



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 4, 2015**

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 David Tedder, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, I-T Director Earl Bostick, Jr., Planning Director LeNolon Edge

Staff Absent: Attorney Marvin Jones

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 3:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER –MS. TINDAL – Ms. Tindal explained that she has been working with the children and over the past two years, 1,726 children have visited the center. Ms. Tindal provided a list of the various activities that are handled by the center. Ms. Tindal said they also award two scholarships. Deane Lioni, NRCS, explained what services they provide for the County along with the USDA. Councilman Etheridge asked about programs to beautify the County and Ms. Tindal said she was working on some beautification grants and she is also updating their information on facebook.

HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD- MS. WILLIAMS- Ms. Williams informed the Council that some members of the board needed to be replaced since they do not attend the meetings. Ms. Williams requested \$4,480 for supplies, prizes, conferences, cell phone, and brochures. Councilman Etheridge said that when the Council was asked to establish this board they were told that it would not cost the County anything and the State would pay for all the costs involved. Ms. Williams responded that there were very limited funds available from the State. Councilman Drayton agreed that the Council was told that this Board was not to cost the County anything. Ms. Williams explained that they meet once a month and there were 10 members on the Committee. Chairwoman Clark said that this is an important committee and the Council needed to help them to get things going. Councilman Etheridge asked about how other Counties participated and this Council was led to believe the State would cover all the costs involved. Ms. Williams responded that the other Counties are not up and running yet and

the other Counties are contacting them to see how they were handling it. Ms. Williams said they do not want to meet, just to meet; they want to make a difference and make sure all the citizens are involved.

JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING-MS. HIGHTOWER- Ms. Hightower thanked the Council for the extra funding last year and due to that extra funding they were able to serve an additional 1,100 meals. Ms. Hightower explained all the services that the Council on Aging provides and the Meals on Wheels program is very important as some days it is the only meal the individuals receive. Ms. Hightower explained how the drivers check on the status of the clients' well being. Ms. Hightower said 23 individuals receive homecare and there is currently a waiting list for this service. Ms. Ann Woods, Meals on Wheels recipient, told the Council that she looks forward to receiving her wonderful meal each day and how much it meant to her. Councilman Etheridge thanked Ms. Hightower for serving the additional 1,100 meals and he knew that the people looked forward to the meals and they loved the delivery drivers. Councilman Drayton asked if meals were delivered to Grays and Ms. Hightower said meals are delivered to individuals in Grays and it is more cost effective to bring the meals to their homes. Vice Chairman Sauls thanked Ms. Hightower and said that his mother and his grandparents deliver meals every week and they really enjoy it. Ms. Hightower said the people from the Methodist Church volunteer to deliver the meals and it is a great savings to the Agency. Mr. Fulghum asked if the clients were tracked and what communities they come from and perhaps they should donate more. Ms. Hightower said that the Town of Ridgeland and the City of Hardeeville maintain the yards but they do not provide any funding. Ms. Hightower said that Mayor Bostick personally funds trips for the Hardeeville Seniors. Vice Chairman Sauls asked was lawn care all that the municipalities do. Ms. Hightower said the Town of Ridgeland uses the Board of Disabilities to do the lawn work at the Ridgeland Center and the City of Hardeeville takes care of the lawn at the Hardeeville Center.

MAGISTRATE – JUDGE JOANE MCDONALD presented the request and said that most of the items are the same, however she did ask for more money in the travel and training line and that Judge Williams asked that the alarm system be activated in Hardeeville. Ms. Lee asked for more equipment and more money for travel and training. Bond Court and Judge Lynah (for her assistant) asked for increases. Chairwoman Clark said that increases will only be given if all the County employees receive an increase. Judge McDonald asked that Judge Badgett's hours be increased from 20 to 30. Judge McDonald said Judge Badgett has been with the County for 6 years and is the only attorney. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if they leased their equipment and Judge McDonald said they do what is recommended by Mr. Malphrus. Councilman Etheridge asked if the travel and training funding was for everyone. Judge McDonald said it is listed in traffic court and Mr. Malphrus said that no magistrate is shown in that department and each magistrate's budget is different. Chairwoman Clark asked if there was enough money in the travel and training line so that the clerks and judges can get the training they need. Judge McDonald said if the amount requested is approved there will be enough money for the clerks and judges to go to training. Chairwoman Clark asked why she requested more hours for Judge Badgett since the County had more judges than they needed. Chairwoman Clark said she would like to see a copy of the judges' schedule. Judge McDonald said it takes time to know

