-2017; to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District Capital and Operations Budget for FY 2016–2017; to provide for the levy of taxation for FY 2016–2017; to limit the disbursements by the county treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize tax anticipation notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the treasurer to sign general fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide

compliance with Act no. 317 of 1990; to provide certain benefits to council members; to provide for county commission and committee stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance (by title only)- Mr. Malphrus said the budget was in the amount of \$43,120,179.00 and there was no increase to the millage at this time. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilwoman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 1st reading of the 2016-2017 Jasper County Ordinance to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2016 and ending June 30th 2017 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget for FY 2016-2017; to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District Capital and Operations Budget for FY 2016-2017; to provide for the levy of taxation for FY 2016-2017; to limit the disbursements by the county treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize tax anticipation notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the treasurer to sign general fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide compliance with Act no. 317 of 1990; to provide certain benefits to council members; to provide for county commission and committee stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions – None

Old Business - None

New Business

Dale Terry – Approval of bid for rock- Mr. Terry explained that he received funding from the JCTC to purchase rock for the County roads. Mr. Terry requested that the Council approve the bid from the low bidder Long Leaf Enterprises in the amount of \$169,104. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the bid from Long Leaf Enterprises in the amount of \$169,104. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus – Office space request – Election Commission/Voters Registration – Mr. Malphrus explained that the office space next to the Election Commission/Voters Registration is vacant and that the Voters Registration Board asked to use the space as they are in need of additional space. Councilwoman Clark asked if it was going to cost the County any additional funds and Mr. Malphrus said it was not. Councilwoman Clark moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the request of Voters Registration Board for the additional space providing it would not cost the County any additional funds. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Reappointment of 2 members of the Lowcountry Workforce Board – Mr. Fulghum told the Council that two positions needed to be reappointed. Councilwoman Clark

moved and Councilman Drayton Seconded the motion to appoint Steve Palmer and Greg Gilbert to the Lowcounty Workforce Board. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Council Members' Comments – Councilman Etheridge said he felt the Council had a good meeting with the School Board regarding their budget and they would be making some changes. Councilman Etheridge said he was glad to say that they Council can work with the new School Board. Councilman Etheridge said he attended the Democratic Forum and there were about 35 people there with the exception of the candidates' families. **Vice Chairman Johnson** reported that he attended meetings with LCOG, Mr. Fulghum, the solicitor's office, the forum and the School Board. Vice Chairman Johnson said he saw a change in the attitudes of the School Board. **Councilman Drayton** said he went to the Democratic Forum and that Vice Chairman Johnson and Councilman Etheridge did a good job. Councilman Drayton commented that he also attended a meeting with Mr. Davis and the community regarding a recreation plan. **Councilwoman Clark** reported she was not able to attend the Democratic Forum because she was in Winston Salem attending her niece's graduation from Medical School. Councilwoman Clark said she attended the RLOA banquet and field day at Hardeeville Elementary, and event at THA and that she is interested in all areas of education and education has her full support. Councilwoman Clark said she also attended the budget workshop with the School Board and that the budget they presented was much more user friendly. **Chairman Sauls** reported that he attended the meeting with the School Board, the Coastal Carolina Open House and Mayor Bostick's retirement party. Chairman Sauls reminded the public of State House Day in Columbia.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum said his reports were included in the Council's packet and were provided for information. Mr. Fulghum said a memo was included in his report regarding the R/H Band's trip to Hawaii.

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 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman

