



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
HARDEEVILLE TOWN HALL
MAY 18, 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, Attorney Marvin Jones, 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

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

MR. STRAWN – AHJ- Mr. Strawn requested a 5% increase in salaries for the people working at the libraries and he explained the services offered and the increase in people using libraries. Mr. Strawn said he would also like to make the part-time employees at the Hardeeville Library full-time. Mr. Strawn said they were also looking to update Pratt Library and increase the material allotment. Mr. VonStienburg, a member of the Library Board, discussed the increased usage of the libraries. Mr. VonStienburg also discussed the increased usage of the computers at the libraries and a need to provide an increase in salary for the employees. Vice Chairman Sauls asked what the education requirements for the full-time employees were. Mr. Strawn said they are high school graduates. Mr. Strawn said in the future he hoped to hire someone with a library degree. Vice Chairman Sauls asked if the employees have background checks. Mr. Strawn responded that they planned on starting that. Vice Chairman Sauls said he felt the back ground checks needed to be done. Councilman Etheridge said the State doesn't give the libraries enough money and the State passes the expenses on to the Counties. Councilman Etheridge asked what was the total budget for the three libraries and the budget for the Jasper County Libraries. Mr. Strawn responded the total budget for the three Counties was \$870,000 and Jasper County's portion was \$159,000 plus \$75,000 in state aid. Councilman Etheridge asked about the status of the new library and Mr. Strawn said construction was to start this summer and it should take 10 months to complete. Aline Vargus, a student, explained how important the Hardeeville Library is to her. Chairwoman Clark commented that this Council has worked to make the new library possible. Chairwoman Clark said everyone who works for Jasper County deserves a raise and the Council is trying to do something to make that happen.

TCL- Mr. Wisner informed the Council that enrollment was up about 22 % and that 93% of the students go to work or onto a year college after completion of their studies at TCL. Mr. Wisner said that TCL offers double enrollment so high school students can take college level classes while still in high school. Mr. Wisner requested \$50,000.

NANCY MORGAN – HELPING HANDS CENTERS, INC. - Ms. Morgan explained that she runs a non-profit organization and she requested \$3,000. Ms. Morgan discussed the various programs offered by Helping Hands. Ms. Morgan said that they helped 754 people last year and they provide healthcare prevention testing and they have health monitoring centers. Ms. Morgan said they help people with urgent needs. Chairwoman Clark suggested that Ms. Morgan speak with the School District to see what the students need and help the seniors with applications.

TEDD MOYD – JCNU – Mr. Moyd provided the Council with an update of the services provided by JCNU. Mr. Moyd reported that stage 2 at Mercy Circle has been completed and they were working on having a farmers market in Hardeeville near Royal Live Oaks Charter School. Mr. Moyd said that JCNU would like to use the old Library as their corporate office. Mr. Moyd listed the mentoring locations and told the Council that the Builders Ball is looking for sponsors.

ELECTION COMMISSION – Mr. Arzillo said the board voted for pay increases for two of their employees. Chairwoman Clark said that no pay increases will be given until all the employees can receive an increase. Mr. Arzillo requested \$32,000 to cover the elections and told the Council that they will need to pay more poll workers. Mr. Arzillo requested \$16,000 for doorbells at each of the precincts for the handicapped to use, and the State has mandated that all precincts be compliant. Ms. Bostick added that the signs need to be sturdier and they would like to cover the costs to become compliant in this budget year. Ms. Bostick said that election expenses are more this year due to an extra election. Mr. Malphrus said that \$33,000 needed to be added to their budget. Councilman Etheridge asked what the County received from the State for the elections and Ms. Bostick said that it varies per election. Mr. Arzillo said a person was needed at each precinct to lookout for curbside voters. Chairwoman Clark said they need to check into the price of the sign and that some things will need to be cut, but the Commission will be able to do what is needed.

Executive Session – Council Conference Room

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 Appointments, Administrator; 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 – Prospect Update and Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements

and propose 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 – TCL, IPW, P. Frasier, G. Hood, L. Rawling, A. Cannick vs. School Board, Riverport, Ridgeland Claude Dean Airport – Vice Chairman Sauls moved 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 – Board Appointments, Administrator 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 – Prospect Update 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 – TCL, IPW, P. Frasier, G. Hood, L. Rawling, A. Cannick vs. School Board, Riverport, Ridgeland Claude Dean Airport. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Chairwoman Clark asked for any motions as a result of executive session. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to appoint Gregory Padgett to the Planning Commission. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Invocation- Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda – Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes – 04/20/2015 – Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 04/20/2015. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Presentation and Proclamations – Chairwoman Clark presented Vice Chairman Sauls with his certificate of completion from the SC Economic Development Institute.

Ordinances

LeNolon Edge – Public Hearing and 2nd 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 Strobbhart Road and Lowcountry Drive from the Rural Preservation Zone to the General Commercial Zone – Mr. Edge presented the ordinance to rezone 29.76 acres on Strobbhart Road. Mr. Edge said that the Planning Commission voted 2 for and 2 against the zoning change. Councilman Etheridge said he was concerned about getting to the property from Strobbhart Road and wanted the main entrance to be off of Hwy. 462. Mr. Edge said that it could go however the Council desired. Councilman Etheridge said that SCDOT would also approve the entrance. Vice Chairman Sauls agreed with Councilman Etheridge’s recommendation that the main entrance should come off of Hwy. 462. Chairwoman Clark opened the public hearing. **Priscilla Frasier** said there was too much traffic on Strobbhart Road and the property was rezoned before and now they are rezoning it again. Ms. Frasier said they should have to buy out the homeowners and too many people have died due to everything that goes on and a study needed to be done concerning the traffic. Ms. Frasier said that the Cleland Trucks run all day long. Ms. Frasier said the residents were there before anything else and the Council put this business there and she said the County needs to buy out the residents. Ms. Frasier added that there is junk, garbage and cement everywhere creating an eyesore. Mr. **Daugein** said he agreed with Ms. Frasier and he would like the property to remain rural preservation. **Mr. Gadsen** said he was against the rezoning. Mr. Edge said that anything that is allowed in General Commercial could be a potential use. Councilman Drayton said he felt a traffic study should be done prior to the final reading. Mr. Edge said every use is different and the number of trips would be different for each use. Mr. Edge said that you do not do a traffic study for rezoning. Mr. Edge said this is a staff driven process if the property is rezoned and it will need to meet the requirements. Mr. Tedder said the ordinance is for zoning change and limitations cannot be put on it, conditions can be added during the development phase. Mr. Tedder said there are many constraints on a development permit that require SCDOT, the Planning Commission and DHEC approval. Chairwoman Clark closed the public hearing. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the zoning request. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Marvin Jones – Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to realign the four Jasper County Townships and to adopt them as residence districts for the election of four members of Jasper County Council – Mr. Jones explained that the districts drawn represent 4 districts and 1 at large members for the County Council. Mr. Jones said the districts were redrawn to keep the population equal. Chairwoman Clark opened the public hearing. Arthur Murphy told the Council that he was speaking on behalf of the Democratic Party and they want single member districts. Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Murphy how the Democratic Party reached that conclusion. Councilman Johnson said he is a Democrat and he was never asked or voted. Mr. Murphy said if Councilman Johnson attended the Democratic Meetings that meets once a month he would know what was what. Mr. Murphy said he speaks for the Democrats of Jasper County. Chairwoman Clark said she is a Democrat and Mr. Murphy does not speak for her. Mr. Murphy said there are quite a few Democrats that he doesn’t speak for. Richie Reed expressed her views concerning the realignment. Ms. Reed said she was speaking for the Citizens of Jasper County. She said she was speaking for some of the citizens, not all the citizens. Ms.

Reed said the people she is representing want justice, equality and equalities and she did not feel the redistricting map reflected those wants. Ms. Reed said she did not feel adequate notification was given to the public and no public meetings were held. Ms. Reed said the NAACP feels that voting at large dilutes the minority's strength. Ms. Reed said the people want single member districts and this is 2015, not 1947 and Jasper County and Hampton County are the only two Counties in the State that have voting at large. Chairwoman Clark said that to change to single member districts it must go to referendum. Chairwoman Clark closed the public hearing. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of the Ordinance to realign the four Jasper County Townships and to adopt them as residence districts for the election of four members of Jasper County Council. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading **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 081-00-01-014 located on Lowcountry Drive from the Residential Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map** – Mr. Edge explained that the change in zoning request for 7.15 acres located on Lowcountry Dr. Mr. Edge said there is an industrial building located on the property that has been divided into condo like space. The applicant is requesting that the property be rezoned in its entirety and it is consistent to the zoning district requested. Mr. Edge said the Planning Commission recommends approval. 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 081-00-01-014 located on Lowcountry Drive from the Residential Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. Councilman Johnson commented that the State, Region and County spend an incredible amount of money to attract economic development and most of the time there is opposition. Councilman Johnson said that the reason the taxes are so high is due to the tax base and businesses needed to be added to that tax base. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Ronnie Malphrus – Approval of bids for fencing project at EMS- Mr. Malphrus presented the bids and requested that the Council approve the low bid from Graybar in the amount of \$12,983. Mr. Malphrus said the fenced area would be a staging area in the event of a disaster. Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the bid from Graybar in the amount of \$12,953 for the fencing project at EMS. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Committee Reports – Vice Chairman Sauls provided information on the upcoming events hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Vice Chairman Sauls explained that the redistricting map

was prepared in Columbia and the Council had no input regarding the redistricting. Vice Chairman Sauls announced that he completed the classes at the Institute of Economic Development. **Councilman Etheridge** discussed the retreat he attended with LCOG. Councilman Etheridge said they discussed crime, the need for improvement of the schools and they needed to help recruit new businesses to the area.

Administrator’s Report- Mr. Fulghum explained that his reports were for information only. He discussed litter control and that he was working with Ms. Malphrus. Councilman Etheridge and Vice Chairman Sauls said they wanted to participate.

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. Luvenia and Lee Youmans invited the Council and the public to a festival being held in Point South at Frampton House Grounds. Chairwoman Clark thanked the Youmans for the good work they are doing with the youth and the 4H program.

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

The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman