



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
RIDGELAND, SC  
May 2, 2016  
MINUTES**

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

**Officials Absent:** 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 4:00 p.m.

**Solar Farm Workshop**

Lisa Wagner - Introduction of Solar Farm Floating Zone Ordinance - Ms. Wagner provided the Council with copies of the draft ordinance. Ms. Wagner said that this ordinance was not site specific, but would apply to any site. The Council discussed the type of screening and buffers that will be required. Ms. Wagner discussed the floating zone and Councilman Etheridge asked if the property owner applies for the zoning. Ms. Wagner said it would go back to the Planning Commission before it comes to Council. Ms. Wagner said the ordinance also establishes the purpose of the district. Ms. Wagner discussed the set-backs, fencing, and that the landowner brings it to the staff, then it goes to the planning commission and then to the Council. Councilman Etheridge asked about the wetlands. Ms. Wagner said the wetlands are not to be disturbed. Chairman Sauls said flexibility is given as to where the fencing is placed and each site will be different to make sure the needs are met. Mr. Tedder said the fence is generally placed on the interior of the buffer. Ms. Wagner said that chain fencing is not to be seen from the roads or protected residential property and it is not to be in excess of 10 feet in height. Ms. Wagner listed the other general requirement and there would be a 10% site restoration bond. Ms. Wagner said that a decommissioning bond was also required and decommissioning is to be completed in 12 months. Ms. Wagner said the performance bond guarantees 125% of the decommissioning. Ms. Wagner provided pictures of examples of the buffering and natural growth. Councilman Etheridge asked if they were planning on an irrigation system to keep the buffers alive. Ms. Wagner said the buffers and screening must meet the 10 ft. requirement

within 3 years or they will be fined if it does not reach the required height. Chairman Sauls said the ordinance gives the Council the opportunity to work with the landowners and the developers and the adjacent property owners to make sure their best interests are kept at heart. Mr. Tedder commented that there has not been a site plan presented for this particular property and only preliminary work has been done before they do the site specific planning. Ms. Wagner said the floating zone and map amendments give the public the opportunity to have input. Councilman Etheridge asked about how the neighbors are notified. Ms. Wagner said she would be notifying the community near it, not just the adjacent property owners. Mr. Fulghum said that some neighbors have concerns and it is important when adopting the schedule that they will have the opportunity to have input and access to all the documents. Mr. Fulghum said he recommended that the neighbors have a representative who will work with the staff. Mr. Fulghum discussed a site in Georgia and said he could arrange a trip to the site if the Council would like to go see it. Mr. Rentz asked who decides the height of the berm. Chairman Sauls said that it was being worked on, but the berm would be a very significant height with a lot of vegetation. Ms. Wagner said the design will be reviewed and Chairman Sauls said he hoped the homeowners would have input. Ms. Wagner said they would see what is proposed and it would have to be approved. Chairman Sauls said the homeowners' concerns are very important to the Council. Mr. Tedder said the economic development design documents are waiting for the okay for the floating zone, there are two readings to submit the conceptional plan to the planning commission, and he felt it would be July before the conceptional plan would come to Council. Mr. Fulghum said he would work on a schedule with Ms. Wagner and Mr. Tedder.

Chairman Sauls adjourned the Solar Farm Workshop and the Council took a recess until 5:00 p.m.

### **Budget Workshop**

Council /Andrew Fulghum- Budget Discussion- Mr. Fulghum told the Council that he met with the Assessor and the budget is based on the value of the mil and they needed to try to stay with the same revenue as last year. Mr. Fulghum proposed postponing any new hires until November and to use some of the money from the Settings settlement for the shelter project. Mr. Fulghum said if they used the money for the shelter project they would save \$100,000. Chairman Sauls said he knows the shelter is a worthy project, but they needed to take care of cars for law enforcement and the sheriff prefers the option to lease 20 cars. Chairman Sauls said that the crime is so bad right now and building the shelter would help the other counties during a disaster, but none of them offered to help pay for it. Councilman Etheridge said he agreed and the other Counties need to step up and help build it. Chairman Sauls asked if the grant can be turned down. Vice Chairman Johnson said he hated to give it up. Vice Chairman Johnson said they needed to have a plan and he was skeptical that just more deputies was the answer. Vice Chairman Johnson said he did not know anything to cut from the budget. Mr. Fulghum said it would be a onetime expenditure. Chairman Sauls said crime prevention is needed. Mr. Fulghum said the Sheriff presented a plan and the staff met with the sheriff and they also got some input from the solicitor, and there may be other ways to accomplish the plan of adding 5 more officers and 5 more cars. Mr. Fulghum said the solicitor was working on it. Councilman Etheridge asked if the other counties were contacted about helping to fund the shelter since their residents will also be using it. Mr. Malphrus said there would probably only be about 100 people from Beaufort County. Mr. Fulghum said it is needed and it is not

