



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
J.C. GOVERNMENT BLDG.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JULY 21, 2014  
MINUTES**

**5:30 P.M.**

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

**Officials Absent:** Councilman Henry Etheridge

**Staff Present:** Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, 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.

**Executive Session:** 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 –The Settings at Mackay Point, Ridgeland Airport, Jasper Ocean Terminal; 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, Spec Building #3- Vice Chairman Sauls moved 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 –The Settings at Mackay Point, Ridgeland Airport, Jasper Ocean Terminal; 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, Spec Building #3. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Return to Open Session:** Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to go return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

No action taken as a result of executive session.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation:** Councilman Johnson gave the invocation.

**Approval of the Minutes – 06/16/2014 and 06/30/2014:** Councilman Johnson moved and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the minutes of 6/16/2014 and 6/30/2013. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairman Sauls seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Presentation:**

**Presentation of Plaque to Miss Pre-Teen Miss South Carolina, United States – Victoria Etheridge:** Chairwoman Clark on behalf of the Council presented Victoria Etheridge a plaque of appreciation for her community service and in recognition of her placing as 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the Pre-Teen Division of the Miss United States Beauty Pageant. Miss Etheridge thanked the Council for the plaque and their support.

**Kathy Hightower – Presentation to Council from the Council on Aging:** Ms. Hightower thanked the Council for the appropriation given to the Council on Aging. Ms. Hightower presented the Council with Thank You cards signed by all the senior citizens who are involved and are part of the programs at the Council on Aging.

**Hope Moorer – Update and Timeline on SHEP:** Ms. Moorer provided an update on timeline for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. Ms. Moorer said the project is moving forward and is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation and 1 of the fastest growing in the United States. Ms. Moorer said that Georgia has approved \$226,000,000 for the project, but the federal funds has not been appropriated yet. Ms. Moorer explained that there are many steps to go through. Ms. Moorer said that once the Project Partnership Agreement has been signed contracts will be advertised. Ms. Moorer said it is projected that the project will be done in 2018. Councilman Drayton asked if the Jasper Port would be built on the dredge materials from Savannah and Ms. Moorer said that it would. Vice Chairman Sauls thanked Ms. Moorer for her presentation. Chairwoman Clark thanked Ms. Moorer for coming and added that she cannot wait for the Jasper Port to be completed.

**Ordinances:** There were no ordinances.

**Resolutions:** There were no Resolutions.

**Old Business:**

**Wilbur Daley – Update on Fire Plan:** Mr. Daley explained that a fire plan was approved by Council in 2013. Mr. Daley said that currently there are 37 volunteers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 training classes has started. Mr. Daley said the training and meetings are being held at different stations each month. Mr. Daley said they are continuing their efforts to recruit more volunteers. Ms. Daley said that 5 tankers have been ordered and they are on schedule and expected to be here by the end of the year. Mr. Daley said the ISO knows what the County is doing and that the County is trying to lower the ISO ratings. Mr. Daley added that some of the stations already have tankers and they hope to have them operating by the end of October. Mr. Daley said they received a \$20,000 grant to purchase equipment and they are continually applying for grants. Mr. Daley said all grants applications are reviewed by the administrator. Vice Chairman Sauls thanked Mr. Daley for the update and he said that he and Councilman Etheridge have been working with Mr. Daley to get the ISO ratings lowered. Councilman Drayton asked if the ISO evaluation would be done in December and Mr. Daley said only if everything is in place. Mr. Daley said the trucks are to be delivered as they are completed. Councilman Johnson asked about the amount of money that will be saved by the citizens with the lower ISO ratings. Vice Chairman Sauls responded that if the ISO rating drops from a 10 to a 6, the savings would be about 40%.

**New Business**

**Earl Bostick – Approval of Lease Agreement for Two New Servers:** Mr. Malphrus told the Council that Mr. Bostick was not able to attend the meeting, however they were ready to move forward. Mr. Malphrus explained that the lease was discussed during the Budget. Mr. Malphrus said the servers were backbone servers and the cost was \$60,000 for a lease purchase. Mr. Malphrus said the lease was for 4 years and would cost \$1,361 per month. Mr. Malphrus said the lease with is Tiger Direct and they would be financed through VAR Resources, Inc. Mr. Malphrus said that Mr. Bostick said this would save the County about \$70,000 since Mr. Bostick will be doing a lot of the work himself. Mr. Malphrus said the County would own the equipment after the 4 year lease purchase was satisfied. Councilman Johnson moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the lease agreement for the two new servers as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Andrew Fulghum – Professional Service Contract with POND for Airport Runway Project:** Mr. Fulghum requested that the Council approve a professional service contract with POND for the Airport Runway Project. Mr. Fulghum said they were moving into the design phase and the FAA required a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to review the design. Mr. Fulghum said they have a 90% grant and the state will pay 5% and the County will pay 5% and the 90% will be paid with federal funds. Mr. Fulghum said the cost is \$4,500 for the Professional Service Contract with POND for Airport Runway Project. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Professional Service Contract with POND for Airport Runway Project in the amount of \$4,500. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of Infrastructure Grant Offer for Spec Building #3:** Mr. Richardson explained that the infrastructure grant was applied for in the spring and they received the grant and it was to be applied to a 40,000 sq. ft. building capable of being expanded to 100,000 sq. ft. Mr. Richardson said the remaining cost would be paid for with a loan from Santee Cooper. Mr. Richardson said the building would be located on Carolina Cherry and Cypress Ridge Drive. Vice Chairman Sauls moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the Infrastructure Grant Offer for Spec Building #3. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**Committee Reports:** Vice Chairman Sauls reported on the meetings he attended at Sgt. Jasper Park, at the Ridgeland/Hardeeville High School for the airport and 2 meetings with the City of Hardeeville. Vice Chairman Sauls added that he met with Mr. Richardson and Mr. Black to discuss economic development in Hardeeville. Chairwoman Clark reported she attended the same meetings as Vice Chairman Sauls and she added that she has not heard from anyone since Argent Road was paved.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Fulghum reported on the new Health Dept. Building and said it is projected to be completed by January. Mr. Fulghum said the County was participating in the Barrett Larimore Award competition at the SCAC conference.

**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:**

**Robert Wolfson** discussed the Settings at MacKay Point. Mr. Wolfson wanted to know when the County was going to move forward and what was going to happen when the bonds were depleted. Chairwoman Clark told Mr. Wolfson that he would receive answers to his questions in writing from the County Attorney. **Gary Law** discussed the flooding problems on Virginia Pine Road and Ridgeland Lake Road. Mr. Law said the developer denied having to maintain the road. Mr. Law said Mr. Edge contacted the developer and nothing has been resolved. Chairwoman Clark asked what the developer said and Mr. Law said the developer does not answer calls and he did not fix the problem and said that the roads were Jasper County's responsibility. Mr. Law said he was asking as a taxpayer what can be done. Mr. Fulghum said he would look into it and see what could be done. Chairwoman Clark told Mr. Law that Mr. Fulghum would get in touch with him. **Amy White on behalf of Nancy Morgan** said they were disappointed that they did not receive any funds from the Council and that people come to her for help and she was focusing on the senior citizens and they needed financial help. **Rick Collins** said he was disappointed in the lack of progress at MacKay Point since the bond money was released. Mr. Collins asked that the bond money be focused on Phase I where the majority of lots were sold. Mr. Collins said he felt the discussion regarding MacKay Point should be held out of executive session and he was requesting immediate and rapid development of the Settings and it needed to be made a priority of the County. Mr. Collins said he was only speaking as an individual lot owner and everyone has the same interest to focus the bond

money on Phase I. Mr. Collins said there were only 20 lots in Phase II and III and would be willing to trade into Phase I. Mr. Collins said he is not a developer, just a land owner and he gave Mr. Jones a contract that was turned down. Mr. Collins said that all his backers have backed out and now Jasper County will have to finish the development. Being no further comments Chairwoman Clark closed the floor to the public.

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

The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk to Council

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Barbara B. Clark  
Chairwoman