



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

**December 6, 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, Lisa Wagner and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

**Also Present:** Eric Greenway of Beaufort County and Ashley Feaster of Palmetto Electric

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. 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:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**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:**

**(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 -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 - Nickel Plate; Update on Opioid Litigation; Levy VFD; Heather Rath Consulting; MOU with Solicitor's Office for Career Criminal Unit; Rivers Reach; Ball v Jasper County**

**(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;**

**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 approve:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Business from executive session:**

**Motion to authorize the County Administrator to execute and deliver the authorization form provided by our legal counsel in the South Carolina Opioid Litigation Proceedings authorized pursuit of a settlement as discussed in executive session:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Motion to authorize the County Administrator to accept the consulting and lobbying services of Heather Rath as discussed in executive session:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kemp and the Invocation was given by Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Approval of the Minutes of 11.11.2021 and 11.15.2021:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Presentation and Proclamations:**

**A: Ashley Feaster, Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Presentation of South Carolina Rural Development Act Utility Tax Credit (UTC) Funding in the Amount of \$172,500.**

Ms. Feaster presented a check to Jasper County from Palmetto Electric Corporation for the South Carolina Rural Development Act Utility Tax Credit (UTC) Funding in the Amount of \$172,500 to go

towards the installation and construction of a concrete floor in the spec building at Cypress Ridge. Each year she noted they give tax credits to give each year and they receive applications then review each of the projects. She noted that as of today they were happy to say they had put in a little over 3.3 million into Cypress Ridge so far and be partners with Jasper County.

**B: Eric Greenway (Beaufort County Administrator) – Regional Housing Trust Fund.**

Mr. Greenway was present to address this request. He noted that he wanted to say that he enjoyed working with everyone in Jasper County. He reviewed the PowerPoint that he had submitted regarding the Regional Housing Trust Fund with Council. He noted that the Beaufort-Jasper Counties Regional Housing Trust Fund Study had been funding by:

Beaufort County, Jasper County, City of Beaufort, Town of Bluffton, City of Hardeeville, Town of Hilton Head Island, Town of Port Royal and the Town of Yemassee.

Mr. Greenway provided the following information relating to the PowerPoint:

- The purpose of the study.
- He explained what the housing trust fund was noting that it is a fund established to support the production and / or preservation of affordable housing.
- He explained that Priority 1 was to provide accessible, affordable housing to the region to support the workforce in the service economy, as well as others with high housing cost burdens.
- He explained that Priority 2 was to overcome barriers to affordable development such as financial gaps and land availability.
- He explained that priority three was to ensure a regional approach for affordable housing that addresses the needs of each jurisdiction, while meeting important strategic goals for housing location. He also mentioned that all jurisdictions would likely see an economic benefit from the RHTF.
- He explained that priority four would be understanding the tools and resources that are available to Housing Trust funds through various state laws and regulations.
- He explained that priority five was to identify a stable and reliable dedicated revenue source.
- Next he noted the objectives such as, a strong focus on households that are at or below 60% of area median income; providing workforce housing for the growing look it up Beaufort-Jasper economy; to help households maintain financial stability and build wealth while reducing the cost burden of rent and mortgage; to strengthen relationships, build trust, engage partners and stakeholders, ensuring a organized and collaborative approach to regional housing challenges; increasing awareness of existing and new financial products that serve the Beaufort-Jasper community; to leverage funding from banks, corporations, philanthropic institutions and federal state and local governments.
- Mr. Greenway then provided an action plan timeline for one year to three years.
- He then noted that step one would be to fund the RHTF, and provided a funding timeline.
- He noted that the next step would be to pass local funding ordinances, then secure ARPA funds in year one. He noted that after this they would need to secure a total annual contribution of \$500,000 from participating jurisdictions, based upon population share in year two and ongoing. He said that the participating jurisdictions can meet a goal of raising about \$500,000 a year based on population share of each jurisdiction. The \$500,000 goal in the report he said as adjusted for inflation and therefore contributions rise slightly each year.
- He then provided a funding matrix showing the initial infusion of stimulus funds for year one which is 3% of the American rescue funds, plus \$500,000 per year adjusted for inflation.

- He then explained that they needed to create a long term strategy of securing a dedicated revenue source from the participating jurisdictions. he noted that this could be accomplished through having the MOU's with each jurisdiction.
- The next step he noted was to continue investment and fund-raising conversations with philanthropic and corporate partners. Additionally, he said we would need to identify opportunities to leverage other nonpublic funds also.
- He said next they need to determine the 501c (3) Board Structure and staff the RHTF 501c(3) organization and create an organization budget. He also noted that they would need to seek philanthropic support.
- Mr. Greenway also said they need to identify a group to work with the coastal Community Foundation, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, and other potential funders for implementation.

This concluded Mr. Greenway's presentation and he told Council he was available to answer any questions. The County Council did not have any questions and Mr. Greenway thanked everyone for the opportunity to present this presentation.

**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: Andrew Fulghum – Resolution # 2021-28 establishing the criteria to be used for the reapportionment of the Jasper County Council Districts as to population following the adoption of the Federal Decennial Census as required by S.C. CODE ANN. § 4-9-90.**

Mr. Fulghum presented and reviewed Resolution # 2021-28 which establishes the criteria to be used for the reapportionment of the Jasper County Council Districts as to population following the adoption of the Federal Decennial Census as required. He noted that staff was requesting the County Council's consideration and this would be compliant with the state statutes for the County Council Districts. He provided information relating to the redistricting in South Carolina and the 2020 redistricting benchmark report. He said the new district maps we need to be adopted by the end of February and that staff recommended adopting the resolution with the revision of excluding the prison population when redrawing the districts.