restricted and the County has the ability to do it now. Vice Chairman Johnson added that it would be a major improvement to the school. Mr. Fulghum said he felt a funding match is the best way to do it. Mr. Fulghum said he also proposed funding litter control. Chairman Sauls asked about mosquito spraying, and Mr. Fulghum said they would be using part time help and they were already spraying. Councilman Etheridge told Mr. Malphrus to contact the other Counties about sharing the cost of the shelter. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about funding for fire sub-stations. Mr. Fulghum said it was already in the budget and they were working on land donations and grant funding.

Chairman Sauls adjourned the budget workshop.

### **Executive Session**

Councilman Etheridge 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 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, Section 30-4-70 (a) (2). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

**Action as a result of Executive Session-** Vice Chairman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to authorize the Administrator to consummate the bond safeguard and any proceeds to be placed in the Economic Development Fund until further notice. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Invocation** – Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

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

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

**Approval of the Minutes – April 11, 2016** - Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

### **Presentation and Proclamations - None**

**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.

**Hampton Lloyd** told the Council that someone tore up the speed bumps on Schingler Ave., but Mr. Terry responded quickly to repair them. Mr. Lloyd said the nothing has changed on Schingler Ave. and Natures Calling is still creating a lot of noise at 4:45 a.m. and he felt that a stiff fine should be issued. Mr. Lloyd said the smell is terrible when Natures Calling does storage transfers. Mr. Lloyd said there were 10 residential properties in the area that are affected and something needed to be done.

**Harry Williams, City of Hardeeville**, thanked the Council for bringing everyone together for the meeting about the Port.

Being no further comments, Chairman Sauls closed the floor to the public.

### **Ordinances**

David Tedder – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-premise 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 said the ordinance amends how the signs are measured and clarifies the way double face signs are handled. Mr. Tedder said that business licenses fees are based on both sides of the sign and it also adjusts the rate classifications. Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-premise 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 – Public Hearing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance to authorize entering into a License Agreement with Jasper County Radio Control, Chapter No. 5096 of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. – Chairman Sauls opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. Fulghum said the club has moved to the back of the park and they will have a 5 year lease. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance to authorize entering into a License Agreement with Jasper County Radio Control, Chapter No. 5096 of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Resolutions** - None

**Old Business** - None

**New Business**

Ronnie Malphrus – Request from Voters Registration for funds to hire a temporary worker for a week prior to the election primary in June . Mr. Malphrus explained that the temporary person would work the two weeks prior to the election and the state would refund a portion of the temporary salary, but the election commission has no additional funds and they were requesting \$1,500. Chairman Sauls asked who came up with salary and Mr. Malphrus said Ms. Lucas came up with \$115 per day for two workers to work part-time. Councilman Drayton moved and Vice Chairman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the \$1,500 for two temporary workers to work the two weeks prior to the election. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Council Members’ Comments – Councilman Etheridge** reported that he attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding Solar Farms, the State of the Port Meetings and meetings with Mr. Davis regarding the community centers to get input from the citizens. **Councilman Drayton** reported that he attended the meeting concerning the Levy Center, the Port Meetings and the School Board Selection Meeting. **Vice Chairman Johnson** reported that he attended the Port Meetings and he and Councilwoman Clark met with TCL and discussed the possibility of their proposal regarding the Pinckney Initiative program to underwrite the children from Jasper County that attend TCL. **Chairman Sauls** reported that he met with the administrator and law enforcement concerning law enforcement strategies. Chairman Sauls also discussed Jasper on the Move, the State of the Port and the meeting with Gov. Haley. Chairman Sauls said that Gov. Haley has pledged her support of the port and that she would like it expedited as soon as possible.

**Administrator’s Report-** Mr. Fulghum discussed the airport project grant application and a ground breaking in the fall.

**Adjourn-** Councilman Etheridge 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 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk to Council

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L. Martin Sauls, IV  
Chairman

