



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HARDEEVILLE TOWN HALL
MARCH 2, 2015**

MINUTES

5:00 p.m.

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

Officials Absent: Councilman Theodus Drayton

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Attorney Marvin Jones, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, and Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Director of Engineering Services, Chief Building Inspector Lennie Martelli, :Planning Director LeNolon Edge, Planning and Zoning Coordinator Lisa Lamb

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 workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.

Workshop – Consolidated Shelter Project- Mr. Daley discussed a grant for the purpose of developing a consolidated shelter that would house up to 5,000 people, 198 special medical needs patients and 2,000 pets. Mr. Daley informed the Council that the shelter would be located at the Ridgeland/Hardeeville High School Complex and that he has been working closely with Mr. Owens from the JCSD. Mr. Daley said the shelter would be available for all types of disasters and they were estimating 1,400 people would be from Jasper County and 4,800 people would be from Beaufort County. Mr. Daley said they were working on a cost analysis and the grant is in the amount of \$1,900,000. Mr. Daley said they would partner with surrounding counties with Beaufort County being the biggest partner. Mr. Daley said a massive generator and waste water revitalization were needed. Mr. Daley told the Council that a 25% match was required and he was working with the administrator to find the funds. Mr. Daley said this was a great opportunity for the County and Jasper County would be part of something that has never been done before the South Carolina. Representatives from South Carolina Emergency Management provided financial information and statistics. Councilman Johnson asked if anyone spoke to the school board about this and Mr. Daley said Mr. Owens said he spoke with the superintendent, but he was not sure if Mr. Owens spoke with the school board, but FEMA would want it documented that the school is on board. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if any funding would be coming from the other Counties. Mr. Daley said they would be working on that. Councilman Etheridge asked who would pay for the operation of the shelter and Mr.

Daley said the Red Cross and in a hurricane scenario the SCDSS goes to the shelters, and they work under Red Cross leadership. Chairwoman Clark said this is something that is greatly needed and the County has been blessed that it has not be hit by a disaster, but the County needed to be prepared. Mr. Fulghum said he would be asking for a commitment letter during the meeting. Councilman Johnson discussed the possibility of prorating costs for others who will be using the facility.

The workshop adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order – Chairwoman Clark called the meeting or order at 5:45 p.m.

Executive Session – Vice Chairman Sauls move and Councilman Etheridge 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 – Personnel Matters –County Attorney and 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 – Settings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session – Councilman Etheridge moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to return to open session.

Pledge of Allegiance –Chairwoman Clark 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 amend the agenda to move the presentation to Ms. Graham to the beginning of the presentations and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes –02/02/2015 – Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the 02/02/2015 Council meeting minutes. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamation Presentation to Nelvin Graham – The Council presented Captain Nelvin Graham a plaque in appreciation of her service to the Levy Volunteer Fire Department. Captain Graham was one of the first women in the County to become a certified fire fighter. She has been serving the Levy Fire Department since 1989. The Council thanked Captain Graham for her years of service and devotion to the Levy Volunteer Fire Department.

Chairwoman Clark leaves the meeting at this time and Vice Chairman Sauls chairs the meeting.

Jasper Community Fund Award Presentations –Sheree Darien presented a check for \$5,000 to the Royal Live Oaks Academy Charter School and a check for \$2,943 to the Boys and Girls Club. The money is to be used to enhance reading programs.

Lillian Mikell – Smoke Free County Ordinance – Ms. Mikell provided a Power Point presentation on the advantages of a smoke free environment and the hazards of second hand smoke. Ms. Mikell asked the Council to consider passing an ordinance to make Jasper County a smoke free county.

Proclamation March Disability Awareness Month – Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that March be Disability Awareness Month in Jasper County. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Etheridge discussed the work and services provided by the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs.

Ed Saxon – BJWSA Update – Mr. Saxon provided the Council with information regarding the past projects and he shared their vision for the future. Mr. Saxon informed the Council that from 2005 to 2009 BJWSA invested \$52,500,000 in Jasper County and from 2009-2014 another \$55,200,000 was invested. Mr. Saxon said they plan to focus on critical planning areas within the County. Mr. Saxon said their new Mission Statement is “Inspire Trust and Enhance Public Health”. Mr. Saxon shared a video on the value of water.

Ordinances

LeNolon Edge – Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-021 located off of Green Acres Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – Mr. Edge presented an ordinance and Vice Chairman Sauls opened the Public Hearing. **Tom Morgan** said that he was a neighboring property owner and he had no objections to the zoning change. **Mr. Riley** commented that his sister owned the property and could not be present. Vice Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 3rd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-021 located off of Green Acres Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Lisa Lamb- Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and desirable amendments to the Jasper County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance adopted October 15, 2007- Ms. Lamb explained that the current ordinance needed to be amend to be compliant and be able to participate in FEMA programs. Ms. Lamb added that the ordinance also repeals chapter 12 /12-1 thru 12-83. Vice Chairman Sauls opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Vice Chairman Sauls closed the public hearing. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that this is the Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and desirable amendments to the Jasper County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance adopted October 15, 2007. 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 property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 052-00-10-038 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map- Councilman Johnson asked what was the advantage to this zoning change and Mr. Edge responded that the applicant felt that this was a better use for the property and the adjacent properties are zoned residential. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge 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 property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 052-00-10-038 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. 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 property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 052-00-10-035 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Rural Preservation Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – Edge explained that this property is owned by the same people as the previous ordinance and they wanted the zoning changed to conform with surrounding properties. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge 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 property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 052-00-10-035 located on Grays Highway from the Community Commercial Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. 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 property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-022 located off of Green Acres Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – Mr. Edge explained that his property was owned by Mr. Larry Riley and his property is the last piece of property that is not commercial in that area. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be 1st Reading of the Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 080-00-03-022 located off of Green Acres

Road from the Residential Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Lennie Martelli – 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to adopt a property maintenance ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Jasper County; to provide definitions; to provide specific property maintenance standards; to provide administration by the Jasper County Development Services Representative; to provide penalties for violations; to provide for emergency measures; to provide for demolition in certain circumstances; to provide a process for appeal; and to provide an effective date – Mr. Martelli explained that the ordinance was presented to Council last month and he received a lot of input from Councilman Johnson. Mr. Martelli said he worked with Attorney Jones regarding abandoned structures and vehicles. Mr. Martelli asked the Council to read the ordinance and contact him if they had any questions. Councilman Johnson said he appreciated Mr. Martelli's work and that he understands that small bites are needed to move forward. Councilman Etheridge said that nothing is to be grandfathered. Mr. Martelli said that at the time of inspection of the structure, if it is unsafe it will be cited. Mr. Martelli added that after the ordinance is passed everything will fall under this ordinance. Mr. Martelli said the DSR has the right to make the decisions even without complaints for the neighbors. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to adopt a property maintenance ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Jasper County; to provide definitions; to provide specific property maintenance standards; to provide administration by the Jasper County Development Services Representative; to provide penalties for violations; to provide for emergency measures; to provide for demolition in certain circumstances; to provide a process for appeal; and to provide an effective date. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus -1st reading of an ordinance authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an industrial building; providing for conveyance of real property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation for the location of an industrial building; and other matters relating thereto (by title only) – Mr. Malphrus explained that originally a resolution was requested, but since property is changing hands it must be done by ordinance. Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 1st reading of an ordinance authorizing St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation to accept a loan from South Carolina Public Service Authority for the purpose of financing an industrial building; providing for conveyance of real property to St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation for the location of an industrial building; and other matters relating thereto (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution to authorize (1) the County Administrator of Jasper County, South Carolina to engage in negotiations with business and industry regarding certain economic development incentives in connection with the potential establishment in the

County for a mixed-use property known as Riverport; and (2) other matters relating thereto – Mr. Fulghum explained that this is for the Stratford properties at Riverport and it authorizes the Administrator to establish or reduce fees, but they would have to come back to County Council for final approval. Mr. Fulghum said this has been reviewed by Attorney Sam Howell. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to pass the resolution to authorize (1) the County Administrator of Jasper County, South Carolina to engage in negotiations with business and industry regarding certain economic development incentives in connection with the potential establishment in the County for a mixed-use property known as Riverport; and (2) other matters relating thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business – There was no old business.

New Business

Andrew Fulghum – CDBG Priorities - Mr. Fulghum listed the CDBG Priorities as Economic Development, Public Infrastructure, Community Facilities and Activities to Support Affordable Housing. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the CDBG Priorities as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Dale Terry – Approval of bids for containers – Mr. Terry presents bids for container and compactor and asked the Council to approve the low bid from Baker Waste in the amount of \$46,415.25. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the low bid from Baker Waste in the amount of \$46,415.25. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Appointments of members to the Jasper County Grievance Committee – Mr. Fulghum presented the Council with a list of employees to serve on the JC Grievance Committee. Mr. Fulghum asked that the names not be discussed as the employees were not notified. He provided names for 5 members and 2 alternates. The individuals came from different departments. Mr. Fulghum said that staggered terms would be established. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the names submitted and for the Administrator to establish staggered terms. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Wilbur Daley – Consideration of required commitment of grant award for the Consolidated Shelter Project – Mr. Daley said this was a grant opportunity for Jasper County to be able to house more people during a disaster. Mr. Daley said the letter he was requesting was a commitment for the grant match and he wanted the Council to know that he would be looking into other revenue sources to cover the match. Mr. Daley said the match is approximately \$300,000. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to provide a letter of commitment and for Mr. Daley to apply for the grant. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Johnson explained that a workshop was

held prior to the meeting regarding the grant. Councilman Etheridge added that there will also be an area for pets at the shelter.

Committee Reports – Councilman Johnson reported that he attended a seminar on heirs’ property and he felt a lot of people benefited from the seminar. Councilman Johnson said he attended the joint meeting with the municipalities. **Councilman Etheridge** said he attended the joint meeting and he felt it was very productive. Councilman Etheridge said the combining of services was discussed, as well as, economic development. Councilman Etheridge discussed the SCAC mid-year conference. **Vice Chairman Sauls** reported on the State of the County Breakfast and provided information regarding the upcoming events in Jasper County.

Administrator’s Report – Mr. Fulghum reported that the CDBG Grants for infrastructure is coming up. Mr. Fulghum discussed the Hardeeville Industrial Park drainage situation that has been going on for 7 years and he told the Council that the Dept. of Commerce is to release restrictions and gave a check to be used to improve the drainage at the Hardeeville Industrial Park.

Mr. Edge said at the 2015 Census Day, Savannah was chosen to set the tone for the 2020 census.

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. – There were no public comments.

Adjourn – Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman

