



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

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**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**April 1, 2013, 4:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present:** Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, 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.

**Call to order** - Chairman Etheridge called the Budget Workshop to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

**Ray Norris- Coastal Empire Community Mental Health-** Mr. Norris explained the services provided to the community. Mr. Norris introduced staff members that were present at the workshop. Mr. Norris said they worked with the schools, the hospital, DSS and the general community. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if the school provides any support and Mr. Norris said they have requested funding from the school district, but they have never received any financial support from them. Mr. Norris said he would like to be based in the middle school in order to catch some of the problems. Chairman Etheridge asked how people qualify for this service. Mr. Norris responded that everyone is eligible for the service and they have a sliding scale for payment. Mr. Norris said no one is turned away if they meet a diagnostic condition. Chairman Etheridge asked if CECMH is a state agency and Mr. Norris responded that it is a state agency and can get some federal funds, but they do not get them very often. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked how many days the school based person is in the school. Mr. Norris said they are there four days per week. Vice Chairwoman Clark said they provide a lot of service and the school district should be paying something. Chairman Etheridge asked that Mr. Norris provide the Council with a copy of their budget and a copy of their audit.

**Tedd Moyd- JCNU –** Mr. Moyd provided the Council with a packet of information regarding the financing of JCNU. Mr. Moyd said they were currently working on a green senior housing program. Mr. Moyd requested \$40,000; in previous years he requested \$30,000. The Council also discussed that his agency is the only agency in the County that addresses housing and they have over 200 people on the waiting

list. Vice Chairman Clark and Councilman Sauls commented on the wonderful work and services provided by JCNU. Councilman Drayton asked about the status of JCNU becoming a housing authority for Jasper County. Mr. Fulghum said that in 2008 a needs assessment was done. Mr. Moyd said the housing authority is located in Barnwell and it services about 11 counties and Jasper County does not get anything from them. Mr. Moyd said Jasper County needs its own housing authority. Mr. Fulghum said that JCNU could be the housing authority for Jasper County and JCNU could get it done with the oversight of Jasper County and they could see if it could be funded. Mr. Fulghum said the delegation needed to be involved since state law requires them to establish it. Mr. Moyd said that he received \$100,000 from LCOG, but Barnwell did not want to manage it. Chairman Etheridge asked about Beaufort County and Mr. Moyd said Beaufort County had its own housing authority.

**Kathy Scoggins – Firework Display** – Chairman Etheridge said that he fireworks display was a wonderful event that brought a lot of people into the County. Chairman Etheridge told Ms. Scoggins that she needed to request financial support from the A-Tax committee.

**Gene Hood – Public Defenders’ Office** – Mr. Hood explained that Jasper County is \$65,000 short of meeting his budget. Mr. Hood said they do a good job for Jasper County. Mr. Hood said that when the money runs out he has to furlough his people. Mr. Hood explained how his office is funded and that he needed \$118,943 from Jasper County to cover the expenses of the County. Mr. Hood said he would be talking to each County about the shortages in funding his office. Mr. Hood said the money he gets from the state is based on the population of the County and he receives \$57,000 for Jasper County. Mr. Hood said that Jasper County does not have an investigator because they do not have the money for one. Councilman Johnson said he appreciated the importance of what the public defenders do and he asked Mr. Hood to work harder on getting the people out of the County jail quicker as it would benefit everyone. Mr. Hood said he can only do what the state allows and the state controls it.

Chairman Etheridge adjourned the budget workshop at 5:45 p.m.

Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order for the executive session.

**Executive Session** – Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Drayton 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 – Jasper Ocean Terminal; Jasper County Vs. The Settings at Mackey Point. The motion 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. Chairman Etheridge asked for any action as of executive session. Councilman Sauls motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to decline the proposal and to move forward as it relates to the litigation with the Settings at Mackey Point. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Officials Present:** Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas 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, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley Director of Planning and Zoning LeNolon Edge

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**Call to Order** – Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Sauls seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Approval of the Minutes –03/18/2013** – Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 03/18/2013.

**Proclamations and Presentations -Public Hearing for Needs Assessment** – Michelle Knight asked everyone to sign in for the public hearing and needs assessment. Ms. Knight discussed the application and what can be done and what cannot be done with the funding. Ms. Knight listed the amounts allotted for each commercial development project and she outlined the type of projects that were eligible for funding and that all projects must meet the National objectives. Chairman Etheridge opened the public hearing; there were no comments; Chairman Etheridge closed the public hearing. Councilman Drayton asked if infrastructure at the industrial park would qualify and Ms. Knight responded that this type of funding is generally used for residential properties. Councilman Sauls motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark that the County’s priorities are 1. Economic Development Projects, 2. Infrastructure and drainage, 3. Community Facilities, 4. Affordable Housing. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Public Hearing to Close Out the CBDG Grant for the Purrysburg Sewer Project-** Mr. Fulghum explained that the project started in July, 2010 and it is now complete. Mr. Fulghum said that 31 homes now have water and sewer and 8 homes have water connections. Chairman Etheridge opened the floor to the public. **Roletha Brown** said that she was a resident and the area and thanked everyone for putting this together to bring water to her community. Ms. Brown said it will also benefit future generations. **Irma Wilson** asked if they will come back and remove the dirt from her property. Ms. Knight said she would talk to the contractor. Being no further comments, Chairman Etheridge closed the floor to the public. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that CBDG funds are available every year and the Council just put the priorities in order for the upcoming grants. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the Council is working on making things better for the citizens of Jasper County. Councilman Johnson commended the people in Purrysburg for their perseverance to get this done. Councilman Drayton commended Clarita Brown for

putting the proposal together. Chairman Etheridge said that this has been a project for a long time and it is finally finished and other projects need to be started. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to close out the CBDG Grant for the Purrysburg Sewer Project. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

#### **Ordinances**

**LeNolon Edge – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance for a Zoning Text Amendment for Multi-Family Apartments** –Mr. Edge explained that the public hearing was held at the last meeting and he reviewed the changes and the expanded area with conditions. Mr. Edge said that 10 units per acre were allowed and the sidewalks must be not less than 5 feet. Mr. Edge asked for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the ordinance. Vice Chairman Clark said that the ordinance stated 15% must be open space and Mr. Edge agreed that it should read 20%. Councilman Sauls motioned and Vice Chairman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance for a Zoning Text Amendment for Multi-Family Apartments and that the open space be corrected to 20%. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**LeNolon Edge –3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer Properties Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 067-00-01-006, 067-00-01-032, and 067-00-01-018 Generally Located on Carolina Drive from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map** - Mr. Edge explained that the three properties were all located on Carolina Drive and the public hearing was held at the last meeting. Councilman Sauls motioned and Vice Chairman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Ordinance to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to Transfer Properties Bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 067-00-01-006, 067-00-01-032, and 067-00-01-018 Generally Located on Carolina Drive from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Marvin Jones- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Authorize the Administrator to Convey Certain Property Adjacent to Turpin Park to the Town of Ridgeland**- Mr. Jones told the Council that he met with Ridgeland and they came to an agreement as to where the property line would be and Tommy Stanley is preparing the plat. Mr. Jones said Ridgeland asked for an easement permit for beautification. Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Authorize the Administrator to Convey Certain Property Adjacent to Turpin Park to the Town of Ridgeland. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Andrew Fulghum-1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi –County Industrial/Business Park in Conjunction with Hampton County, South Carolina; to Provide for a Written Agreement With Hampton County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; to Provide for the Distribution of Revenue from the Park Among Taxing Entities Have Jurisdiction Over the Park; And Other Matters Related Thereto** – Mr. Fulghum explained that the County agreed in the MOU with Biomass to do a FILOT and a MCIP. Mr. Fulghum said the County would partner with Hampton County. Mr. Fulghum said the MCIP is 26 acres. Mr. Fulghum told the Council that Biomass will have 27 employees. Councilman Sauls

motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion that this be the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi –County Industrial/Business Park in Conjunction with Hampton County, South Carolina; to Provide for a Written Agreement With Hampton County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; to Provide for the Distribution of Revenue from the Park Among Taxing Entities Have Jurisdiction Over the Park; And Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

## **Resolutions**

**Marvin Jones – Fair Housing Resolution and – Equal Employment Opportunity Resolution** – Mr. Jones explained that these resolutions were passed each year in order to qualify for certain funding. Mr. Jones said the Equal Employment Opportunity Resolution also renews the County’s plan that has been in place since 2005. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to pass the Fair Housing Resolution. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to pass the Equal Employment Opportunity Resolution. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Old Business - Chairman Etheridge – Approval of County Council Goals and Objectives** – Chairman Etheridge said the Council worked on the goals and objectives and he wanted the public to hold them accountable to them. Chairman Etheridge listed the goals and objectives - reduce the millage - review budget of each county department, mandates, and county appropriations - stimulate economic & commercial development - enhance emergency services -increase code enforcement - encourage citizen participation - improve and expand basic utilities to serve the public - improve facilities with grant funds. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the County Council’s Goals and Objectives. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Andrew Fulghum – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Jasper County and the Town Of Ridgeland for Turpin Park** – Mr. Fulghum explained that the MOU was effective for one year and that it provided for the development of Turpin Park. Mr. Fulghum requested approval of the MOU and approval to authorize him to sign it. Mr. Jones said that Point 3 refers to a plat and asked for permission to make the correction to the plat as needed. Councilman Drayton motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the MOU and the grant the attorney’s request to make the necessary changes in point 3 according to the plat and to authorize the administrator to sign the MOU. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**New Business Lenolon Edge- Update on Mobile Home Ordinance** – Mr. Edge said he wanted to make sure that the public knew that any mobile home older than June 15, 1976 cannot be relocated in the County. Mr. Edge explained that they can live in it if they have it, but it cannot be moved or reestablished. Mr. Edge said this is due to Federal Regulations. Mr. Edge said it can be sold and lived in at the present location and it cannot be moved within the County. Councilman Johnson asked if this was a County ordinance and Mr. Edge said it is a County ordinance based on Federal Regulations and it is in compliance with Federal Code. Vice Chairman Clark asked if the County can change it and Mr. Edge said that they cannot, but there may be ways to override it. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if it was purchased

for the frame, can you rebuild it and Mr. Edge said that it would have to be built to the current code. Mr. Edge said it is important for the people to know it cannot be moved.

**Committee Reports- Councilman Johnson** reported that he attended a meeting regarding the port and he has a better understanding of what is happening. **Vice Chairwoman Clark** reported that she attended the Southern Alliance meeting and she wished the public could see what they are doing to get things done. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she met with Phil Richardson regarding the work ready program. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she had applications for the Board and Commission that are appointed by the delegation and that the Governor would have to approve the appointments. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked Mr. Terry for helping getting the roads fixed. **Councilman Sauls** thanked Vice Chairwoman Clark for attending the Southern Alliance meeting and he announced that the Jasper County Economic Development Website was ready. Councilman Sauls provided the log-in as [www.jaspercountyedc.org](http://www.jaspercountyedc.org) and he has the people to visit the site and make suggestions. Councilman Sauls also discussed State House Day in Columbia and Jasper on the Move at Chelsea Plantation. Councilman Sauls thanked Chairman Etheridge and Vice Chairwoman Clark for the dedication to the citizens. **Chairman Etheridge** reported that he met with the realtors with Del Web and discussed the taxes and he also met with the Sun City Volunteers who want to volunteer to serve the County and he wanted everyone to know that the County needed volunteer fireman. Chairman Etheridge said the Council was serious about Economic Development and they are currently working on the budget and hope to be able to give the citizens a little break in their taxes.

**Administrator's Report** – Mr. Fulghum reported on a meeting he attended concerning Point South and the IPOD district and they will meet again on April 8, 2013. Mr. Fulghum said the project is moving forward. Mr. Fulghum said they have received a number of permits and that work was being done at the Refuge. Mr. Fulghum said he received information regarding the bridge replacement and the widening of Hwy. 17. Mr. Fulghum said that he was working on the second phase of funding and received a grant in the amount of \$43,645. Mr. Fulghum provided a report on the Aeronautics Meeting, but said he did not attend. Mr. Malphrus provided information on a grant opportunity requiring a match. Mr. Malphrus said the grant matching funds were low and would like approval to use \$18,000 from the emergency fund for the match. Mr. Malphrus said the grant was for \$36,000 and Ms. Greene applied for the grant to restore very old documents. Vice Chairman Clark said she does not like to have to make decisions on something she just heard about and they needed to find \$18,000 in their budget for the match, not funds from the emergency fund. It was the consensus of the Council for Mr. Malphrus to move forward with the grant application. Mr. Malphrus said they needed to give them an answer this week and they can turn it down.

**Open Floor To The Public – Per Ordinance 08-17 Any Citizen Of The County May Sign 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; **Mr. Gabbard** said he would like to see more than the tops of the Council's heads and that they need to do something about the PA system and the people cannot hear them. **Barbara Bartoldus** explained that she served on the Planning Commission and they did the zoning for the protection of the citizens. Ms. Bartoldus said the Council needed to take spot zoning

seriously and protect the landowners. **Judy Rigg** said that the ordinance regarding her property was tabled at the last meeting and in the interim there has been an announcement of a public hearing. Ms. Rigg

said that she was having a meeting on April 9, 2013 to explain to the people what they were requesting and hopefully with good communication it will be less time consuming at the County's public hearing. **Bill Ernhart** said he lives on Cope Island and he was emailed about the Wounded Warriors going into Palm Key. Mr. Ernhart said if they are building multi-family units as part of their proposal the ordinance states that they must have water and sewer so how can multi-family units go there. Mr. Ernhart said there are 4 unsolved murders in the area and they have heard nothing about what is being done. Mr. Ernhart said that instead of using the emergency fund for grant matching, it would be better used for more law enforcement. Chairman Etheridge said that Mr. Ernhart needed to contact the Sheriff. Chairman Etheridge said they were having a public hearing on April 15, 2013 and invited the public to come and voice their concerns. Chairman Etheridge said the County does not have a development agreement on this project yet. Being no further comments, Chairman Etheridge closed the floor to the public.

**Adjourn – Vice- Chairwoman Clark 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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk to Council

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Henry Etheridge  
Chairman