



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

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JUNE 3, 2013

MINUTES

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 Budget Workshop/Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Budget Discussion and Action- Mr. Fulghum said that he received a request from the Delegation Office which reflected a \$1,100 increase bringing the total to \$57,200. Mr. Fulghum said the changes were made that the Council requested and the budget currently included a 5 mil decrease for the school district, a 1 mil decrease for the County and a \$5 deduction to the road maintenance fee. Councilman Drayton asked about the fund balance request of \$569,200 for the School Board, Mr. Fulghum said that the County cannot tell the School District how to use the funds that are in their budget. Mr. Fulghum said that full funding for the solicitor and public defender was included in the budget being presented. Councilman Drayton asked about the reduction of 5 mils to school budget, Mr. Fulghum said the Council cannot tell the School District how to use the funds, they can use it how they want. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she was against funding the School Board any money to replace their fund balance and that the School Board needed to be more accountable. Vice Chairwoman Clark said purchased services, dues and fees and travel is where money is hidden and the School Board needs to make cuts just like the County and they are asking the taxpayers to replenish their fund balance to do whatever they want to do with the money. Vice Chairwoman Clark discussed the raises given in December and that amount was almost equal to the amount taken from the School District's fund balance. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the School Board has spent money recklessly and she would like to cut their budget by 6 mils. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the School Board's budget includes \$15,000 for travel for the Superintendent and \$5,000, listed as other, which the Superintendent can do whatever she wants with those funds. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the taxpayers deserve better and the children need to be educated. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the School Board needed to do like the Council and they need to look for ways to save money. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she felt at least 6 mils should be cut from the School Districts budget. Councilman Sauls asked about the County's fund balance and Mr. Fulghum said it is about 25% and Chairman Etheridge said that when he came on Council, everyone was asked to cut expenses and tighten their belts and the people needed to make cuts because the County's fund balance decreased by \$4,000,000 due to spending by the previous councils. Chairman Etheridge said mils were never added

and taxpayers were never asked to pay to build the fund balance. Chairman Etheridge said he did not think the School District ever tightened its belts, controlled spending or made cuts. Chairman Etheridge said he wanted the School District to be the best that it can be, but it needs to be more accountable and make cuts instead of asking the taxpayers to pay more taxes to replace their fund balance. Chairman Etheridge said he did not think cutting 5 mils from the School District Budget will hurt the schools. Chairman Etheridge said he did not think the cuts to the County budget would hurt the services and the citizens' taxes would be lowered. Vice Chairwoman Clark said there were about 8 teachers who received raises in December and those teacher's raises totaled about \$8,000 and the rest of the raises went to non-teaching positions. Mr. Fulghum reminded the Council that they had discussed another workshop with the School District and it was the consensus of the Council that another workshop with the School District was not needed. Chairman Etheridge asked that Mr. West provide the Council with a copy of the School District budget with footnotes relating to the requested funds. Mr. Fulghum discussed the Sheriff's Department current budget and that it will make it this year, but only \$10,000 is budgeted for overtime for the coming year. Mr. Malphrus said that the Sheriff agreed to reimburse the County for overtime rather than cut employees. Mr. Malphrus said the Sheriff no longer has the fund he was using for the reimbursement. Mr. Malphrus said there is about a \$50,000 difference for this year. Mr. Malphrus said the budget proposed \$20,000 for the Sheriff's overtime budget. Chairman Etheridge said the Sheriff was also supposed to pay back the \$240,000 for the vehicles. Mr. Fulghum said the Sheriff's Dept. is about \$315,000 short regarding the repayment of overtime and the new vehicles. Mr. Malphrus said he will have to see how this year's budget goes and where he can get the money to cover those shortages. The Council discussed funding the Public Defender's Office and the Solicitor's Office as they requested. Councilman Drayton asked if the Sheriff's Department was funded as requested and Mr. Malphrus said it was not. Mr. Malphrus said there were no new cars in this year's budget, but he was concerned about the \$50,000 for overtime. Councilman Sauls said he was concerned about the Sheriff's request and suggested adding the \$50,000 to the Sheriff's budget and partially fund the solicitor's request. Councilman Johnson asked how much the \$5.00 off the road maintenance fee would cost the County and Mr. Fulghum said about \$80,000. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she did not think the \$5.00 cut should be changed. Councilman Johnson asked if the Sheriff's Dept. was unique that it has that much overtime. Mr. Malphrus said he was working on 12 hour shifts and there was already a certain amount of overtime built in. Mr. Malphrus said it was more cost effective to pay the overtime than to hire more people. Mr. Malphrus said the deputy's salary is based on a 43 hour week and anything over 43 hours in one week is overtime. Mr. Malphrus said he was working on 4 twelve hour shifts one week and 3 twelve hour shifts the following week and there would not be any overtime paid. Mr. Malphrus said they cannot predict emergencies, but the Sheriff does know about the shifts.

There was no input from the public.

Adjourn – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to adjourn the budget workshop.

Dinner Break - 6:00 P.M.

