



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**April 7, 2014
MINUTES**

4:00 P.M.

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Vice Chairman L. Martin Sauls, IV

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Planning Director LeNolon Edge, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Planning and Zoning Coordinator Lisa Lamb

STAFF ABSENT: Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus

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.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Call to order – Chairwoman Clark called the workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

Council on Aging – Kathy Hightower – Ms. Hightower thanked the Council for their support and discussed the goals of the agency. Ms. Hightower told the Council that the cost of operating the program has increased. Ms. Hightower provided a slide presentation of the services provided by the agency and explained that for some people it is the only balanced meal they receive that day. Ms. Hightower explained that they have an offer of free seafood which they could provide to the home bound and the people who come to the center for weekend meals, but they need a freezer. Ms. Hightower said that two centers do not have ice machines and the board is holding fundraisers to try and purchase them. Ms. Hightower discussed the use of computers and said they would welcome used computers that the County no longer used. Ms. Hightower said that there is a waiting list for services and she invited the Council to ride with her drivers to visit the homebound. Ms. Hightower said that there is a great need to increase the number of homebound meals. Ms. Hightower said the Council on Aging is not just about meals, it is so much more. It gives the seniors an opportunity to meet, do crafts, sew quilts and socialize. Ms. Hightower said the Council on Aging is keeping seniors in their homes and out of nursing homes and hospitals. Ms. Hightower explained the importance of having their vehicles in good operating condition and the vehicles all have upward of 150,000 miles. Councilman Etheridge asked if they needed all the vehicles since Palmetto Breeze will be doing some of the things previously provided by the Council on Aging. Ms. Hightower said they were not asking for new vans, but to be able to make sure what they have is in good shape. Councilman Etheridge asked about the audit. Ms. Hightower said they did not have an audit done if 2012-2103 under the previous administration; however she was currently working on building that year with the auditor. Ms. Hightower said that the Agency is currently paying \$1,000 per month from their funds from LCOG to pay back the \$74,000 overbilled by the previous administration and currently the balance is \$51,375. Chairman Clark said

that Ms. Hightower reviewed her request and cut it and she appreciated her actions. Councilman Johnson thanked Ms. Hightower for the work that she is doing. Councilman Drayton said it is heartbreaking and wished they could do more. Ms. Hightower said they currently serve about 200 people, but there are a lot more citizens that need their help. Ms. Hightower said 16% of Jasper County residents are over the age of 60. Ms. Hightower requested \$130,000.

JARM – Carol Adams- Ms. Adams requested \$150,000 and to provide funds from the County’s building maintenance line to make necessary repairs at the shelter. Ms. Adams said that they provide shelter for 2,177 dogs and cats. Ms. Adams said their actual budget exceeds \$330,000 and the shelter is open to the public 6 days a week, but they take care of the animals 7 days a week. Ms. Adams said they provide low cost neutering to the animals. Ms. Adams said that by approving the budget request, they will be able to give their employees well deserved raises. Ms. Adams said the shelter is a County building and should be maintained with funds from the County’s building maintenance line in the budget. Councilman Etheridge asked what the restricted revenues were for and Ms. Adams said the individual who made the donation specified how the funds were to be used. Councilman Etheridge said that 414 animals were turned into the shelter by individuals. Ms. Adams said in today’s economy it is becoming more common. Ms. Adams said they have to hold the animals 5 days before offering them for adoption and they are neutered prior to adoption. Ms. Adams said the average stay is 90 days. Councilman Drayton asked if the animals are euthanized and Ms. Adams said the severely ill or aggressive animals are euthanized. Councilman Drayton asked if many animals were returned to their owners. Ms. Adams said 91 animals were returned and they will be micro chipped and given rabies shots. Ms. Adams discussed the various agencies they work with to get the animals adopted. Ms. Adams said she can only work with private shelters. Mr. Fulghum asked if they charge a fee if they keep an animal for an owner and Ms. Adams said they charge \$50 for the first day and \$10 each additional day. Ms. Adams reminded the Council that they were provided a contracted service. Chairwoman Clark thanked Ms. Adams for her presentation.

BJHCH – Roland Gardner – Mr. Gardner explained that he was requesting the same amount of funding as last year. Mr. Gardner said there has been an increase of 23% of individuals using the BJHCH. Mr. Gardner said the Hardeeville site was upgraded at a cost of \$750,000 and it is up and running. Mr. Gardner told the Council that two of the sites provided free pharmaceuticals if clients have no coverage. Mr. Gardner said they provided over 60,000 free prescriptions to Jasper County residents. Mr. Gardner said they still have the medical school and currently there are 7 students. Mr. Gardner thanked the Council for their support. Councilman Etheridge asked how many offices they had in Beaufort County and Hampton County. Mr. Gardner said they had 2 in Jasper County, 2 in Hampton County and 4 in Beaufort County. Councilman Drayton asked where classes were held for the medical students and Mr. Gardner replied they are held in the Ridgeland office and they also work with private physicians. Chairwoman Clark thanked Mr. Gardner for his presentation.

Well of Hope – Chris Barber- Mr. Barber said he was not requesting any funds; however, he wanted the Council to know about his new program working with a re-entry program. Mr. Barber said they would be located in the Siesta Hotel and it is a program for men to re-enter the job market and community. Mr. Barber said they house, feed, clothe and recycle men and they are designing an apprentice program. Mr. Barber said he is working with Mr. Benjamin and renting space from Keith Horton. Mr. Barber said there is a high crime rate in this area and he wants to target those people. Mr. Barber said they plan to operate a thrift store. Mr. Barber said they are working with the homeless and people who have lost their way. Councilman Etheridge asked how many are in this area. Mr. Barber said that Mr. Fogle is the director and they will have a full time staff and a volunteer staff of professional people. Chairwoman Clark said she visited similar places in Charleston.

Soil and Water Conservation District – Lyn Tindal – Ms. Tindal provided an information packet for the Council and explained that she was the part-time director for Soil and Water Conservation. Ms. Tindal added that from 2003-2009 the County funded a director for Keep Jasper Beautiful. Ms. Tindal requested that the Council consider funding that position at \$38,400. Councilman Drayton asked if they worked with the schools. Ms. Tindal said that she does education programs on conservation and soil for students for K5- 5th grade. Chairwoman Clark said the schools do not take advantage of the educational opportunities at Blue Heron. Ms. Tindal said currently the County funds Soil and Water \$11,000 per year. Ms. Tindal discussed the programs and activities she would like to incorporate in the coming year. Ms. Tindal said she initiated new programs this year which included the Festival of Trees. Ms. Tindal said a full time director is needed to handle the tourists and the educational classes. Councilman Etheridge asked if the Town of Ridgeland provided any funding. Ms. Tindal said they provide a small donation, but she planned to make a budget request from them too. Councilman Johnson asked if she kept a guest book and has she done a statistical analysis as to who uses the facilities. Ms. Tindal said that she does and she has a plan for the Keep Jasper Beautiful and for more educational opportunities.

Boys and Girls Club – Ann Walker- Ann Walker introduced the CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Lowcountry, Mr. Chris Craft. Mr. Craft told the Council that their support was critical to the Boys and Girls Club’s operations. Mr. Craft recognized Ms. Walker, Ms. Henderson and the staff at the Boys and Girls Club and provided a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Club. Ms. Walker said they were asking for more funding because they want to do more and have a fun safe place for the children. Ms. Walker discussed the 4 active gangs in Jasper County with members as young as 10 years old. Ms. Walker said her staff is a great group of caring adults and they want the children to choose to belong to the Club, not a gang. Chairwoman Clark commented she wished she could grant everyone their wish list and asked Mr. Fulghum to add up how many mills would be needed to add to cover what everyone was requesting.

Delegation Office – Ms. Pittman said she provided Mr. Malphrus with a letter of request and she provided signed copies to the Council. Ms. Pittman said she was embarrassed to read the request written by Rep. Herbkershman since it was about her and how the Delegation Office changed. Ms. Pittman thanked the Council for improving her office settings and the Mary Gordon Ellis Building is more suitable for the Delegation and now the meetings are broadcast. Ms. Pittman said she went from working for Senator Pinckney to working with 5 active delegation members. Ms. Pittman said there have been many changes like expanding the delegation meetings that include public comments. Ms. Pittman said she represents the Delegation at many meetings and travels to the State offices at their request. Ms. Pittman said she is the answer lady when she cannot reach her bosses. Ms. Pittman said she responds to issues and problems dealing with the FBI and the IRS coming to Jasper County and even though she has nothing to do with the public schools, people call her constantly. Ms. Pittman said she has responded to issues regarding Purrysburg Road and she is there to direct people as to where they can get help. Ms. Pittman said she has also received a lot of calls regarding Hwy. 336. Ms. Pittman said she has to know where to get help and how to get it there. Ms. Pittman discussed an issue about a gentlemen released from jail and she has been called about gang shootings. Ms. Pittman said she has very interesting days and can document who, when and what was informed. Ms. Pittman said she has responded to Sen. Pinckney’s and Sen. Davis’s marijuana bill which is about the oil which is helpful to epileptics. Ms. Pittman said she loves helping and explaining things, which is part of her job, and it is at no cost to the County. Ms. Pittman said she has been holding Senator for the Day for the past 8 years and this year’s winner has been her intern for the past 2 years. Chairwoman Clark asked about a line item budget and Ms. Pittman said that she does not have a line by line budget because the state law mandates their budget request must be funded. Chairwoman Clark said the delegation needs to work

with the County and they need to see what can be cut. Chairwoman Clark said she would meet with the Delegation Chairman about this and she is aware that their budget is mandated by the state. Ms. Pittman said there was no increase. Chairwoman Clark said it was increased last year. Ms. Pittman said a line by line is only presented to the Chairman and every County has a Delegation Office. Chairwoman Clark said the Delegation needed to work with the County and she realized Ms. Pittman had no authority to change the request.

Chairwoman Clark adjourned the budget workshop at 5:30 p.m.

5:30 P.M. – COUNCIL MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

Call to order- Executive Session – Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Etheridge moved 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 – Ridgeland Airport 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, Consulting Services and 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 – Magistrate’s Office. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

DINNER BREAK

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session. 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 the Minutes – Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 02/25/2014, 03/03/2014, 03/17/2014 meetings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

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

Presentations- Walonda Witter – April Autism Awareness Month – Ms. Witter was not present.

Ordinances

LeNolon Edge – 3rd 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 039-00-06-171 Located on Bush Clark Drive near Toomerville Loop from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map –Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 3rd 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 039-00-06-171 Located on Bush Clark Drive near Toomerville Loop from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge –3rd Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Height and Land Use Limitations for Airport Safety and within the Vicinity of the Ridgeland Airport and Providing for the Administration, Enforcement and Amendment Thereof - Mr. Edge said there were changes to the ordinance and the changes were to reformat to the existing ordinance. Mr. Edge said the numbering changed, not the text. Mr. Edge said the airport commission will also have to approve the changes and make recommendations. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to approve the changes and that the changes will be reviewed and recommendations made by the airport commission. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion that this be the 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Height and Land Use Limitations for Airport Safety and within the Vicinity of the Ridgeland Airport and providing for the Administration, Enforcement and Amendment Thereof. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Ronnie Malphrus – 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments Relating to the Acquisition, Construction, Equipping, Use, Leasing, and Renovation of Certain County Facilities; Approving the Issuance of St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation Instalment Purchase Revenue Bonds; Consenting to the Form of a Second Supplemental Trust Agreement Between St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation and the U.S. Bank National Association as Corporate Trustee; Authorising the Execution and Delivery of a First Amendatory Public Facilities Purchase and Occupancy Agreement Between Jasper County and St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation; and Other Matters Relating Thereto (by title only)- Mr. Fulghum requested the 1st Reading by title only to get the process started to convert the ban to permanent financing. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments Relating to the Acquisition, Construction, Equipping, Use, Leasing, and Renovation of Certain County Facilities; Approving the Issuance of St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation Instalment Purchase Revenue Bonds; Consenting to the Form of a Second Supplemental Trust Agreement Between St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation and the U.S. Bank National Association as Corporate Trustee; Authorising the Execution and Delivery of a First Amendatory Public Facilities Purchase and Occupancy Agreement Between Jasper County and St. Peters Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation; and Other Matters Relating Thereto (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

LeNolon Edge – 1st Reading of an Ordinance to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code (by title only) -Mr. Edge and Mr. Martelli explained that this ordinance will enable them to enforce the County Code and assist in enabling citizens to have derelict property adjacent to their property cleaned up. Mr. Edge said this ordinance is fairly specific as to the make-up of an appeals board and that it covers the concerns with rural county code property maintenance enforcement. Mr. Martelli said this is a start and the ordinance will be worked on and amended to fit the County. Councilman Johnson said they need to be sure that everyone is being treated the same. Mr. Martelli said the ordinance will give the parameters and provide fines. Councilman Etheridge said workshops were going to be needed

before the 3rd reading of this ordinance. Mr. Fulghum said there are many scenarios and it is hard to do things in a rural environment and workshops are needed. Chairwoman Clark said the public needs to be involved and the workshops will be advertised. Chairwoman Clark said the goal is to clean up the County. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code (by title only). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Resolutions

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution to Renew the Equal Opportunity Plan heretofore adopted by Resolution 05-02 - Mr. Fulghum read the resolution verbatim prior to adoption. Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to pass the Resolution to Renew the Equal Opportunity Plan heretofore adopted by Resolution 05-02. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution to Designate April, 2014 as Fair Housing Month in Jasper County, South Carolina – Mr. Fulghum read the resolution verbatim prior to adoption. Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to pass the Resolution to Designate April, 2014 as Fair Housing Month in Jasper County, South Carolina. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Andrew Fulghum – Resolution to adopt the Mission Statement for the Jasper County Council and Establish a Statement of Goals for FY 2014-2015 – Mr. Fulghum provided a red lined version of the resolution and reviewed the areas that were removed. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Etheridge seconded the motion to pass the Resolution to adopt the Mission Statement for the Jasper County Council and Establish a Statement of Goals for FY 2014-2015. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Dale Terry – Resolution to Sell Surplus Property – Mr. Terry presented the Council with a list of surplus property from public works and emergency services. Councilman Drayton moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to pass the Resolution to Sell the Surplus Property on the list provided by Mr. Terry. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Committee Reports – **Councilman Drayton** thanked the staff for taking care of the problem property on Carters Mill Road. Councilman Drayton added that he attended a meeting concerning the walking trail at Tarboro and attended a ground breaking in Hardeeville for the new fire station in Hilton Head Lakes. **Councilman Johnson** said he attended several meetings in Hardeeville including a meeting at Hilton Head Lakes for Riverport. **Councilman Etheridge** informed the public that he attended the LCOG meeting and unemployment in Jasper County is down to 4.5%. Councilman Etheridge said the Council was trying to create more jobs and Riverport is a great project. Councilman Etheridge also stated that he attended a meeting for branding Hardeeville and he attended the Beaufort/Jasper Heart Walk in Bluffton. **Chairwoman Clark** stated that she attended two meetings in Columbia, and the grand opening of NRAM and the ground breaking for the new fire station at Hilton Head Lakes. Chairwoman Clark said she spoke at the State of the County Breakfast. Chairwoman Clark announced the upcoming events of the Jasper County Chamber and in the communities. Chairwoman Clark said there are great things planned for Jasper County and the citizens need to work alongside the Council. Chairwoman Clark said

that with the exception of the Transportation Committee, all meetings being held in the Council Chambers will be recorded and televised.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Fulghum said the Chair was contacted by a gentleman regarding paying for delinquent taxes with a credit card. Mr. Fulghum informed the Council that currently the County is not providing this service due to accounting issues. Mr. Fulghum announced the winner of the biggest loser (weight loss completion for the employees). Mr. Fulghum said the unemployment rates are the lowest in the region. Mr. Fulghum told the Council he met with residents concerning the Knowles Island Road and that he was trying to resolve their problem with the speed limit and the State transferring a portion of the road to the homeowners association. Mr. Fulghum discussed the status of the CBDG grants for the Health Department, the Bailey Road sewer project, and the Hardeeville Library. Mr. Fulghum said that a MOU was done and approved by Commerce regarding Jasper County's responsibilities for the Library. Mr. Fulghum updated the Council on the Wise St. sewer pump project and the Hardeeville drainage project. Mr. Fulghum said the Tarboro Community Center grant was not approved due to them not having established operational funds to cover the operations of the center for 5 years. Mr. Fulghum said he was looking for other grants funds and there is a possibility of partial grant funds and partial loan to improve the Tarboro Center and other centers in the County. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that a needs assessment was done and priorities were set. Mr. Fulghum said he received a petition that opposed annexation of the airport property into Ridgeland, but the new runway is in Ridgeland and this will be discussed at the April 30, 2014 Joint Meeting. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that the bridge on Cat Branch Road is scheduled for replacement and should be completed by July, 2014. Mr. Jones discussed the settlement regarding the Settings. Mr. Jones explained that the ligation resulted with 4 of the 5 bonding companies settling. Mr. Jones said the summary judgment for the 5th bond that covers the west side of the project was ruled against the County, but he will be taking it to trial. Mr. Jones said he met with the developers and with BJWSA to consider how they were going to move forward. Mr. Jones said that Kevin Smith, the engineer on the project, provided BJWSA the information on the project. Mr. Jones said there will need to be changes and some legal or practical issues will need to be resolved. Mr. Edge said letters were sent out concerning the Carters Mill Road property and the owner is working on correcting the problems. Mr. Edge said the Exit 8 Master Plan will be going to the Planning Commission this month and they may be ready to make a recommendation to Council.

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. **Surrenda Burrison** told the Council that the Tarboro Community was disappointed that the grant was not approved and she asked what the next step was. Ms. Burrison asked what the Council was going to do because the citizens want the Tarboro Center and the services offered expanded. Ms. Burrison said they want community improvements and do not want their taxes used to improve other communities. Ms. Burrison said the walking trail is not enough; they need other items that were on a list provided to the County. Ms. Burrison said the community recognizes that the Council can do it at this time and the community wants what is fair and equal so they have the opportunity for a brighter tomorrow. Ms. Burrison said she was asking for help to improve the community and that the Council not take their tax dollars and put them in other communities. **Jackie Brown** said there were needs at the community center and a DHEC approved and certified kitchen was needed to attract agencies to their part of the County. Ms. Brown said that they can offer programs for the children with Antioch Education Center providing the services that are offered in other communities that are not offered in Tarboro. Ms. Brown said the children suffer from hardships if they have to be transferred to

other centers. Ms. Brown said that the Council needed to know how devastated they were when they did not receive the CBDG grant. Ms. Brown said they need a larger facility and a DHEC approved kitchen. Ms. Brown said the center needed to be expanded so it can offer a variety of activities. Ms. Brown said they were asking for a place at the table, not a crumb. Ms. Brown said the Council needed to put their words into action. Ms. Brown said they were grateful for the walking trail, but it cannot provide services and they needed other items. Chairwoman Clark told the ladies they would hear from the Administrator. Being no further comments, Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

Adjourn – Councilman Etheridge motioned and Councilman Johnson 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

Barbara B. Clark

Clerk to Council

Chairwoman