what is going on and that is done by reading the case. Judge Badgett said she was available to answer any questions. Judge Williams commented that each magistrate is responsible for preparing their own budget and Judge McDonald was to compile what was provided. Judge Williams said the alarm in Hardeeville is non-functional and that the cost would be around \$850 to fix it. Chairwoman Clark told Judge Williams that Mr. Bostick was working on the alarm. Judge Lynah said she requested a raise for her assistant and everything in her office was running smoothly and she had everything she needed. Judge Lee said she wanted for her clerk to be able to travel more. Chairwoman Clark said that Council cannot approve a raise for one person and if raises are given, everyone will receive a raise. Chairwoman Clark said she would like to see the training fixed so the clerks can go to classes.

EMERGENCY SERVICES – WILBUR DALEY -Chief Daley discussed the State mandated requirement for the radios and that they all must be upgraded by June 2017. Chief Daley said it would cost between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 to upgrade all the radios. Councilman Etheridge asked if 911 funds could be used and Chief Daley said those funds can only be used for telephones. Mr. Fulghum said \$500,000 is included in this year's budget for a down payment and the balanced could be financed. It was the consensus of the Council that it had to be done since the State is mandating it to be done. Chairwoman Clark asked if the old ones can be sold. Mr. Daley said they could try to sell them. Chief Daley discussed the equipment that he needed and the options available. Chief Daley said if possible he would like to purchase one new truck each year. Chief Daley said the ambulances all have over 150,000 miles on them. Chief Daley discussed the fire truck that is a sister truck to the one in Ridgeland and they contacted the company and one of the volunteers found someone who will give the County a 1986 Pace Arrow. Councilman Etheridge asked if they had any ambulances and Chief Daley responded that they are looking. Chief Daley said the ambulances are 7 years old and should be replaced every 125,000 miles. Chairwoman Clark asked about the grant for the shelter. Chief Daley said they are waiting on a response from the State. Chief Daley said they were building a training facility in Hardeeville and they can do all the training in the County. Mr. Fulghum said they have never been able to cash in on the credit with Brown Campbell so Brown Campbell is going to help with some of the metal work. Vice Chairman Sauls asked about the sub-stations and how many were needed so that everyone in the County can have lower ISO ratings. Chief Daley said he was looking into it and a two bay station with living quarters is what would be needed and an additional bay can be added in the future if needed. Chief Daley said they would need about 8 substations. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if he has contacted anyone about donating the land for the sub-stations. Mr. Fulghum said he was also looking into grant funding.

The Budget Workshop adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Executive Session –Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton 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 – Board Appointment and 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 Handler; 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 – P. Frasier, G. Hood, L. Rawling, A. Cannick vs. School Board, RiverPort. 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.

There was no action as a result of Executive Session.

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

Invocation – Vice Chairman Sauls gave the invocation.

Approval of 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.

Approval of the Minutes - 04/06/2015, 04/20/2015 Special Called Mtg. - Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 4/06/2015 and 4/20/2015 Special Called Meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations – Proclaiming May as Senior Citizen Month – The Council passed a Proclamation naming May as Senior Citizen Month. Vice Chairman Sauls presented the proclamation to Ms. Kathy Hightower, Executive Director of the Jasper County Council on Aging.

Ordinances

Ronnie Malphrus – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to approve to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2015 and ending June 30th 2016 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for FY 2015-2016; to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for FY 2015–2016; to provide for the levy of taxation for FY 2015–2016; 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 - Mr. Malphrus explained that this budget had no millage increase, however, he had not received anything from the School District. Mr. Malphrus said the budget for the FY 2015-2015 is \$256,581,506. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to approve to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2015 and ending June 30th 2016 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for FY 2015-2016; to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for FY 2015-2016; to provide for the levy of taxation for FY 2015-2016; 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. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a portion of property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 083-00-04-003 located at Strobhart Road and Lowcountry Drive from the Rural Preservation Zone to the General Commercial Zone- Mr. Edge explained that the property was located on Strobhart Road and the rezoning was for 29.76 acres from rural preservation to general commercial. Councilman Etheridge asked if there was any general commercial or industrial zoned property bordering the property. Mr. Edge said there was not, but this was not spot zoning. Councilman Etheridge asked what the main objection at the Planning Commission meeting was. Mr. Edge said some members of the Planning Commission were concerned that it was not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and there were concerns as to how it was to be used. Mr. Edge said he felt it was a matter of interpretation of the Comprehensive Plan if it was consistent or not. Mr. Edge said currently there is one home on the property, but the owner is planning on building 2 additional homes. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if anyone was present at the meeting that objected. Mr. Edge said there would be a public hearing regarding the ordinance on May 18, 2015 at the County Council meeting in Hardeeville. Mr. Edge said the zoning could be appropriate, but it is a gray area and there are other commercial properties in the area. Vice Chairman Sauls asked why the Planning Commission did not wait until all the Planning Commission members were present. Mr. Edge responded that they had a quorum; there were 4 members there and the Chairman does vote. Mr. Edge said he conferred with the attorney and he is bringing it forward as a neutral recommendation. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a portion of

property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 083-00-04-003 located at Strobhart Road and Lowcountry Drive from the Rural Preservation Zone to the General Commercial Zone. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum- Resolution to approve the Inducement Agreement for Project Handler- Mr. Fulghum explained that the Council took action on this item at the last meeting, however, the interest rate cannot be a floating millage rate, it must be flat rate. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the Inducement Agreement for Project Handler. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business – There was no old business.

New Business- There was no new business.

Committee Reports- Councilman Drayton reported that he attended the Annual Tarboro Homecoming Celebration. **Councilman Johnson** reported that he attended the Regional Transportation Meeting and lobbied in behalf of Hwy. 321. **Vice Chairman Sauls** provided information regarding the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce’s upcoming events and he explained why the County holds a State House Day in Columbia. **Councilman Etheridge** reported on a meeting he had with SCDOT to see if any grants were available to enhance the interchanges and he said he also met with the City of Hardeeville regarding the Hardeeville Industrial Park. Councilman Etheridge said the café in Point South is almost torn down and he discussed the new ISO ratings. Councilman Etheridge said the Council was still working on finding locations for sub stations so everyone in Jasper County will have lower ISO ratings. **Chairwoman Clark** discussed the three meetings she attended in Columbia and that she is constantly working on things for the betterment of Jasper County.

Administrator’s Report – Mr. Fulghum provided the Council with information concerning the Retreat task items, and a memo from Mr. Daley concerning future fire stations. Mr. Fulghum also provided information regarding the LATS meeting, transportation projects and LCOG grants.

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. **Richie Reed** reported that Rep. Bowers recognized the Ridgeland/Hardeeville Boys Basketball Team in the House of Representatives. Ms. Reed said that she felt there was a lack of accessibility to the maps for the redistricting and that it was not on the website and she had to pay for a map. Ms. Reed said there was only one choice for the districts and she felt more were needed. Chairwoman Clark said that she followed and supported the Boys Basketball team and she just turned in \$3,250 for clothing for the team. Chairwoman Clark said that the County is providing a small map showing the districts for free and they can be picked up in the Clerk to Council’s office. Chairwoman Clark added that the large maps are displayed in the Council Chambers and at the

office of the Election/Voters Registration Office. Chairwoman Clark said if anyone wants a copy of the large maps they cost \$15, but the smaller version of the map is free. Chairwoman Clark said the County Council has been working on this for several months and there will be a public hearing. Chairwoman Clark said the Council's concern about the district was that there are an equal number of voters in the district and that it was fair for all the people. Chairwoman Clark said the map is also on the County website. **Priscilla Frazier** discussed the nails on Strobot Road. Ms. Frazier said she has had to replace 3 tires. Ms. Frazier said there are already a lot of trucks that travel Strobot Road and the nails are coming from the truck going to the Cleland Site and the Waste Management Site. Ms. Frazier said that the Council approved those businesses locating on Strobot Road and she asked if the County had a sweeper to keep the roads free of nails. Ms. Frazier said the grass is too high at the intersection of Hwy. 170 and Hwy. 462 and the drivers cannot see oncoming vehicles. Chairwoman Clark responded that the County does not have a sweeper and that Ms. Frazier needed to contact the State. Being no further comments, Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

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

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman