



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

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**JUNE 17, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Executive Session Officials Present:** Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

**Staff Present:** Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Atty. Marvin Jones, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, 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-** Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Councilman Sauls motioned and Councilman Johnson 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 – Waste Management; Jasper Ocean Terminal; the Settings at MacKay Point; discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body – Project Hollywood; Project Package; 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 client’s records that are submitted for use at the hearing – personnel matters – review of workers comp cases; exit interview summary; volunteers. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Chairman Etheridge announced that no action was necessary as a result of executive session.

## **7:00 P.M.**

**Officials Present:** Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

**Staff Present:** Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Atty. Marvin Jones, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Planning Director LeNolon Edge, Director of Engineering Services Dale, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley,

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 Etheridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Chairman Etheridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation**- Vice Chairwoman Clark gave the invocation.

**Approval of the Agenda** – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Proclamations And Presentations - Chairman Etheridge – Proclamation Recognizing Thomas Ezekiel Miller** – Chairman Etheridge read the proclamation and presented it to Dr. Richie Reed.  
**Chairman Etheridge – Proclamation Relating to Knowles Island Fishing Pier** – Chairman Etheridge read the proclamation and explained that it would be presented to several people at the dedication of the pier on June 18, 2013; Chairman Etheridge invited the public to attend.

### **Ordinances**

**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.** –Mr. Fulghum explained that this ordinance is for a non-exclusive licenses agreement for the Club to fly model airplanes at the park. Chairman Etheridge opened the public hearing, there were no comments; Chairman Etheridge closed the public hearing. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls 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.

**Andrew Fulghum – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the 2013-2014 Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget** – Mr. Fulghum told the Council that the budget was balanced and it reflected a 1mil cut for the County, a 6 mils cut for the School District and \$5.00 deduction to the road maintenance fee. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve and adopt the amended 2013-2014 Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget reflecting 1 mil cut to the County, a 6 mil cut to the School District, and a \$5.00 reduction to the road maintenance fee. The motion carried with Chairman Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Clark, Councilman Sauls and

Councilman Johnson voting for; Councilman Drayton voted against. Councilman Drayton said there were 3 or 4 options for the budget provided by the administration and he could not support the budget due to what was done to the School Board's budget. Councilman Drayton said the Council is responsible for levying taxes for the School District; the Council is not responsible to adjust their budget. Councilman Drayton said the School Board is elected just like County Council and the Council is overstepping its authority. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that Councilman Drayton was correct that the Council cannot tell the School Board how to spend their money, but the Council's job is to be sure they are giving the schools enough money to operate the schools. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that after reviewing the School District's budget and seeing \$108,000 in a slush fund that they can do whatever they want with it and have \$2,800,000 in outsourcing services, employee vendors and they are over budget. Vice Chairwoman Clark said why not state where the money is going and who is being paid and what they are being paid for; Vice Chairwoman Clark said everything with the School Board is so secretive. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she served on the School Board and she knows what happens. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the taxes in Jasper County are too high and the taxes are running people and businesses off. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the people are asking for improvement in the schools and the citizens should not have to pay taxes to replenish the School Boards fund balance. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that the fund balance is for emergencies. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the School District had \$5,000,000-\$6,000,000 to hire qualified teachers and a report from the State said that 50% of the teachers in Jasper County School District are not qualified. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the School District needs to tell the people the truth and that everything has been cut except for the administration. Councilman Drayton said the Council's function was to levy taxes to fund the schools not to move the School District money around. Councilman Drayton said the School Board and the Superintendent know what they need and he said the Council needed to levy enough mills to fund the School District. Councilman Drayton said that there is nothing that gives the Council the authority to change the budget of the School District and that it was almost like a personal vendetta and he did not vote for this budget because the Council did not honor the School Boards requested budget.

**Lenolon Edge – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer a Property Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 063-41-02-050 Located at 3949 Bees Creek Road from the Residential Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map-** Mr. Edge said that there have not been any changes since the first reading and the planning commission recommended approval. Chairman Etheridge opened the floor for public comments; there were no comments; Chairman Etheridge closed the floor for public comments. Mr. Edge said a public hearing will be scheduled for the July 15, 2013 meeting. Councilman Sauls motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer a Property Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 063-41-02-050 Located at 3949 Bees Creek Road from the Residential Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Resolutions - Andrew Fulghum – Resolution Regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement between Jasper County, the City of Hardeeville and the State Infrastructure Agreement –** Mr. Fulghum explained

that the resolution was for the benefit of Riverport. Mr. Blatchley told the Council that the Statford Group agreed to secure 100% of the match. Mr. Blatchely said that when the infrastructure funds become available, Statford will complete the construction wherever it is at that time to the south end of the parkway. Mr. Blatchely said that the Statford group agreed to hold Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville harmless on any potential liability. It was explained that the grant covers exit 3 and the north end of the parkway and Statford would cover the southern end from Hwy. 17 to exit 3. Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to pass the Resolution Regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement between Jasper County, the City of Hardeeville and the State Infrastructure Agreement. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

#### **Old Business – None**

**New Business - Ronnie Malphrus- Approval of Auditing Contract** – Mr. Malphrus explained that they received 2 bids and asked the Council to approve the bid from Baird. Mr. Malphrus said the lower bid was from Newsome, but they did not have the experience that Baird did and Mr. Malphrus said that the finance department felt the Baird has done a good job. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the auditing contract from Baird for 3 years. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Committee Reports** – Councilman Sauls informed the public of the upcoming events of the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Sauls said that he met with an economic development prospect and an announcement may be forthcoming. Councilman Sauls said he has also been working with Daniel Defense to bring vendors into the County. Vice Chairwoman Clark discussed the various meetings she attended and that she met with the Chairman and the Administrator concerning businesses in the County. Chairman Etheridge said that he met with representatives from Beaufort County, Councilman Drayton and the Administrator concerning the Oakhill Landfill. Chairman Etheridge discussed the ribbon cutting at Camp Lake Jasper and he invited the public to the Knowles Island Pier Ribbon Cutting.

**Administrator’s Report** – Mr. Fulghum told the Council that he and Attorney Jones met with the Stratford Group and worked on getting funding. Mr. Fulghum said he had copies of the budget ready for the public if they wanted a copy. Mr. Fulghum reported that he met with the AGAPE LIFE and they are looking for community block grant funding to increase the sewer capacity. Mr. Fulghum said the new Health Dept. building is in the design stage and it is going very well. Mr. Fulghum said it should be ready to go out to bid by the beginning of September and it should be up and operating by Spring. Mr. Fulghum said the School District requested using the Grays Senior Center for the students’ summer lunch program. Councilman Johnson motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve use of the Grays Senior Center by the School District for the students’ summer lunch program. 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. **Karen Wickes** introduced Mr. Dixon, SC Charter Schools Teacher of the Year. **Mr. Dixon** reviewed his master project based learning system and said great things

are happening at the Royal Live Oaks Academy Charter School. Dr. McBrayer thanked the Council for moving as a team and making smart decisions. Dr. McBrayer also discussed the Charter Schools. **Milton Woods** thanked the Council for the way they addressed budget issues and working at bringing the citizens together. Mr. Woods said that the Council was running the County like a business. Being no further comments, Chairman Etheridge closed the floor to the public.

**Return to Executive Session** –Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to return to 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 – Waste Management; Jasper Ocean Terminal; the Settings at MacKay Point; discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body – Project Hollywood; Project Package. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Return to Open Session** – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

No action taken as a result of executive session.

**Adjourn** – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk to Council

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Henry Etheridge  
Chairman

