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JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg  
358 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

October 18, 2021

AGENDA

**5:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order by Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark**

*Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.*

**II. Executive Session SECTION 30-4-70.**

**(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:**

**(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related 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 -**  
**Waste Management; Carolina Metal Castings;**

**(5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body -**  
**Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT); Prospect Update; Project Silverman**

**ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

**6:30 P.M.**

**III. Return to Open Session**

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**V. Invocation**

- VI. **Approval of Agenda**
- VII. **Approval of the Minutes of September 20, 2021, and October 4, 2021.**
- VIII. **Proclamation:**
- A: **Wanda Simmons** - Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week 2021.
- IX. **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.**  
*\*Please submit Public Comments via email at [comments@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:comments@jaspercountysc.gov) or via US Mail at Attention: Clerk to Council P.O. Box 1149 Ridgeland, SC 29936. If you would like to be contacted by phone during Open Floor, please email your name, address and phone number to the email address listed above.*
- X. **Resolutions: None**
- XI. **Ordinances: None**
- XII. **New Business:**
- A: **Wanda Simmons** – MOU between SC WIL (Women in Leadership) and Jasper County for the use of MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> for a year in its beta form as a digital platform to manage the County's Boards and Commissions; and to provide feedback on the functionality, marketing, and workflows at no cost to the County.
- B: **Dale Terry** – Discussion of Pine Haven Road.
- C: **Danny Lucas** – Notification of grant award from the FAA in the amount of \$230,077 for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) for the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport.
- D: **Kimberly Burgess** – Report on the results of the bond refunding as approved by Ordinance #2021-05 on July 19, 2021.
- XIII. **Old Business:**
- A: **Chief Russell Wells** – COVID update
- XIV. **Council Members Comments**
- XV. **Administrator's Report**
- XVI. **Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.**
- XVII. **Adjourn**

**\*Council may act on any item appearing on the agenda including items discussed in executive session.**

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting was posted on the County Council Building at a publicly accessible place and on the county website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the meeting location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

***Special Accommodations Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities***  
***(843) 717-3696***

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## VII

*Approval of the Minutes*



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg  
358 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

**September 20, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

**Officials Present:** Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins and Councilman John Kemp. Absent -Vice Chairman Dr. Curtis Brantley

**Staff Present:** County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells and Jonathan Dunham.

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:07PM. Chairwoman Clark asked the Clerk to Council to read the Report of Compliance to the Freedom of Information Act. Wanda Simmons, Clerk to Council read the Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session.

**Motion to go into executive session:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Executive Session**

**SECTION 30-4-70. Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruption of meeting; executive sessions of General Assembly.**

**(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:**

**(1) 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 - [Application of the Salary Study to specific employees / positions.](#)**

**(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related 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 - [Sgt. Jasper Park; Levy VFD; Exit 3](#)**

**(5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision**

**of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT); Okatie Crossings; Prospect Update**

**ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

**Return to Open Session:**

**Motion to return to open session:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley had technical issues and was not able to return after executive session to the regular session.

**Business from Executive Session:**

**Motion to authorize the administrator to execute on behalf of the county the contract for professional services with Newkirk Environmental for Wetland Delineation on County owned property at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 as discussed in executive session:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:**

Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Sauls and Councilman Adkins gave the invocation.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Approval of the Minutes of August 16, 2021 and August 30, 2021.**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Presentation:**

**A: Kimberly Burgess – Status of Jasper County’s Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$5,841,328.**

Kimberly Burgess was present to review this presentation with Council. Ms. Burgess presented the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Premium Pay recommendations for Council. She provided the pertinent information relating to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. She noted that \$65 billion dollars was the amount to be provided to the counties based upon population. She also noted that the total allocation to Jasper County would be \$5.8 million dollars provided in two separate tranches. She reviewed the eligible uses of the funds being: Revenue replacement; COVID19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19; Premium pay for essential workers; and Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. She provided premium pay considerations and recommendations for Council. She also noted that there was also a recommendation for the Coronavirus Vaccine Incentive Program. There was no vote taken on this item as it was for discussion purposes only.

**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.**

There were no public comments.

**Resolutions:**

**A. Kimberly Burgess – Resolution # 2021-20 to implement Premium Pay and Vaccine Incentive Program to be funded by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds not to exceed \$1.65 million.**

Ms. Burgess was present to address this resolution. This resolution was based on the information provided in her presentation this evening. She also noted as part of the funds that staff was working on an award program per Council, once a way to verify information was decided, that would award anyone who has gotten or will get the full vaccine \$500.00, once this was completed by staff.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**B. David Tedder - Consideration of an Inducement Resolution # 2021-21 providing for Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Jasper County and a Project known at this time as Project Ocean.**

Mr. Tedder was present to address this request. He discussed the resolution providing for a fee in lieu of tax agreement between Jasper County and Project Ocean.



He noted that at this time the company name was not being released, due to an NDA. He did note however, that the company would be bringing in about 126 employees. He also mentioned that the Fee in lieu of taxes agreement would be coming later in the meeting tonight and that Sandy Steele from SouthernCarolina Alliance was here and available to answer questions.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman

**Second:** Councilman

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Ordinances:**

- A. Lisa Wagner – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance # [2021-25](#) to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 063-38-01-013 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – 76 Sweet William Road.**

Ms. Wagner was present to address this request. Ms. Wagner noted that the subject property consists of .55 acres and is located at 76 Sweet William Road. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Community Commercial (CC). The property is currently zoned Residential. The applicant would like to establish a restaurant at this location. The property was re-developed in February 2007 as a restaurant. The countywide re-zoning project made this property non-conforming in November 2007. While the property has previously been used as a restaurant, the use has ceased for more than 12 months, losing its legal non-conforming status.

She stated that according to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as “Urban Transition,” which are pockets of unincorporated Jasper County that are partially or entirely surrounded by the municipality. For these areas that experience new development or redevelopment, consideration should be given to working with the adjacent municipality for annexation. The adjacent parcels are zoned Residential with the Town limits of Ridgeland nearby. Adjacent land uses are residential and commercial. The subject property is accessed by Sweet William Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a limited local road.

Ms. Wagner noted that from a land use perspective, the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

- B: Andrew Fulghum – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance # [2021-24](#) to adopt a new organizational chart.**

Mr. Fulghum was available to present this ordinance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading to adopt a new organizational chart. He discussed the changes / updates to the new organizational chart.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**C: David Tedder** – Consideration of the **1<sup>st</sup> reading** of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina and a Project known at this time as Project Ocean with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Mr. Tedder was present to address this request. He noted that the ordinance begins the FILO and the agreement was attached. He also mentioned that this was presented for the first reading of the ordinance.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**New Business: None**

**Old Business:**

**A: Chief Russell Wells** – COVID update

Chief Wells was available to present this request. He noted that the figures were trending down and that Jasper County had seen a 5.4% reduction with a current positivity rate of 11.6%. He noted that testing continued to be conducted from Monday thru Friday and that persons of age 12 years and over can get the vaccine. Mr. Fulghum noted that all of this information would be provided on the website. Chairwoman Clark asked about the rapid test. Chief Wells noted that when tested early on, that you can test as a false negative. He noted that the PCR test was the preferred test to take. He noted that the incubation time was 1-14 days (although some will manifest at the 5 to 7 day mark).

**Council Members Comments:**

**Councilman Sauls:**

Councilman Sauls reminded everyone about the Gopher Hill Festival and Parade that would be held on 10.02.2021. He also reminded everyone of the Festival on Main with the City of Hardeeville. He noted that the Chamber of Commerce was working on their Golf Tournament. He also noted that Governor McMaster had chosen his Dad, Martin Sauls III for the awarding of the Order of the Palmetto Award on September 28th. He mentioned that Mr. Sauls III was the first person in the County to receive this award and that he was very excited that his father was receiving this award. He also mentioned that there are some exciting things going on in Point South. He also noted that

the Department of Commerce had gotten a new Secretary and he welcome new Secretary Lightsey.

**Councilman Kemp:**

Councilman Kemp noted he had been at the FIT meeting, and they had a Veteran having trouble and he asked FIT if they had contacted the Veteran's Administration and they said they did not know that there was one. He noted that he had contacted Mr. Jenkins and gotten them to help them out because the Veteran's need assistance. He noted that he had went to USCB for the first Board Meeting as the volunteered representative for Jasper County. He thanked Mitchellville for doing their clean-up. He said he had met with Councilman Sauls for breakfast and had great conversation. He said he had gone by the Senior Center in Robertsville, and he also thanked Ms. Burgess for the reports that he had requested. He encouraged everyone to remember the 13 Marines that had been killed. He also encouraged everyone to continue to remember 9-11.

**Councilman Adkins:**

Councilman Adkins encouraged everyone to stay safe and asked blessings for everyone and also that everyone keep himself and his family in prayer.

**Chairwoman Clark:**

Chairwoman Clark asked blessings for everyone.

**Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Fulghum noted that there were 2 items on his Administrator's Report and that his report was included in the Council Packet. He mentioned that one of the items on his report was on the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport. He said that anonymous letters regarding the airport had been received. Chairwoman Clark mentioned that anonymous letters were not something they needed to see as they could not be substantiated or confirmed. He noted he was available for questions.

**Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.**

There was no reason to return to executive session at this time.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg  
358 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

October 4, 2021  
MINUTES

**Officials Present:** Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins and Councilman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Dr. Curtis Brantley

**Staff Present:** County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells and Jonathan Dunham.

Also Present: Brantley Strickland of SouthernCarolina Alliance

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:04PM. Chairwoman Clark asked the Clerk to Council to read the Report of Compliance to the Freedom of Information Act. Wanda Simmons, Clerk to Council read the Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session.

**Motion to go into executive session:** Councilman

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Executive Session**

**SECTION 30-4-70. Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruption of meeting; executive sessions of General Assembly.**

**(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:**

**(1) 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 – Application of the Salary Study to specific employees / positions; Premium Pay**

**(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related 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 – Exit 3; Waste Management; Carolina Metal Castings; Update on Opioid Litigation**

**(5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT); Prospect Update; Project Mandolin; Project Dolphin**

**ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

**Return to Open Session:**

**Motion to return to open session:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Business from Executive Session:**

**Move to authorize the County Attorney, with the assistance of our outside employment legal counsel, to seek guidance from the Attorney General on the legality of providing Premium Pay to non-Council member elected officials:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Move to Authorize the Administrator to Amend Exhibit A to the Premium Pay Resolution 2021-20 passed at our last Council meeting to include those employees inadvertently omitted or otherwise had errors included in the amounts calculated as discussed in Executive Session, and to increase the funds allocated in Resolution 2021-20 to include the additional funds necessary to include these corrections:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Move to Authorize the Council Chairwoman to sign a letter to be sent to the Attorney General detailing Jasper County's preference for the Attorney General to seek more favorable terms for our local governments in the proposed settlements on the Opioid litigation as outlined in the letter presented to Council:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Motion to authorize the Administrator to implement the Sheriff Department salary study as presented, at executive session at an additional cost of approximately \$400,000, to be paid out of the current approved 2021-2022 budget: Councilman Sauls**

**Second:** Councilman Brantley

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

Councilman Kemp led the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley gave the invocation.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

#### **Approval of the Minutes of September 7, 2021.**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

#### **Presentation:**

##### **A: Andrew Fulghum – Jasper County Transportation Sales Tax Program Update**

Mr. Fulghum was present to address and review this PowerPoint presentation with Council. He discussed the Jasper County Transportation Sales Tax and noted that County residents had voted to impose a transportation sales tax through referendum in November 2016, with collection of tax beginning in May 2017. He noted that the current active projects were the Municipal Road Projects and the State Road Projects totaling \$6,830,000. He noted that the expenditures to date were \$1,189,258 and the account balance was \$19,401,181 less a new deduction of \$32,000 making the final account balance \$19,369,181.

He provided status updates of the following projects:

**Repair of James Taylor Drive – Status: Completed**

**I-95 Exit 21 Improvements – Status: SCDOT to let in Q1 next year**

**US 278 Widening Project in Ridgeland – Status: SCDOT review and permitting**

**Hardeeville Commerce Park Road – Status: Actively under construction**

#### **Exit 8 and US 278 Improvement Project:**

**I-95 Exit 8 Improvements –** This was scaled back from what was considered in 2016 Mr. Fulghum noted. Priority roadway improvements along US Highway 278 located at Exit 8 interchange of Interstate 95 near the City of Hardeeville.

### **Amended Project List – Projects to be added:**

- \$13,500,000 for Construction New I-95 Interchange (Exit 3)
- \$1,000,000 for SC 170 Corridor Access Management Study Near – Term Improvements

The near-term improvements include general improvements at 5 specific locations. Those improvements include installing reduced conflict intersections and U-turns at Okatie Center Boulevard, extend loop turn lane to west bound ramps with separation between US278 west bound on ramp and US 278 east bound on ramp, remove free flow right-turn lane and replace with dual right-turns on US 278 west bound off ramp, install a nearside signal head north bound SC 170 at Cherry Point Road and Pearlstine Drive and construct dual east bound left -turn lanes on Argent Boulevard at SC 170.

### **Project Breakdown without the 2 projects to be added:**

- \$1,895,000 for Exit 8 and US 278 Improvement Project area phase I (Exit 8 is not under going to be used under the Jasper County and SC Department of Transportation IGA) – Current Active Project
- \$1,650,000 for Hardeeville Commerce Park main entrance/ access roadway project – Current Active Project
- \$7,000,000 for I-95 Exit 21 improvements (SC 336 Underpass), Reconstruction of James Taylor Drive, Bailey Lane reconstruction, Taylor Drive reconstruction, Industrial Park improvements, and roadway widening to provide improved access for emergency vehicles (Exit 21 will be under the Jasper County and SC Department of Transportation IGA) – identified in the 2016 Ordinance and is kept the same.
- \$ 750,000 for US Highway 278 Corridor widening, stormwater improvements and Malphrus Road intersection realignment (will be included in the existing Jasper County and SC Department of Transportation IGA)
- \$1,205,000 for US Highway 17 Overlay (sections to be determined), and new road construction and improvements (sections to be determined).

The two projects pending approval as eligible projects for inclusion in amending ordinance are (1) SC 170 Corridor access management study near-term improvements (cost: \$1,000,000). Mr. Fulghum noted that Beaufort County has proposed that the County enter into an agreement with them to share the cost of this; and (2) Construction of new I-95 Interchange – Exit 3 (cost: \$13,500,000).

He also noted that there are some projects in the original 2016 Ordinance had changed and others from the ordinance that would not be done such as the reconstruction of Route 321. He noted that this had been a big push in 2016 but DOT did this project instead. Mr. Fulghum noted that the County does have a legal opinion from Attorney Sam Howell about the ability for the County to do update the ordinance to include two new projects in the Administrators Report. Mr. Fulghum noted that later on this agenda was a resolution pertaining to the IGA between Jasper County and the SC Department of Transportation and then after that on the agenda an ordinance by Title Only that would require approval and inclusion of these projects in the amending ordinance. He said he would be working with Atty. Sam Howell to create the verbiage for the subsequent readings of the Transportation Sales Tax Ordinance. He concluded his presentation and said he was available for questions. Council had no questions at this time.

**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.**

There were no public comments for this meeting.

**Resolutions:**

- A. David Tedder – Resolution # 2021-22 confirming the continued viability and existence of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County of Jasper and the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding completion of certain transportation projects under Jasper County’s local option sales tax program, and amending the IGA by adding an additional project identified as Project no. 3, being the Highway 278 widening project, and authorizing the County Administrator and County Attorney to perform certain tasks related thereto.**

David Tedder was available to present this request. He noted that this resolution was the one Mr. Fulghum spoke of previously amending the IGA the County has with the SC Department of Transportation to perform services from time to time on projects. This adds on a Project # 3 which is the review and permitting review of the Hwy 278 widening project disclosed to you in the presentation (from the school and Emergency Service areas out to Malphrus and Log Haul Roads). He noted that this doesn’t change the language of the of the underlying IGA but adds in the section to the IGA of the other two projects that were already contracted with Project # 3.

Mr. Tedder confirmed the continued viability and existence of the IGA between Jasper County and the SC DOT regarding the completion of certain transportation projects under the County’s LOST program and amending the IGA by adding an additional project identified as Project # 3 being the Highway 278 widening project.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Ordinances:**

- A: David Tedder – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance # 2021-27 authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina and a Project known at this time as Project Ocean with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.**

David Tedder was available to present this request. He said that this had come before Council at the previous meeting on 09.20.2021. He noted that this was the spec building at Point South which is owned by SouthernCarolina Alliance. He mentioned that the tax rate would be reduced to



6%. Mr. Tedder mentioned that this would create about 127 jobs and was a 17-million-dollar upfit. He noted that the project was moving forward, and the final reading and documents would be presented in November.

**Motion to approve:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**B: Andrew Fulghum - 1<sup>st</sup> reading by TITLE ONLY of an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2016-05 to Revise the Transportation Projects to be Financed by the Sales and Use Tax Authorized by such Ordinance and the Favorable Results of a Referendum held on November 8, 2016; and other matter related thereto.**

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this request. He said this ordinance would amend Ordinance # 2016-05 and bring it back with the projects that were to be added and omitted.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**C: David Tedder - 1<sup>st</sup> reading by TITLE ONLY of an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement by and between a company known for the time being as "Project Mandolin" (the "Company") and Jasper County, whereby Jasper County will enter into a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement with the Company and providing for payment by the Company of certain fees-in-lieu of *ad valorem* taxes; providing for special source revenue credits in connection with such agreement; authorizing and approving (1) development of a new joint county industrial and business park pursuant to section 4-1-170 of the code of laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Beaufort County (the "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Jasper County; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Beaufort County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of *ad valorem* taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; and (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Jasper County; and other matters relating thereto.**

Mr. Tedder was available to present and review this request. He also noted that this project is located in the City of Hardeeville. He noted that the inducement resolution would be at the next reading.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**D: David Tedder - 1<sup>st</sup> reading by TITLE ONLY of an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement by and between a company known for the time**

being as "Project Dolphin" (the "Company") and Jasper County, whereby Jasper County will enter into a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement with the Company and providing for payment by the Company of certain fees-in-lieu of *ad valorem* taxes; providing for special source revenue credits in connection with such agreement; authorizing and approving (1) development of a new joint County industrial and business park pursuant to section 4-1-170 of the code of laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Beaufort County (the "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Jasper County; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park agreement with Beaufort County as to the requirement of payments of fee in lieu of *ad valorem* taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; and (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park within Jasper County; and other matters relating thereto.

Mr. Tedder was available to present and review this request. He noted that the inducement resolution would be at the next reading.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**New Business:** There was no new business for this meeting.

**Old Business:**

**A: Chief Russell Wells – COVID update**

Chief Wells provided the current COVID update for Council. He noted that the current positivity rate for Jasper County was at 11.1% (which was a reduction of -0.5%. He also noted however, that only 875 tests had been administered noting that this was fewer tests than in the past report.

Chief Wells provided information on the community-based testing locations and the vaccine locations and noted that vaccines are available for persons 12 years of age and up.

Chairwoman Clark noted that we keep encouraging people to get the shots, but people simply are not choosing to do so.

**Council Members Comments:**

**Chairwoman Clark:**

Chairwoman Clark stated that Council wanted to let Mr. Martin Sauls III how proud they are of the Order of the Palmetto Award that he received. She noted it was a great turnout for the award ceremony. She said Councilman Adkins had joined them there and the Councilman Kemp had been out of town. She noted that this was the first time in Jasper County that anyone had received this award. She asked that everyone keep Council in their prayers.

**Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:**

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley stated that he joined Council in congratulating Martin Sauls III on this honor of receiving the Order of the Palmetto Award. He said that had been given to one that richly deserved it. He also encouraged everyone to get out and get vaccinated.

**Councilman Kemp:**

Councilman Kemp congratulated Martin Sauls III. He noted he was at the Gopher Hill Festival on Saturday. He said this was the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the Gopher Hill Festival. He asked Chief Wells when testing is done are people being tested who are sick or simply are people who just want to be tested. Chief Wells noted that he hated to speculate, but that most probably they have some type of symptom if they get tested. He did note however, that some people are asymptomatic. Chairwoman Clark said she goes every 14 days or so to get tested to make sure she is staying well.

**Councilman Adkins:**

Councilman Adkins stated that he gave all honor to Christ and that he thanked God for keeping everyone safe. He noted that he and his wife had happily went to the support Martin Sauls III for the presentation of his award. He also noted that he had went to Hartsville, SC for training and received a lot of good information at the SCEDA training. He said the next SCEDA training session would be held in November. He said he had gone to the Gopher Hill Festival and was in the parade right behind Councilman Sauls, and had enjoyed it. He asked that everyone keep him and his family in prayer.

**Councilman Sauls:**

Councilman Sauls noted that Lt. Andy Orphanoudakis, a firefighter in the City of Hardeeville had passed away. He asked that everyone keep the family in prayer. He thanked everyone for the support they had shown his father, Martin Sauls III, for the award he received for the Order of the Palmetto. He noted that this had been a big week for his dad because he also had his 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

He said he had gone to the Gopher Hill Festival and Parade with his family and noted they had a wonderful time. He said he had been in the parade and had passed out candy and that they had even stayed till around 8:30pm because it was so enjoyable. He mentioned that the City of Hardeeville would be having their festival in a couple weekends and encouraged people to attend.

He said they had been working on the landscaping and painting at the Farmer's Market and that he had attended the Southern Carolina Alliance Board meeting this last week. He said they are looking forward to good things happening in economic development in the future.

**Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Fulghum was present for this item and noted that his report was in the Council's packet if they had any questions. He noted that he had been taking training courses and that he was

attending a Conference in Portland virtually and will be in class again Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. He said he had also been attending the National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Institute for the last 8 weeks and 4 more weeks to go. He noted that he has been enjoying all the opportunities to learn.

Mr. Fulghum turned it over to Kimberly Burgess for a customer service update. Ms. Burgess noted that beginning tomorrow providing curb side service signs with phone numbers so they could call in and tell the reception desk what they are there for. This way they can wait in their car until they are called.

**Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.**

There was no reason to return to executive session for this meeting.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## IX

*Proclamation A*

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**– PROCLAMATION –**

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse affect individuals, families, and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified efforts by community members be launched to prevent drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated in communities across the nation on October 23-31; and

WHEREAS, businesses, government, law enforcement, military, media, health care providers, religious institutions, schools, organizations such as the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League and other community-based organizations will demonstrate their commitment to foster a healthy, drug-free lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the community of Jasper County further commits to promoting the success of Red Ribbon Week;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Jasper County Council of Jasper County, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 23-31, as **RED RIBBON WEEK**, and encourage you to participate in drug prevention, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but also throughout the year, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free lifestyle.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara B. Clark  
Chairperson of the Jasper County Council

(SEAL)

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XII

*New Business item A*



## Jasper County Clerk to Council

358 Third Avenue  
Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936  
Phone (843) 717-3696

Wanda Simmons  
Clerk to County Council  
wsimmons@jaspercountysc.gov

### Jasper County Council Staff Report

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	10.18.2021
<b>Project:</b>	MatchBoard Program for our Boards and Commission
<b>Request:</b>	To use the MatchBoard cloud-based program for tracking our Boards and Commissions for a minimum of 1 year at no charge.
<b>Submitted For:</b>	Approval by Council
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approval of signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

#### Description:

MatchBoard is a digital platform through which our County will be able to manage our Boards and Commissions. This will allow us to easily maintain timely information on Board / Commission memberships; receive and review digital applications; forward application to Council for their review, comment, and approval; communicate with citizens regarding questions, updates, and appointment notifications; automatically update the database with any new appointments made; and reduce or eliminate current manual paper-driven processes.

This program is a new cloud-based program, and all of our information would remain our property. This is a great opportunity for us, as we will be one of the first 30 Counties and therefore, get the first year free of charge. Eventually this could help our citizens through a link on our website to view open positions on different boards and commissions as well as allow them to make applications for vacancies that come directly back to me through the program.

At this time, the first 30 counties and municipalities who sign the MOU for their November launch will be able to use MatchBoard free of charge for one year. We have been given one of the 30 slots for this opportunity. The SCAC has generously offered to cover 25% of costs for those counties, who are not in the first 30 counties or municipalities. Additionally, after the first year, the SCAC will be continuing to cover 25% of the cost for the counties. We are under no obligation in signing the MOU to continue beyond the first year (which is free of charge). At this time we ask that you approve the signing of the MOU for this opportunity for the first free year.





MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> is a digital platform through which cities and counties can manage their boards and commissions. Developed by the multi-partisan non-profit South Carolina Women in Leadership in partnership with the South Carolina Association of Counties, MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> makes the process of informing and recruiting qualified citizens from all backgrounds to serve in appointed positions more publicly transparent and administratively efficient.

MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> reduces the time and cost of local administration, improves the consistency of information available to appointing bodies for selection, offers storage of all applications and supporting information of applicants and appointees, and provides a single interface through which potential public servants can search and apply for open seats that match their skills and experience. Most importantly, allows greater access and facilitates more diverse, transparent, and equitable civic engagement in governing bodies.

Functioning as both a standalone platform and an integrated feature on your website, MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> streamlines and digitizes board and commission recruitment and subsequent workflow..

**Your citizens will be able to:**

- Find information about what boards and commissions govern their communities
- Build comprehensive profiles showcasing their experience and interests
- Apply for opportunities to serve
- Chat with the clerk about any questions they may have
- Check the status of their application which automatically updates

**Your clerks will be able to:**

- Easily maintain timely information on board memberships independent of IT staff
- Receive and review digital applications
- Forward application to council members for their review, comment, and approval
- Communicate with citizens regarding questions, updates, and appointment notifications
- Automatically update the database with any new appointments made
- Reduce or eliminate current manual paper-driven processes.

**Your government will be able to:**

- Leverage digital infrastructure to showcase your investment in innovation
- Create an efficient, transparent appointment process that builds trust from the community
- Increase the number of diverse and qualified applicants you receive
- Demonstrate your community's investment in high-quality and inclusive governance.

MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> launches November 2021 and will be free for one year for the first 30 counties and municipalities that participate. In early 2022, MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> will become available for the rest of the state for a modest subscription fee based upon population size between \$1,200-\$6,000 annually. Contact us or visit our website to become one of the 30 who will be able to use MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> free for a year. Join us and demonstrate your commitment to creating a more efficient, equitable, and engaged community.

PO Box 11974 • Columbia, SC 29211 • SCWomenLead.net • MatchBoard.tech

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## Memorandum of Understanding

### Background:

The South Carolina Women's Leadership Network (SC WIL) is a multi-partisan, multi-racial alliance of women with a mission to move South Carolina forward socially, economically, educationally, and environmentally by sharing information about, making connections to, and encouraging engagement in, local and state leadership

Through its work toward achieving this mission, SC WIL determined that there is a lack of consistent information and application processes for citizens who are interested in leadership positions. SC WIL also discovered a need for efficient workflow processes for local counties and municipalities.

MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> was created by SC WIL based on the needs identified for both governments and citizens.

### Participating Parties:

SC WIL and \_\_\_\_\_ [City or County]

### Purpose:

SC WIL has worked with a software development company to create a cloud-based system to enhance citizen engagement by streamlining the application process for local boards and commissions. This streamlined system, MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> includes built-in workflows and communications to create efficiencies for the local governments.

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to clearly state the roles and responsibilities of each party in this software system. SC WIL has made substantial investments of both time and money in MatchBoard and this document is to protect the confidentiality of such.

### Confidentiality:

All parties agree to collaborate with SC WIL on development of MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> to make it a viable and affordable product for all South Carolina local governments. The parties also agree to not use the information gained during this process to create a competing system.

### Responsibilities:

[County/City of \_\_\_\_\_ ] agrees to collaborate with SC WIL by using MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> for a year in its beta form and provide feedback on the functionality, marketing, and workflows. The city/county understands that there are development costs related to suggested enhancements so not all suggestions may be implemented. The city/county agrees to SC WIL's goals of making MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> as user-friendly for citizens, as efficient for local governments, and applicable to all types and sizes of local governments as possible.

SC WIL agrees to provide the beta MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> for one year free of charge. It also agrees to take all comments and suggestions into consideration for development enhancements, both in the immediate and long term.

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All data input by parties to this agreement will be deemed to be owned by that party. If at some point that party chooses to opt out, all data will be returned to the party or deleted, as the party chooses in writing.

**Terms:**

At the end of the one-year beta testing, the county/city agrees to consider joining the subscription version of MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> and provide 60 days notice should they choose not to continue participation. Attached are sample fees for the product based on current projections.

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Clerk to Council – Printed Name

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Clerk to Council Signature

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Date

---

Chief Administrative Officer – Printed Name

---

Chief Administrative Officer - Signature

---

Date

---

SC Women’s Leadership Network/MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> – Printed Name

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SC Women’s Leadership Network/MatchBoard<sup>SM</sup> – Signature

---

Date



## Proposed Pricing Structure

Counties		
Population	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
200+ k	\$500	\$6,000
101-199 k	\$400	\$4,800
50-99 k	\$300	\$3,600
25-50 k	\$200	\$2,400
<25 k	\$100	\$1,200

Municipalities		
Population	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
50+ k	\$500	\$6,000
25-49 k	\$400	\$4,800
10-25 k	\$200	\$2,400
<10 k	\$100	\$1,200

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XII

New Business item B

Attached is the picture of Pinehaven Lane. The marked section is the part that no one is claiming. This portion of road is approximately 685 feet long. The other section, SCDOT claims which is approximately 600 feet and they claim ownership of this section.

SCDOT Road Information System

County (Required) Jasper

Municipality (Optional)

Street Name Pinehaven Ln

Map Satellite Search Box

Map Information: 20 m, Terms of Use, Report a map error



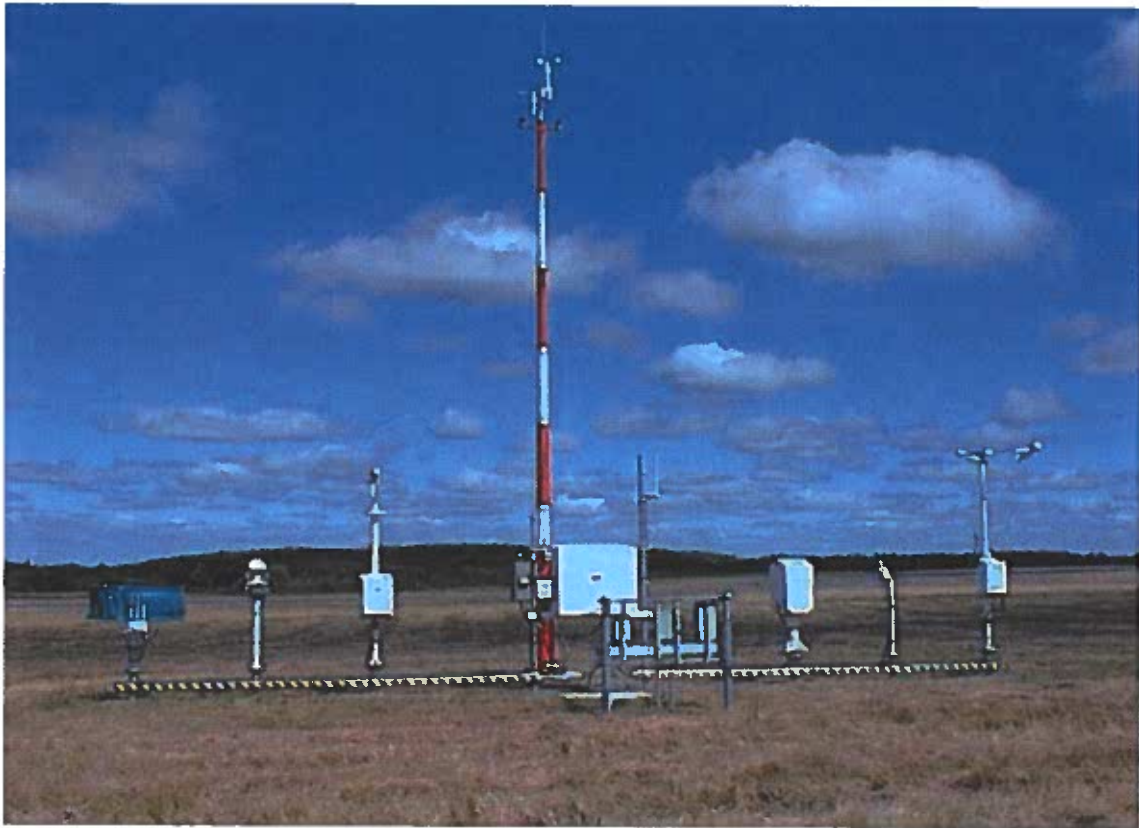
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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XII

New Business item C

## AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM (AWOS)



An Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) provides meteorological information to arriving and departing aircraft for a particular airport. Basic information provided to pilots includes wind speed & wind gusts, wind direction, temperature, dew point, barometric pressure (altimeter settings) and density altitude.

Pilots use the information generated by an AWOS to make decisions about takeoff, landing, runway and to calculate expected aircraft performance. Pilots also use the information for "Go-No Go" decision-making.

The AWOS broadcasts pertinent information to pilots in a computer-generated voice via the aircraft communication radio frequency, 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. Meteorological parameters are measured continuously and updated each minute. AWOS information is also available to pilots via the telephone. AWOS information from each airport is transmitted to the Federal Aviation Administration by computer continuously and available to pilots, air traffic controllers and FAA meteorologists across the U.S.. The AWOS system or similar system is used also by militaries and in all countries that operate airports and that are members of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XII

New Business item D

## Research

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**Summary:**

### Jasper County, South Carolina; Appropriations; General Obligation

**Primary Credit Analyst:**

Anthony Polanco, Boston + 1 (617) 530 8234; [anthony.polanco@spglobal.com](mailto:anthony.polanco@spglobal.com)

**Secondary Contact:**

Nora G Wittstruck, New York + (212) 438-8589; [nora.wittstruck@spglobal.com](mailto:nora.wittstruck@spglobal.com)

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Rating Action

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Related Research

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS360

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**Summary:**

# Jasper County, South Carolina; Appropriations; General Obligation

US\$5.6 mil GO rfdg bnds ser 2021 due 04/01/2042

*Long Term Rating*

AA-/Stable

New

Jasper Cnty GO  
*Long Term*  
*Rating*

AA-/Stable

Affirmed

## Rating Action

S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AA-' long-term rating and stable outlook to Jasper County, S.C.'s roughly \$5.6 million series 2021 general obligation (GO) refunding bonds and affirmed its 'AA-' long-term rating, with a stable outlook, on the county's existing GO debt.

S&P Global Ratings also affirmed its 'A+' long-term rating and underlying rating (SPUR), with a stable outlook, on the county's installment-purchase revenue debt.

The county's full-faith-and-credit pledge, including the ability to levy an unlimited tax on all taxable property within its borders to make principal-and-interest payments, secures the bonds and existing GO debt.

Officials intend to use series 2021 bond proceeds to refund series 2011 and 2015 GO bond maturities to lower overall debt service.

Annual installment or lease payments secure installment-purchase revenue bonds; payments are subject to annual appropriation and absolute and unconditional once appropriated. We rate these issues one notch off the county's GO rating to account for appropriation risk.

### Credit overview

The rating reflects our view of consistently balanced financial operations, which have led to continued maintenance of very strong reserves. While limited, the county's economy experiences modest improvements in activity and property value due partially to population growth and access to the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort and Savannah, Ga. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). In our view, low debt and manageable retirement costs support the rating.

The stable outlook reflects S&P Global Ratings' view management will likely continue to budget conservatively and maintain very strong available reserves through positive operations during the two-year outlook.

The rating reflects our view of the county's:

- Adequate economy, with projected per capita effective buying income at 46.1% of the national level and market value per capita of \$96,609, that benefits from access to a broad and diverse MSA;
- Adequate financial management, with standard financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology;

- Strong budgetary performance, with breakeven operating results in the general fund but an operating surplus at the total governmental fund level in fiscal 2020;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with available fund balance in fiscal 2020 at 42% of operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 21.9% of total governmental fund expenditures and 5.4x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity we consider strong;
- Strong debt-and-contingent-liability profile, with debt service carrying charges at 4% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 50.1% of total governmental fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 3% of market value, but a large pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) obligation; and
- Strong Institutional Framework score.

### Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors

We have analyzed ESG risks relative to the county's economy, budgetary outcomes, management, and debt-and-long-term-liability profile and view them as consistent with the sector standard. While we consider rising sea levels and the negative effects of climate change a long-term risk on the county, due to its direct access to the Atlantic Coast and general low elevation, we understand management incorporates planning efforts to reduce potential environmental risk. In addition, compared with areas in the nation experiencing population loss, substantial population growth of 24% during the past 10 years demonstrates demographics we consider a social opportunity with service costs spread across a larger base; this could help with maintaining long-term affordability. However, increasing demand for certain services relative to an aging population could offset affordability.

## Stable Outlook

### Downside scenario

While not expected, we could lower the rating if reserves were to decrease significantly due to negative financial operations or if the local economy were to weaken, particularly if the economic rebound stalls due to the emergence of COVID-19 variants.

### Upside scenario

We could raise the rating if wealth and income were to increase, coupled with implementing stronger financial policies and procedures, while maintaining very strong reserves.

## Credit Opinion

### Adequate economy

We consider the county's economy adequate. Jasper County, with a population estimate of 29,760, is in the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA, which we consider broad and diverse. Projected per capita effective buying income is 46.1% of the national level and per capita market value is \$96,609. Overall, market value has been stable during the past year at \$2.9 billion in fiscal 2022. Unemployment was 5.1% in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The roughly 662-square-mile county is in southeastern South Carolina, along the Interstate 95 corridor, covering the South Carolina-Georgia border. Although the county's economy is somewhat limited, residents have access to employment opportunities in Savannah and throughout Beaufort County, including Hilton Head Island. While we do not consider the property tax base concentrated, the 10 leading taxpayers make up 23% of assessed value (AV). South Carolina Electric & Gas makes up about 11.9% of AV. We understand the county has not experienced any major taxpayer delinquencies during the past few years.

Industrial and residential development continues, especially in southern and eastern Jasper County, according to officials, including 300 new residential units permitted in 2020. Consistent countywide population growth of 24% between 2010 and 2020 spurred part of this development; out-of-state residents moving into the county, including from nearby Savannah and other northern Georgia communities, led this growth. Municipal; county; and state infrastructure projects, including a state-funded expansion of Route 17 in southern Jasper County to accommodate increased traffic and population, support these and other developments.

While we think the county's economy will likely remain stable, especially since we think economic recovery will likely continue to accelerate and the risk of recession lessens, we expect the lingering effects of COVID-19, including elevated state and regional unemployment, could potentially lead to slower-than-expected economic growth. (For more information on our view of the U.S. economy, see the articles, titled "U.S. Real-Time Data: Growth Is Still On Track Despite Rising COVID-19 Cases," published July 23, 2021; "Credit Conditions North America Q3 2021: Looking Ahead, It's Looking Up," published June 29, 2021; and "Economic Outlook U.S. Q3 2021: Sun, Sun, Sun, Here It Comes," published June 24, 2021, on RatingsDirect.)

#### **Adequate management**

We view the county's financial management as adequate, with standard financial policies and practices under our FMA methodology, indicating the finance department maintains adequate policies in some, but not all, key areas.

The county does not currently maintain formal long-term financial or capital plans or debt-management policies; however, management works to structure debt service to maintain its debt-service millage at no more than 12 mills.

Management informally maintains reserves at greater than 25% of expenditures, which it complies with currently.

When drafting the budget, management reviews prior-year revenue collections and works closely with the assessor to obtain property tax data. Management uses zero-based budgeting for expenditures. The county makes monthly budget-to-actual reports to the county council. It also follows state investment guidelines and makes annual holdings-and-earnings reports to the council. The county also has cybersecurity protections, and it maintains various network and system backups.

We understand the county has redone its flood maps to better identify areas more prone to flooding. Management works with outside consultants and county managers to determine high-risk areas and potential mitigations. Due to these efforts, the county has begun to construct new and future developments closer to urban centers and away from incorporated and low-elevation areas to help reduce severe flooding and damage.

#### **Strong budgetary performance**

Jasper County's budgetary performance is strong, in our opinion. The county had breakeven operating results in the general fund but surplus results across all governmental funds at 11.1% in fiscal 2020.

We adjusted fiscal 2020 results to account for recurring transfers. For fiscal 2020, although the county experienced some miscellaneous revenue shortfalls, we understand other revenue items--such as property taxes, fines, and licenses--performed overbudget. At the same time, the county experienced expenditure savings across various departments. Overall, even with slightly reduced miscellaneous revenue, officials indicate total revenue and expenditures came in on budget for fiscal 2020. Prior to this, the county experienced general fund surpluses in fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

The county estimates it ended fiscal 2021 with a \$3.6 million general fund surplus. Management primarily attributes this to higher-than-expected revenue, including property tax and local-option sales tax revenue. The county also chose to defer some capital expenditures in fiscal 2021 and experienced lower-than-budgeted costs in various departments, including public safety; administration; and citizen services, which resulted in significant budget savings. Property taxes generate 78% of general fund revenue, followed by fines, fees, and licenses at 14%.

The fiscal 2022 budget totals \$38.3 million, including a fund-balance appropriation of \$3.1 million for planned capital expenses. Although it is approximately a 7% increase over fiscal 2021, we understand there were no major budget changes compared with fiscal 2021 with the majority of an increase going toward capital and sheriff's department expenses. The county did not increase property taxes for fiscal 2022 but it did slightly increase assumptions for sales and hospitality taxes and business licenses, according to management. The county also expects to receive about \$5.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds, but management has not made final decisions on how it will use the money. Therefore, we expect budgetary performance will likely remain strong.

#### **Very strong budgetary flexibility**

Jasper County's budgetary flexibility is very strong, in our view, with available fund balance in fiscal 2020 at 42% of operating expenditures, or \$13.1 million. We expect available fund balance will likely remain more than 30% of expenditures for the current and next fiscal years, which we view as a positive credit factor.

The county has historically maintained very strong available reserves, which have averaged about 46% during the past three fiscal years. The county estimates it improved reserves by about \$3.6 million in fiscal 2021. We understand officials do not currently plan to draw down reserves, at least, during the next few fiscal years. Management informally maintains available reserves at no less than 25% of expenditures. Therefore, we expect budgetary flexibility will likely remain very strong.

#### **Very strong liquidity**

In our opinion, Jasper County's liquidity is very strong, with total government available cash at 21.9% of total governmental fund expenditures and 5.4x governmental debt service in fiscal 2020. In our view, the county has strong access to external liquidity if necessary.

In our opinion, the county has demonstrated strong access to capital markets through frequent bond anticipation note issuance and GO and appropriation-backed debt. In addition, the county does not engage in, what we consider, aggressive investments; all county investments are in U.S. government securities and certificates of deposit with maturities of less than one year.

In addition, the county does not have any variable-rate debt. It privately placed series 2015 GO bonds, which totaled about \$1.2 million in fiscal 2020. However, legal terms are standard and do not contain any unusual provisions, such as

acceleration, that could pressure liquidity. The county has consistently had very strong liquidity, and we expect this to continue during the next two years to three years.

#### Strong debt-and-contingent-liability profile

In our view, Jasper County's debt-and-contingent-liability profile is strong. Total governmental fund debt service is 4% of total governmental fund expenditures, and net direct debt is 50.1% of total governmental fund revenue. Overall net debt is low at 2.1% of market value, which is, in our view, a positive credit factor.

With this issuance, the county will have about \$23.8 million in total direct debt. While we understand officials do not currently plan to issue additional debt, the county is working with the state and municipalities on a large road-improvement project that could require some bonding.

#### Pension and OPEB highlights:

- We do not view pension and OPEB liabilities as an immediate credit pressure for the county despite lower funding and our expectation costs will likely increase.
- Because the county's actuarially determined pension contribution reflects, what we view as, weak assumptions and methodologies, we think it increases unexpected contribution-escalation risk. However, we expect higher contributions will likely remain affordable due to revenue strength.
- Officials fund OPEB liabilities through pay-as-you-go financing.
- Jasper County has legal flexibility to alter OPEB.

As of June 30, 2020, the county participates in:

- South Carolina Retirement System, which was 54.4% funded, with a net pension liability of \$9.3 million;
- South Carolina Police Officers' Retirement System, which was 62.7% funded, with a net pension liability of \$6.9 million; and
- Jasper County's single-employer, defined-benefit OPEB plan that contributes to retiree health insurance until age 65, which was 0% funded, with an OPEB liability of about \$18.2 million.

The combined required pension and actual OPEB contribution totaled 5.6% of total governmental fund expenditures in fiscal 2020: 4.8% represented required contributions to pension obligations and 0.8% represented OPEB payments.

Although the county funds 100% of its actuarially determined contribution, contributions fell short of static- and minimum-funding progress. The plans' amortization methods, especially the level 3% of payroll amortization, defer costs, resulting in slow-funding progress. However, reforms enacted in 2017 sought to address weak funding, including lowering the discount and closing the amortization period; we view both as mitigating contribution-escalation risk.

While we think the 7.25% long-term assumed rate of return might still be high, we calculated increased contribution rates using a more-conservative 4% return assumption during the first five years with an assumed 7% return assumption thereafter; we posit this could help stabilize funding despite recent market volatility.

While these reforms will likely improve funding, they will contribute to increasing plan-participant costs. While we do not expect any medium-term pressure, we will continue to monitor state-administered pension plans to ensure recent legislation increases the plans' funding and does not create fiscal pressure for the county. (For more information on pension reform, see our commentary, titled "Pension Spotlight: South Carolina," published June 15, 2020.)

### Strong Institutional Framework

The Institutional Framework score for South Carolina counties is strong.

## Related Research

- S&P Public Finance Local GO Criteria: How We Adjust Data For Analytic Consistency, Sept. 12, 2013
- Alternative Financing: Disclosure Is Critical To Credit Analysis In Public Finance, Feb. 18, 2014
- Criteria Guidance: Assessing U.S. Public Finance Pension And Other Postemployment Obligations For GO Debt, Local Government GO Ratings, And State Ratings, Oct. 7, 2019
- Through The ESG Lens 2.0: A Deeper Dive Into U.S. Public Finance Credit Factors, April 28, 2020 • 2020 Update Of Institutional Framework For U.S. Local Governments

Jasper Cnty ICR Long Term Rating	AA-/Stable	Affirmed
Jasper Cnty APPROP Long Term Rating	A+/Stable	Affirmed
<b>St. Peters Parish/Jasper Cnty Pub Facs Corp, South Carolina</b>		
Jasper Cnty, South Carolina Jasper Cnty (St. Peters Parish/Jasper Cnty Pub Facs Corp) instalment purch rfdg rev bnds Long Term Rating	A+/Stable	Affirmed
Jasper Cnty (St. Peters Parish/Jasper Cnty Pub Facs Corp) instalment purch rfdg rev bnds Long Term Rating	A+/Stable	Affirmed
St. Peters Parish/Jasper Cnty Pub Facs Corp Jasper Cnty APPROP (AGM) Unenhanced Rating	A+(SPUR)/Stable	Affirmed
St. Peters Parish/Jasper Cnty Pub Facs Corp (Jasper Cnty) installment purch (AGM) Unenhanced Rating	A+(SPUR)/Stable	Affirmed
Many issues are enhanced by bond insurance.		

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com) for further information. Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at [www.capitaliq.com](http://www.capitaliq.com). All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com). Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.



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# AGENDA ITEM: XIII

Old Business item A

\*\* Note this is a verbal COVID update from Chief Wells and the screen will be shared with this information\*\*

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XIV

Council Members Comments

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# AGENDA ITEM:

## XV

### Administrator's Report



## OFFICE OF THE JASPER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

358 Third Avenue - Courthouse Square - Post Office Box 1149  
Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936 - 843-717-3690 - Fax: 843-726-7800

Andrew P. Fulghum  
County Administrator  
[afulghum@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:afulghum@jaspercountysc.gov)

### **Administrator's Report October 18, 2021**

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1. Health Benefits Fair:

The County's Human Resources Department has, once again, organized a health and benefits fair to be held at the Jasper County Farmers' Market on Friday, Oct. 29 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Free health screenings will be available for County employees participating in the current health plan. Benefit providers will also be available to employees at this event. We thank the Human Resources Department for organizing and administering this important program for County employees.

2. Employee Assistance Program (EAP):

I am pleased to report that the EAP is continuing to provide benefits to employees. The EAP is a confidential workplace service which provides extremely important counseling services to employees to help them manage life stressors of all kinds. A recent handout from the EAP follows this report.

3. The Art of Community: Rural South Carolina:

This is an initiative of the SC Arts Council. Jasper County started working with the Arts Council on this effort in 2015. Mr. Johnny Davis, Jasper County's Parks and Recreation Director, serves as the County representative for this initiative. Information about the initiative follows this report, and I plan to ask Mr. Davis to give the County Council an overview and update at your Nov. 1 County Council meeting.

***The County Administrator's Progress Report and any miscellaneous correspondence, agendas, and minutes follow this report.***



PALMETTO EAP

# FALL IS HERE!

Take time out to care for yourself this Fall. Check out these resources from world renowned therapist **Esther Perel**. Her site has a wealth of resources for coping with the ongoing Covid Pandemic.

Click this link to learn more:

<https://www.estherperel.com/focus-on-categories/covid-and-crisis>

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**CALL PALMETTO EAP**  
**866-216-1996**

Access your free EAP counseling benefit for yourself or dependents by calling 866-216-1996 and dialing option 1.





The Art of Community: Rural SC is a creative community development initiative of the South Carolina Arts Commission.



# JASPER COUNTY

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND LITERACY

## Meet the Maven: Johnny Davis



A 'Maven' is a key community connector.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

JASPER COUNTY  
POPULATION:  
**30,073**

TOWN OF RIDGELAND  
POPULATION:  
**3,948**

TOWN OF HARDEEVILLE  
POPULATION:  
**5,836**

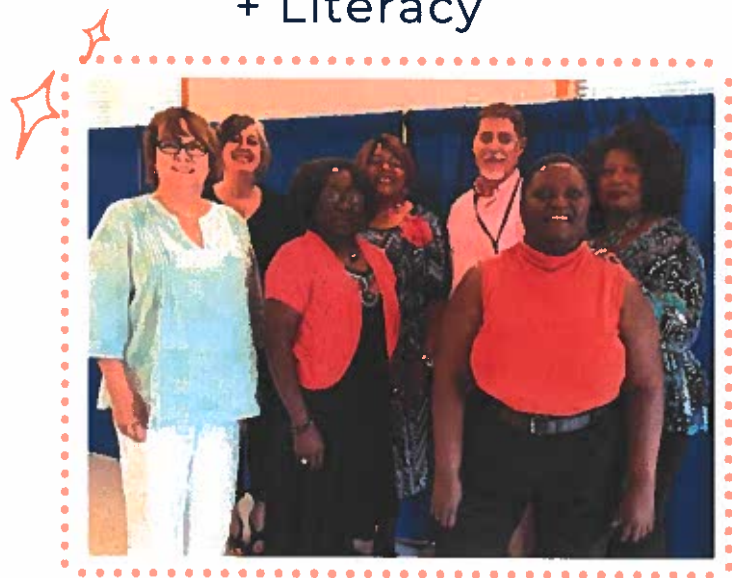
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019

[Prosperity Now Report on Jasper](#)



### Themes: Arts + Education + Literacy

**Maven Johnny Davis** is the first to say he doesn't have a background or much experience in the arts. As director of Jasper County's Parks and Rec Department, he likes to say that he became a Maven when he learned there was a trip to Kentucky included where he had family roots. Since 2016, Maven Johnny has used his professionalism mixed with dry wit and sincere dedication to coalesce a team in Jasper County charged with two things: 1) Use arts and culture to activate six Jasper County community centers; and 2) Create a Jasper County arts council. He's done both!



Mavens meet! The first meeting of the six original Mavens was May 2016 at Denmark Technical College in Denmark, SC. Shown left to right front row: Gary Brightwell, Evelyn Coker, Dr. Yvette McDaniel; Back row: Susan DuPlessis, Audrey Hopkins Williams, Johnny Davis, Lottie Lewis.



GAYLORD AND DOROTHY DONNELLEY FOUNDATION

This project is funded in part by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

Contact Johnny at [jmdavis@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:jmdavis@jaspercountysc.gov) to learn how to get involved

## JASPER COUNTY

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND LITERACY

### BEGINNINGS

One of the original six Mavens for The Art of Community: Rural SC, Maven Johnny stepped into this initiative with curiosity and a willingness to explore possibilities for Jasper County. All Mavens have been asked, what is a challenge your community faces and how can you use arts and culture to address that? Maven Johnny and team identified Jasper County's literacy rate (27% unable to read or have trouble reading) as the challenge and built a series of activities, interventions and community engagement exercises to draw attention to this issue. At the same time, his Art of Community team became the founding members of a new arts council supporting a whole host of learning, growing and creative activities. Fundamental to these developments was the involvement of **The Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage**, a local partner providing leadership and a range of support through the years.



Shown clockwise: The Jasper County Arts Council; Maven Johnny Davis with Creative Connector Tamara Herring who directs the Morris Center and is a strategic partner; The Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage was developed in 2010 to serve the Jasper and lowcountry region. It is located in Ridgeland, SC



Illustration by Cait Maloney



**MORRIS CENTER**  
FOR LOWCOUNTRY HERITAGE







The Art of Community: Rural SC is a creative community development initiative of the South Carolina Arts Commission.



# JASPER COUNTY

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND LITERACY

As Maven Johnny and his dedicated team have been finding and building connections within Jasper County, they have been building the Jasper County Arts Council. It has three primary goals:

- ☆ To discover/identify local artists;
- ☆ To expand arts and literacy programs; and
- ☆ To give local artists the opportunity to showcase their talents and art forms

## So, what does 'arts and literacy' look like?

### AWARENESS...



Sparking interest through new approaches: Literacy-specific activities have included Little Free Libraries sited at all six community centers, family literacy nights, a community convening of partners, educators, community leaders to discuss literacy, an art of literacy pilot project in 2019 with artist Amiri Farris at the Tarborro Community Center, and a summer arts camp for ages 4 to 94 in 2021 at all six community centers in Jasper County .



### MUTUALITY...

The sense that we are in this together: Early community engagement activities with the Morris Center that included Paint at the Park and Art Bark in the Park.



**OCT 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 • 1PM-3PM**

## JASPER COUNTY

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND LITERACY

### A LEARNING MINDSET...

Maven Johnny has stepped up to the plate (he will like this sports metaphor) to speak at regional meetings about the realities people face when they can't read—from medical prescriptions to job applications—and what this means for a community trying to recruit new businesses and industry.

He has also been a featured speaker at the Southeastern Creative Placemaking Conference in Columbia, SC, 2019, where he was joined on stage by The Art of Community: Rural SC Co-Chairs Pam Breaux of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Bob Reeder of Rural LISC; as well as his fellow Maven, Audrey Hopkins-Williams of Hampton County.

In addition to going to Kentucky to learn about the community arts development in the towns of Hazard and Whitesburg (the first fieldtrip as this initiative was launched in 2016), Maven Johnny also helped set a new standard for friendly competition between Mavens as each hosted a meeting and tour in their community between 2016 and early 2020. Who can forget the Gretsch Drum Factory in Ridgeland???



The 2019 [Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit](#), held in Columbia, SC, featured Mavens Johnny Davis and Audrey Hopkins Williams. They were joined by The Art of Community: Rural SC CO-Chairs Pam Breaux and Bob Reeder on stage for a closer look at local leadership and community building.

## JASPER COUNTY

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND LITERACY

### CREATING TOGETHER....

from County Administrator Andy Fulghum to the team Maven Johnny has built, Jasper County has demonstrated its interest in doing something different to get a different result. The arts council leadership team recognize and support an array of arts and literacy efforts as critical components of their creative community development. From participating in arts council planning meetings and attending Art of Community regional meetings to assisting with partnership development, most of the team began this effort with Maven Johnny and are still at it five years later. Many were even camp counselors at the 2021 Summer Camp experience. Clearly, something's working!



The purpose of the Art of Community Rural SC/Jasper County project is to heighten awareness of the effects of literacy issues on health, economic development and education in Jasper County; and to create a community approach to address these issues in a fun, expressive way outside a typical classroom setting. The students in these pictures participated in the 2021 Arts and Literacy Summer Camp .



## OFFICE OF THE JASPER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Andrew P. Fulghum  
County Administrator

[afulghum@jaspercountysc.gov](mailto:afulghum@jaspercountysc.gov)

### **Progress Report October 5, 2021-October 18, 2021**

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1. 2021 International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference:  
Attended conference sessions virtually Oct. 4-6.
2. Exit 3:  
Responded to SCTIB request for information on County's Transportation Sales Tax program.
3. Debt Refinancing:  
Reviewed Preliminary Offering Statement (POS) and suggested edits.  
Reviewed bidders with Ms. Burgess. Report to County Council will be given at Oct. 18 County Council meeting.
4. Various Development Projects:  
Participated in conference calls on Oct. 6 and Oct. 13 re: Projects Mandolin, Dolphin, and Silverman. Emails and telephone conversations re: Carolina Metal Castings, meetings with Superintendent of Schools and Town of Ridgeland staff re: development along Rt. 278 Corridor. Organized and prepared for economic development workshop on Oct. 20.
5. Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport:  
Participated in virtual meeting with SC Aeronautics staff, County staff, and Town staff on Oct. 11 to review development proposals near airport and the use of the compatible land use evaluation tool (CLUE).
6. Other Meetings/Events Attended or Scheduled to Attend:  
Memorial service for Capt. Andrew Orphanoudakis in Hardeeville on Oct. 8.