



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936**

**HARDEEVILLE CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 6, 2013
MINUTES**

4:00 P.M.

WORKSHOP

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Attorney Marvin Jones, 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.

CALLS TO ORDER – Chairman Etheridge called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT- Dr. Washington told the Council that there was no budget increase for the School District. Dr. Washington introduced Mr. West. Mr. West presented a Power Point presentation and explained that there have been 5 work sessions on the budget. Mr. West said they started the budget work sessions in February. Mr. West's presentation included enrollment, the average daily membership and how the state provides funding for the schools. Mr. West said that they received \$1, 100,000 less in 2012-2013 and they had to make up the difference by going to the fund balance. Mr. West said the 2013-2014 budget included funding for the SRO offices and swipe cards for the doors. Chairman Etheridge commented that this presentation was basically the same as the one presented on Thursday. Mr. West responded that this presentation was prepared for presentation to the Council. Chairman Etheridge said that the Council was going to need time for questions and Mr. West said he would quickly complete his presentation. Chairman Etheridge said they may need a special workshop. Mr. West's proposed budget included expenditures in the amount of \$24,768,340

and that included \$569,520 for the fund balance. Mr. West said he was concerned about the bond rating as the fund balance is below good practice. Councilman Sauls asked about the refinancing of the bond and will the debt principal increase. Mr. West said he was not prepared to answer that and he could come back and discuss it at another time. Councilman Sauls said that the question was about refinancing of the bonds and the decrease in the ratings and you don't know what is going to happen. Councilman Sauls asked if the salaries for the ROTC directors were in line with other counties. Mr. West said they are paid by rank and level. Mr. West said the School District pays them and they are not reimbursed. Councilman Sauls asked for the rank on the ROTC directors and Mr. West said he did not know. Councilman Sauls asked when Mr. West could meet with the Council when he would know the answers. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the entire Council had questions regarding the bonds. Chairman Etheridge said that they would need to have a workshop dealing with the School District's budget. Councilman Drayton asked if they received federal funds for ROTC. Mr. West said they did not and the directors were paid straight from the district's general fund. Councilman Drayton asked if the amount included in the budget to fund balance would bring it back to 10% and Mr. West said it would bring them half way. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked Mr. West for the presentation. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked what the \$2,841,418 listed as purchased services covered. Vice Chairwoman Clark said they needed a clearer understanding as to what this money was spent on. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that \$47,000 was budgeted for dues and fees and \$419,241 was budgeted for capital outlay. Vice Chairwoman Clark said there is a ton of money and no explanation as to what it is for. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that the budget was cut, but the cuts made are hurting the children. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she compared the current budget to the proposed budget and she sees cuts from the children, not the administration of administrative staff. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the fund balance is for emergencies, not to balance the budget. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she wants the children educated. Vice Chairwoman Clark discussed the funding for teachers' salary and Dr. Washington commented that they did not receive the funds from the state. Mr. West said that step increases fall to the district. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked about the Athletic Supplement and Mr. West said that is paid to coaches above their classroom salary. Chairman Etheridge commented that a budget workshop was scheduled for next week and Mr. West said they have had 5 budget workshops that were open to the public and the Council was invited to those workshops. Mr. West said the budget was not thrown together and there is a need to address each other with respect. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she was only reading the numbers that were provided. Chairman Etheridge said he attended a few workshops, but due to other commitments he could not attend all of them. Mr. West said this budget will not cause a mill increase. Mr. Malphrus explained that the mill increased in value so they would be receiving more money without a mill increase. Councilman Johnson said that conceptually it cost more money to teach fewer children. Mr. West said they receive a lower amount due to

fewer students, but it has impact on the teachers. Dr. Washington said when the State took \$1,000,000 of their funding, instead of cutting teachers in the middle of the year; they took the money from the fund balance. Dr. Washington said that no student is neglected in this budget. Chairman Etheridge said an additional workshop with the Council was needed with the School District.

MARGARET BOSTICK – CLERK OF COURT – Ms. Bostick discussed security for the Courthouse and that the criteria cannot be discussed. Ms. Bostick said the Chief Justice said that nothing is to be brought into the Courthouse by the general public. Ms. Bostick provided a quote of \$30,000 for a scanner and said that it would cost about \$15,000 more for training. Ms. Bostick said that violence in courtrooms is escalating and Jasper County has been fortunate. Ms. Bostick said she will do as the Council wishes, but if something happens, it will be on the Council. Ms. Bostick said she felt it was much safer that purses and other items not be allowed to enter the Courthouse. Councilman Johnson said that ladies carry purses and a lot of jurors and others are unhappy about no purses. Ms. Bostick said “no purses criteria” is the same across the State. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that fines were down and Ms. Bostick responded they have been instructed by the State to be gentler and kinder regarding fines that are issued in civil judgments and this is being done across the State. Chairman Etheridge asked if they purchased the new scanner would an additional employee be needed and Ms. Bostick said there would only be the cost of training and they would need an additional person trained for back up. Councilman Drayton asked if the person being trained would receive additional compensation and Ms. Bostick said they would not. Councilman Drayton said he felt that was not fair and Ms. Bostick said that happens all the time in Jasper County.

DR. LEITZEL – TCL – Dr. Leitzel said that there were 299 students at TCL and education was very important to the community. Dr. Leitzel introduced Stacey Adams and she shared her success story and her future plans. Ms. Adams attributed her successes to TCL. Councilman Johnson asked about the Agriculture Silver Culture Program and Dr. Leitzel said that TCL will be offering a high tech version this year. Dr. Leitzel requested that the Council consider their request and thanked the Council for their support in the past.

ROLAND GARDNER - BJHCH – Mr. Gardner discussed the programs and services that BJHCH offers in Jasper County. Mr. Gardner said they have had a 25% increase in patients and he discussed the prescription program provided by Pfizer drug company. Mr. Gardner also discussed their affiliation with a medical school in Mesa, Arizona. Mr. Gardner described the programs that they provide at the public schools. Mr. Gardner told the Council of the sequestration in effect June 1 where the employees work a 35 hour week which saves them \$68,000 per pay period. Mr. Gardner said they are expecting a decrease in funding from Medicare and Medicaid and the number of people with insurance has decreased. Chairman

Etheridge asked if BJCH received more from Medicare and Medicaid than a private practice received and Mr. Gardner responded that BJCH was paid more.

BREAK/EXECUTIVE SESSION -Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to take a 30 minute break and then 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 – Jasper Ocean Terminal; Ridgeland Airport; The Settings at Mackay Point; Waste Management; 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- **Administrator**. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

No action as a result of executive session.

7:00 P.M

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Etheridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Vice Chairman Clark gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes - **Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 04/01/2013 and 04/15, 2013 Council meetings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.**

PROCLAMATIONS FOR PALMETTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – Chairman Etheridge presented Mr. Tom Upshaw with the proclamation and thanked him for all the support the County has received from Palmetto Electric. Mr. Vaigneur presented the Council with a picture of the two Palmetto Electric facilities located in Jasper County.

JACKIE O'BANNON –ANTIOCH EDUCATION CENTER – Ms. O'Bannon, executive director of Antioch Education Center, recognized the residents of the Tarboro Community that were present in the audience to show their support of the grant application to improve and expand the Tarboro Community Center. Ms. O'Bannon thanked the administration for their help in applying for the grant. Ms. O'Bannon discussed the activities currently being held at the Tarboro Community Center. Ms. O'Bannon explained that they hope to build a 7,000 sq. foot building. Ms. O'Bannon said the County would own the center and the County would also apply for the grant. The Council thanked Ms. O'Bannon for the great job she is doing.

ORDINANCES

ANDREW FULGHUM- PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH, PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, A MULTI –COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH HAMPTON COUNTY AS TO THE SHARING OF THE REVENUES AND EXPENSES OF THE PARK; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FROM THE PARK AMONG TAXING ENTITIES HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO – Mr. Fulghum reviewed the ordinance and explained that there were tax advantages for companies to locate in a Multi-County Park. Mr. Fulghum said that Hampton County would receive 1% of the revenue generated by the park. Mr. Fulghum explained that one sentence was changed in the agreement. Mr. Jones said that since there were no changes to the ordinance, no motion was needed to approve the change to the agreement. Chairman Etheridge opened the public hearing; there were no comments; Chairman Etheridge closed the public hearing. Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the public hearing and 3rd reading of an ordinance to establish, pursuant to section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, a multi –county industrial/business park in conjunction with Hampton county, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement with Hampton County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; to provide for the distribution of revenue from the park among taxing entities have jurisdiction over the park; and other matters related thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

ANDREW FULGHUM – 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE 2013-2014 JASPER COUNTY CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS BUDGET - Mr. Fulghum told the Council that this reading is to keep the line with the scheduled passage of the budget. Mr. Fulghum said that the numbers reflect the administration's recommendations and the numbers are subject to change. Mr. Fulghum said the School District's budget is not included. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st reading of the ordinance to approve and adopt the 2013-2014 Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RESOLUTIONS – There were no resolutions

OLD BUSINESS – There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – **Councilman Sauls** reported on the activities of the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce and the Boys and Girls Club fundraiser at Turkey Hill Plantation. Councilman Sauls said he visited the Firetower Road Fire Station that is under construction and he reported that the building is very nice and that this was a step forward for rural fire protection. **Vice Chairwoman Clark** reported that she attended the Southern Regional Alliance Meeting, the United Way Luncheon, Jasper on the Move, the Annual Meeting at LCOG, the Delegation Meeting, the Blue Heron Nature Center Breakfast, and she visited the Charter School. Chairman Etheridge thanked Hardeeville for hosting the Council Meeting and said the Council would like to have 3 more meetings in Hardeeville this year. **Chairman Etheridge** said the Council has been working on the budget and they are trying to come up with a budget that everyone can live with. Chairman Etheridge announced that the Democratic Party was hosting a fish fry on Saturday and the tickets were \$10.00. **Councilman Drayton** said he hoped to see everyone at the future meetings of County Council and if they would like a copy of the agenda to contact the Clerk to Council. **Councilman Johnson** reported that there was no action at the intergovernmental meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Mr. Fulghum said that the Farmers’ Market will open in May and they will be moving the market to downtown Ridgeland. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that the new Farmers’ Market manager is John Smith and Shirley Dawson will fill in as needed. Mr. Fulghum discussed the stockpile of dirt from digging the pond at CRBIP and that the fill dirt has value. Mr. Fulghum asked the Council to approve having Thomas and Hutton evaluate the fill dirt and put it out to bid. Mr. Fulghum asked the Council to approve up to \$3,500 for this service. Mr. Fulghum said that it would go out for bid and the high bidder would get the fill dirt and be given an amount of time to remove it. Councilman Sauls motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve up to \$3,500 for Thomas and Hutton for a professional service proposal regarding the fill dirt at CRBIP. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC – PER ORDINANCE 08-17 ANY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY MAY SIGN TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO COUNTY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES (TOTAL PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 MINUTES) - Chairman Etheridge opened the floor to the public. **Dr. Richie Reid** thanked the Council for recognizing the needs in Tarboro; she also discussed her concerns about the School District budget and she asked the Council to approve the School Boards budget request as it was presented. **Mayor Bronco Bostick** – thanked the Council for holding the meeting in Hardeeville and said he hoped that this would continue in the future. Mayor Bostick also thanked the Council for mentioning the Bike Ride on June 1, 2013 that he is hosting. **Cynthia Rubino** – Ms. Rubino thanked the Council for their support of the Tarboro project presented by Ms. O’Bannon. Ms. Rubino said she also supported the School District budget request. **Freddy Brantley** told the Council that they wanted it to be an ongoing request to improve the quality of life for the people and the children. Mr. Brantley told the Council that they needed to support the schools.

ADJOURN - Adjourn – Vice- Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Henry Etheridge
Chairman