Executive Session – Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Sauls 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; Auditing Services. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

There was no action 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 Terry

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 Drayton seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – 04/29/2013, 05/20/2013 – Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 4/29/2013 and 5/20/2013. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Proclamations and Presentations- Dale Terry – Recognition of Jeff Crosby and Hance Stanley – Mr. Terry explained that they were invited to Beaufort County to the Backhoe Rodeo and Jeff Crosby finished in 1st place and Mr. Hance Stanley finished in 3rd place.

Rev. Samuel Gregory – Citizen Concerns- Rev. Gregory, representing the newly formed Board of Ministers Alliance, explained that the ministers were concerned about the School District's budget and they were requesting that the budget be approved as presented. Rev. Gregory said the children needed the protection of law enforcement in the schools. Rev. Gregory said that law enforcement was needed

in all the schools across America to protect the students and staff. Rev. Gregory said people may be looking for jobs if the School District's budget is cut more than 2 mils. Rev. Gregory said the people are concerned that at a meeting in Hardeeville the Superintendent was not addressed properly and how others were addressed. Chairman Etheridge reminded Rev. Gregory that he was to talk about the concerns of the citizens, not about how he felt about the Chairman. Rev. Gregory said the Chairman does not pass the budget himself and the County Council has had meetings without the public being notified and he can get facts on that. Councilman Johnson asked Rev. Gregory to share those facts. Rev. Gregory said everyone looks at two things in the County and they are money and saving money by reducing the budget to help the citizens of Jasper County. Rev. Gregory said the citizens were not aware of the \$20,000,000 spent to build this Government Building and renovation of the Courthouse and that the taxes will be high for the next 30 years because of it. Rev. Gregory said he would like to see the school's budget passed as it is presented so the children of Jasper County can continue to get a good education. Rev. Gregory said that in the end, it is the voters of Jasper County that will have the last say and they will do what they have to do at the polls. Rev. Gregory said the Ministers Alliance Board asks that the school budget not be reduced.

Ordinances

Andrew Fulghum –2nd 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 the current agreement is due to expire and requested that the Council pass the ordinance that would renew the license agreement for 3 years. Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 2nd 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 – 2nd Reading and Public Hearing of the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the 2013-2014 Jasper County Capital and Operations Budget – Mr. Fulghum reviewed those changes to the budget. Chairman Etheridge opened the public hearing. **Denise Davidson** applauded the Council for the work they were doing and presented ideas to reduce the budget more. Ms. Davidson said the School District has assets wasting away that could be sold to generate funds and reduce the burden on the citizens. **Barbara Bartoldus** said that she did not think the grant matching funds would be enough to cover the match for the new health dept. building which will require more than \$100,000. Mr. Malphrus said the County's match for that building is \$50,000 and that money is in another fund. Ms. Bartoldus questioned why the HR department receives funding for new computer equipment every year and the other departments do not. Mr. Malphrus said the funds were to finish the upgrade the software. Ms. Bartoldus asked about the Sheriff's name on the County vehicles and that she felt it should be paid for by the Sheriff since it is a political statement. There were no additional comments. Chairman Etheridge closed the public hearing. Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 2nd Reading and Public Hearing 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.

LeNolon Edge – 1st 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 explained that the owners were requesting a zoning change so that they can establish a food service facility. Councilman Sauls asked if it was going to be a restaurant and Mr. Edge responded that it was. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if the public has been notified. Mr. Edge responded that they have been notified and property has been posted. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion that this be the 1st 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 - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of A-Tax Committee Recommendation- Mr. Malphrus presented the recommendations. Councilman Sauls asked that the Catfish Festival receive the same amount of funding as the Gopher Hill Festival. Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to provide the following A- tax funds \$17,000 to the Chamber of Commerce, \$22,000 to the Point South Merchants, \$4,308 to Lowcountry Tourism, \$1,000 to the Gopher Hill Festival and \$1,000 to the Catfish Festival. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Wilbur Daley – Wilbur Daley – Approval of Bids for Communication Upgrade – Mr. Daley requested approval of bid from Century Link in the amount of \$241,976.92 to upgrade the communication system. Mr. Malphrus said there was about \$400,000 in the account from the 911 surcharge on the phone bills. Councilman Johnson motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the bid from Century Link in the amount of \$241,976.92 to upgrade the communication system and it is to be paid for from the 911 surcharge funds. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Committee Reports – The Council members discussed the various meetings they attended and Councilman Sauls announced the events being held by the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Etheridge invited the public to attend the ribbon cutting for the Knowles Island Fishing pier.

Administrator's Report- Mr. Fulghum announced that the Farmer's Market has moved to downtown Ridgeland. Mr. Fulghum asked Mr. Edge to review the countywide pick-up that was planned for June 20-24, 2013. Mr. Edge told the people they needed to contact Delia Caskey to schedule the pickup.

Open Floor to the Public – Per Ordinance 08-17 Any Citizen of the County May Sign Up 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 Reed** asked the Council to pass a proclamation

honoring Thomas Ezekiel founder of SC State University. Being no other comments, Chairman Etheridge closed the floor to the public.

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