



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

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 13, 2013, 3:00 P.M.
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
MINUTES

Officials Present: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Johnson,

Officials Absent: Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Planning Director LeNolon

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 3:15 p.m.

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

Invocation – Mr. Malphrus gave the invocation

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

Budget Discussion and Review:

Bill Stanley – Marine Rescue Squad – Mr. Stanley explained the Marine Rescue Squad has been operating since 1967 and it is a volunteer organization. Mr. Stanley said last year they received a stipend of \$1,000 which covered the electricity. Mr. Stanley requested \$5,000 this year to help with the costs. Mr. Stanley said they have 27 members and they pay for a lot of the expenses out of pocket. Vice Chairwoman Clark commended them on the great job that they do. Councilman Johnson said he was grateful for the organization and asked if the funding would go toward equipment. Mr. Stanley said they needed radios for better communication and body bags. Mr. Stanley said they needed special suits

in the event of bad weather. Chairman Etheridge commented that they were only requesting funds to maintain the building and equipment.

Susan Rice - AHJ Library – Ms. Rice, Ms. Vansteenbury, Ms. Hart, and Ms. Wilson, discussed the needs of the Library and the services they provide. Ms. Vansteenbury told the Council there was a 57% increase in activity at the libraries. They also discussed the use of the computers and the summer reading program. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she would like to see the breakdown for their request and Ms. Rice said she would provide the Council with a copy of their budget. Chairman Etheridge said the County has been working with the Hardeeville Library to fix a list of items they have requested. Ms. Chisolm, a student, said that she and her mother appreciate the Hardeeville library because it has helped her and that Mrs. Chisolm said she volunteered at the library and it needed to be expanded and there was still work that needed to be done.

Jeanine Bostick – Election Commission –Voters Registration – Ms. Bostick told the Council she was requesting funds for maintenance for the current machines and that she needed to order an additional 12 voting machines. Ms. Bostick said she also needed new printers and a scanner to go to a paperless filling system. Councilman Johnson asked if she coordinated with Mr. Bostick and she said he did not take care of the voting machines and they are state mandated machines so there is no way to shop for them. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if they can be purchased from someone else. Ms. Bostick said the machines are used statewide and they are bid out by the state. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked how much extra needed to be added and Ms. Bostick said \$15,000 was in her budget request, but more needed to be added. Mr. Malphrus said it was in the office equipment line. Ms. Bostick said she asked for 8 new machines, but now they wanted to add 4 more to make sure they had enough equipment. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked about the increase in the salary line and Ms. Bostick said she was asking for an increase for her secretary. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked where the money went that people paid for information requests. Ms. Bostick said that money goes for the lunches for office helper and lights. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she wanted a report on what funds were collected and how the money was spent. Ms. Bostick said she did not have receipts for petty cash and she had no record or file on what money she collected. Vice Chairwoman Clark told her that from this day forward she needed to report all money collected and it needed to be turned in to Mr. Malphrus. Councilman Johnson asked if a lot of the requests were a \$100 or more and Ms. Bostick said she never received \$100 for a request. Councilman Johnson asked if she had a schedule for what she charged and she said \$1.00 per page.

Martin Sauls –Coroner – Mr. Sauls thanked the Council and said he was requesting the same funding as he has for the last two year. Councilman Johnson asked if the demands fluctuated and Mr. Sauls said that they try not to do autopsies unless they were absolutely necessary and they have no choice. Mr. Malphrus said that last year things were pretty stable and they should have some funds left in their budget.

Duffy Stone – Solicitor – Mr. Stone said that he was only requesting funding for the individuals that work in Jasper County. Mr. Stone said there were two divisions, community protection and career criminals and it takes an experienced attorney and an investigator to cover this. Mr. Stone said about 90% are not career criminals and the prosecutor here is an all the time victims advocate. Mr. Stone

discussed the saving of costs at the detention center. Mr. Duffy discussed the various services including worthless check collections and the juvenile prosecutor and advocate are not included in the budget request. Mr. Duffy said the person who writes the worthless check covers the fee. Councilman Johnson discussed the number of cases and the number of overlapping charges. Mr. Stone said the career criminals may have many more than one crime and multiple cases. Councilman Johnson said that one attorney could be handling 300 cases and another handling 25 cases. Mr. Stone said the work on a career offender is more than the work of one person in one office. Chairman Etheridge said the Solicitor was requesting an increase of \$110,000 which included the municipalities share. Councilman Etheridge said that the Solicitor was asking for an \$85,000 increase from the County. Chairman Etheridge said the County did not save any money this year as the detention center population has gone back up and the fines have gone down. Mr. Stone said the budget he presented is a 0 based budget. The Council discussed the various reasons for the length of time the prisoners are spending in jail. Councilman Johnson asked about a drug lab and Mr. Stone said that it did cut time down when Beaufort County got their own lab. Chairwoman Clark asked Mr. Stone about partnering with Beaufort County and Mr. Stone said he would look into it. Councilman Johnson said he was committed to cutting taxes by doing things better.

Verna Garvin – Treasurer – was not present.

Barbara Ling Terry – Veterans Affairs Office was not present.

Council Discussion and Decisions – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve \$5,000 for the Marine Rescue Squad. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Chairman Etheridge asked Mr. Malphrus to check and see if the Catfish Festival would qualify for A-Tax funds.

Mr. Malphrus provided the Council with a list of what was spent by the rural fire stations.

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 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Henry Etheridge
Chairman

