



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
**WORKSHOP AND
COUNCIL MEETING**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg.
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Monday, May 15, 2023
Minutes

Budget Workshop:

AHJ Regional Library – Carolyn Fortson, Director

Director Carolyn Fortson of the AHJ Regional Library was present to discuss their budget request with Council. She noted that the appropriations are necessary to staff both libraries (Hardeeville Community Library and the Platt Memorial Library). She also mentioned that there had been no increase in County Appropriations since 2021. She mentioned that in 2024 they were asking for an increase to employ 2 new hires at each library. Ms. Glenice Watts also discussed the Platt Memorial Library Renovation Project and a satellite location during the renovations.

Technical College of the Lowcountry – Dr. Richard Gough, President

President Richard Gough of the Technical College of the Lowcountry was present to discuss their budget request with Council. He also discussed the college, and how enrollment was up this year. He also talked about the 4 campuses and the virtual campus that students had opportunity for. He also mentioned that only 25% of their funds come from the state.

Coastal Empire Community MHC – Judith Birchenough, Asst. Director of Administration and Christy Jenks, Clinical Director of Jasper County

Judith Birchenough, Assistant Director of Administration for the Coastal Empire Community MHC introduced Christy Jenks, Clinical Director of Jasper County to discuss their budget request with Council.

She also discussed that they are there to support people with mental illness. She provided and reviewed a list of the services they provide, reviewed their community collaboration partners and community partners as well as provided a list of the schools they serve. She noted the totals for the admissions in Jasper County from 2017 thru 2022 and the number of services provided from 2017-2022.

Hopeful Horizons – Kristan Dubrowski, Chief Executive Director

Kristin Dubrowski, Chief Executive Director of Hopeful Horizons was present to discuss their budget request with Council. She noted that the mission of Hopeful Horizons is to protect, treat and

prevent. She said they are the only organization providing comprehensive free services in this area. She also discussed how the organization operates and what they do for Jasper County.

Jasper County Neighbors United – Tedd Moyd

Tedd Moyd of Jasper County Neighbors United was present to discuss their budget request with Council and noted he was not asking for an increase in their request. He said that they had helped multiple people this past year and thanked Council for their continued support. He said they have been raising funds for their organization as well in addition to the County's support. He also thanked Mr. Fulghum and said he was doing a great job and was very helpful in directing people over to them so they could provide them with assistance.

Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry – Chris Protz, Executive Director

Chris Protz, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry was not present for the workshop as he had went to a Hardeeville location instead by mistake.

For a complete review of the budget presentation documents please go to:
[https://www.jaspercountysc.gov/pdfs/county-council/e-packets/05.01.2023%20Agenda%20e-packet%20Part%201-%20%20\(Agenda%20-%20Budget%20Presentations\).pdf](https://www.jaspercountysc.gov/pdfs/county-council/e-packets/05.01.2023%20Agenda%20e-packet%20Part%201-%20%20(Agenda%20-%20Budget%20Presentations).pdf)

Executive Session 5:30PM

Officials Present: Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins, Councilman John Kemp and Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark. **Absent:** Councilman Coy Garbade.

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Deputy Clerk to Council, Tisha Williams, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells, Lisa Wagner, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Chairman Sauls called the Executive Session Meeting to order and read the Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.*

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 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 – Professional Services—Pratt Memorial Library; Cypress Ridge Spec Building #1

(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](#)

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. **PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Return to Open Session at 6:30PM:

Motion to return to open session: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Action coming out of Executive Session:

Motion to authorize the Administrator to enter into contracts to perform a Hazardous Materials Survey with a potential abatement plan should hazardous materials be found, and a Building Envelope / Structural Inspection with the Hazardous Material work not to exceed \$6,000 with the Building Envelope Structural work not to exceed \$14,000 : Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and the Invocation was led by Councilman Adkins.

Discussion of Consent Agenda and Agenda Items:

Councilman Kemp asked that Item #17 be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda as Item # 9A.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda with the noted change: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation:

Chairman Sauls – Recognizing National Correctional Officers Appreciation Week May 7 – May 13, 2023.

Chairman Sauls read the Proclamation and Chairman Sauls and Council presented this proclamation to Director Arthur S. Benjamin Jr.

Presentations:

Smittie Cooler – Broad River Task Force Update and Recommendations.

Mr. Smittie Cooler was present to give the Broad River Task Force Update and Recommendations to Council. He discussed the issues that had caused the task force to join force. He mentioned they had worked hard to identify the problems and issues. He noted that it is their intent to fully support the Council and Staff in any way possible to resolve these problems. He discussed the Comprehensive Plan and their desire to have this plan be fully realized and actively perpetuated. He discussed the Euhaw Broad River Cultural Heritage District and the concerns of this area. Chairman Sauls stated that Council shares the same concerns and will be taking action. "Council is committed to preserving what is ours", Chairman Sauls stated.

Motion to move to direct the Administrator and County Attorney to work with the Planning Staff to explore options to address the development pressures, infrastructure needs, and conversation opportunities in the area shown on the sketch map of the area North of Highway. 170 adjacent to Highway 462, and Northward along the Broad River, and to bring recommendations to County Council at the May 15th meeting of Council: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Adkins

Comments: Chairman Sauls noted that he hoped the example that the County Council set here tonight would set an example for the Town of Ridgeland and City of Hardeeville to follow as well.

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Andrew Fulghum – Discussion and consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2023-08 to amend the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi County Industrial / Business Park MCIP Agreement.

Mr. Fulghum was present to review and make this request. He noted that this was the 2nd reading of this ordinance to amend the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi County Industrial / Business Park MCIP Agreement.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion was approved.

Rose Dobson-Elliott – Consideration of bid proposal for a prefabricated steel building and slab for the County Maintenance Building.

Ms. Rose Dobson- Elliott was present to discuss the consideration of bid proposal for a prefabricated steel building and slab for the County Maintenance Building and the need for this request. Councilman Kemp asked where the money was coming from. Ms. Burgess said this would come from Capital Outlay. Council had some further discussion, and Vice Chairwoman Clark noted the need to trust the Directors to bring us the information.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion was approved.

Lisa Wagner – Discussion and consideration of 1st reading to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property located at 323 School Road, bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 015-01-00-012 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Ms. Wagner was present to review and make this request. She noted that this was the 1st reading of this request to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property located at 323 School Road, bearing Jasper County Tax Map Numbers 015-01-00-012 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. Ms. Wagner noted that the Applicant requests a Zoning Map Amendment to have a property designated as Community Commercial. The subject property consists of .74 acres and is located at 323 School Road in the Robertville Community. The subject property is currently zoned Residential and has a commercial building located on the property. The applicant would like to have the property re-zoned to Community Commercial so that the building can be used as a community event center.

According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as a “Hamlet”. Hamlets serve as commercial centers for everyday needs in the rural areas. Small-scale commercial should be allowed within these hamlets with proper design. The adjacent parcels are zoned Residential and Community Commercial with Rural Preservation nearby. Adjacent land uses are commercial, residential, and vacant property. The subject property is accessed by School Road, which is a county-maintained dirt road.

Planning Commission reviewed this application at their April 11, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting and recommends approval of the request to have the subject property designated as Community Commercial.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion was approved.

Kimberly Burgess – Presentation, discussion and consideration of **1st reading** to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2023 and ending June 30th 2024 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2023–2024; to provide for the levy of taxation for fiscal year 2023–2024; and matters thereto.

Ms. Burgess was present to review and make this request. She noted that this was the 1st reading to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2023 and ending June 30th 2024 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2023–2024; to provide for the levy of taxation for fiscal year 2023–2024. She reviewed the changes made from the prior year ordinance for Council. It was noted that the public hearing for the budget will be held at the May 15th Council Meeting.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion was approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:30PM start time on the Sign In Sheet on the Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Mr. Quincey Bentley was present to discuss land, subdivision and requirements.

Mr. James Pringle was present (he noted that his first cousin just spoke). He said he had gone thru the process in 2018 and that is requiring his cousin to wait 5 years.

Heddie Frazier spoke on the Coosawhatchie Community Center.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum noted that Council had his report in their packet and that he had a couple of items to review. As always he was available for questions.

National Travel and Tourism Week:

National Travel and Tourism week is May 7-13. Our Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Devonte Genwright, will be working to promote the positive impact of travel and tourism on the State of SC as well as Jasper County via print and social media.

\$1.8 Million Grant from SC Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA):

Jasper County received a grant award of \$1,827,338. as requested for the Church Road Drainage Project. Thanks to Ms. Lisa Wagner, Ms. Kim Burgess, and Ms. Kimberly Mullinax from LCOG for their work on securing this grant.

These drainage improvements will be another part of the larger neighborhood revitalization effort the County has completed over the last several years in the Church Road/Stiney Road Area.

Staffers are preparing a press release to summarize grant funding received, work completed, and ongoing work in this neighborhood revitalization effort.

County Council Workshop – Exit 3:

Reminder – workshop is to be held in the Council Chambers at 9:00 a.m. on May 5.

County Council Workshop – Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport would be coming within the future.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

David Tedder – Consideration of the **2nd reading** of Ordinance **#O-2023-07** to amend Chapter 6 of the County Code of Ordinances (Buildings and Building Regulations) to Update References, Fees and Matters Related Thereto (**1st reading 04.21.2023; Public Hearing held 04.17.2023**).

Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution **#R-2023-05** to approve the State Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations for FY23-24.

Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution #R-2023-06 to authorize the award of funds for requests for Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes for FY23-24.

This item (formerly item # 17) was moved up as Item # 9A: Rose Dobson-Elliott – Consideration of bid proposal for a prefabricated steel building and slab for the County Maintenance Building.

Approval of the minutes of March 20, 2023:

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Members Comments:

Vice Chairwoman Clark said that she was glad to be there. She noted she had attended the Lions Board Meeting; EOC Training; Chamber Awards Banquet; and LCOG Board Meeting. She wished Happy Birthday's to her daughter, sister and nephew.

Councilman Kemp said he attended the monthly Magistrate Meeting; SOLOCO; SCA Board Meeting; Beaufort/Jasper Water Sewer Authority Meeting; Jasper on the Move and the United Way Annual Meeting.

Councilman Adkins just asked that all be blessed.

Chairman Sauls noted that Councilman Garbade was not present and asked everyone to keep Councilman Garbade and his wife in prayer. He attended the Southern Carolina Alliance Meeting; Jasper on the Move and the Chamber events.

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. For additional information on Items on this meeting go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCjIA.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



L. Martin Sauls IV
Chairman



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council