**Motion to approve with the change that the state prisoners are not counted in the population: Councilman Kemp**

**Second: Councilman Sauls**

**Vote: Unanimous**

The motion passed.

**Ordinances:**

**A: Andrew Fulghum – Public Hearing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance # 2021-28 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 reviewed and presented Ordinance # [2021-28](#) which amended 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. The public hearing was held but there were no comments.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**B: David Tedder – Public Hearing and 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance # [2021-26](#) to amend Chapter 8, Businesses, to adopt a new business licensing ordinance incorporating, as made applicable to counties and specifically Jasper County, the provisions of the 2022 Business License Ordinance in accordance with Act 176, the SC Business License Tax Standardization Act, including its classification system, and establishing rates for such classification, and matters related thereto.**

Mr. Tedder reviewed and presented Ordinance #2021-26 to amend Chapter 8, Businesses, to adopt a new business licensing ordinance incorporating, as made applicable to counties and specifically Jasper County, the provisions of the 2022 Business License Ordinance in accordance with Act 176, the SC Business License Tax Standardization Act, including its classification system, and establishing rates for such classification. He noted that this was the 3rd and final reading of this ordinance.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**C. Lisa Wagner – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance # [2021-32](#) to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 029-40-04-022 from the Residential Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map (535 Stiney Road).**

Ms. Wagner was present to address this request. She noted that the subject property consisted of 9.93 acres and is located at 535 Stiney Road. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Industrial Development (ID). The property is currently zoned Residential. Lowcountry Pavers developed the property in March 2000 and has operated their business at this location for more than 20 years. Lowcountry Pavers would like to upgrade the property and modify the operation of their business, which will include eliminating the concrete plant portion of the business. Prior to making a significant investment in the property, the applicant would like to have the property re-zoned to Industrial Development, eliminating the non-conformity status. The property was conforming when it was developed in 2000; however, during the 2007 Countywide Re-zoning project, this property was made non-conforming.

She said 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 and Rural Preservation with Light Industrial Zoning nearby in the City of Hardeeville. She said the adjacent land uses are residential and commercial, with heavy industrial located nearby in the City of Hardeeville.

She said the subject property is accessed by Stiney Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a local road. Ms. Wagner noted that there was not a motion made by the Planning Commission, so the application has been forwarded to the County Council with no recommendation.

Ms. Wagner noted that all notifications had been made, everything had been posted and letters had been sent out. Councilman Kemp mentioned that they had sent out 30 letters or so but no replies had been received and Ms. Wagner confirmed that.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**D: Andrew Fulghum - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance # [2021-33](#) on the Lease Agreement with Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM).**

Mr. Fulghum reviewed and presented Ordinance # 2021-33 on the Lease Agreement with Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM). He said this would extend this agreement to 1/1/2027. Councilman Kemp said that on the agreement in the beginning it says the cost is \$5 but later says \$1 in the document. He asked if the \$5 was for all 5 years, and said he felt it needed clarification. Mr. Fulghum said they would look at that and address it.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**E: Andrew Fulghum - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance # [2021-34](#) on the Lease Agreement with Jasper County Chamber of Commerce (Perry House)**

Mr. Fulghum reviewed and presented Ordinance #2021-34 on the Lease Agreement with Jasper County Chamber of Commerce (Perry House). He said this would extend this agreement for another 5 years. Councilman Sauls said he would be recusing himself from the vote as he was the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**New Business:**

**A: Kimberly Burgess - Update on the Tax Sale**

Ms. Burgess was present to address this item with Council. She provided the following information on the tax sale results for 2021 to Council.

### **Jasper County Tax Sale Results 2021**

#### **Properties sold on November 1, 2021**

Real Property 230 properties sold  
Mobile Homes 102 sold

Total proceeds of sale \$ 3,241,410.09

Delinquent taxes owed and paid from proceeds \$ 164,464.45

#### **Properties turned over to the Forfeited Land Commission (FLC):**

Real Property 7 unsold properties  
Mobile Homes 8 unsold

Ms. Burgess noted that this item was for update purposes only no motion was necessary.

#### **B: [Wanda Simmons](#) – Presentation of proposed County Council Meeting Schedule for 2022.**

Ms. Simmons was present to address this request. She said that the attached Proposed 2022 County Council Meeting Calendar was for Council's review. She said that item would be on the next agenda at our first meeting in January 2022 for Council. Ms. Simmons noted that this item was for review only and no action was requested at this time.

#### **C: [Wanda Simmons](#) – Appointment of a new member to the Planning Commission and the Reappointment of 2 current members to the Planning Commission.**

Ms. Simmons was present to address this request. She noted that currently there was a vacant on the Planning Commission (Seat # 07-PC), noting that there was only one potential candidate Mr. Arthur Rothenberg for this seat for the remainder of this 4-year term. She noted that staff requests that Mr. Arthur Rothenberg be appointed to the seat of 07-PC for the remainder of this 4-year term beginning on 12.06.2021 with the term ending on 12.31.2024.

She also noted that there were 2 current members that need to be reappointed to their seats for a 4-year term:

Thomas Jenkins	Seat # 01-PC
Randy Waite	Seat # 02-PC

She noted that staff requests that these current members be reappointed to their current seats with the noted term end dates shown below in order to keep the staggered terms on schedule:

Seat # 01-PC – Thomas Jenkins	with a term end date of 12.31.2025
Seat # 02-PC – Randy Waite	with a term end date of 12.31.2025

**Motion to approve and appoint Arthur Rothenberg and reappointments to the Planning Commission as presented by the Clerk to Council: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley**

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**D: Wanda Simmons - Appointment of a new member to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Reappointment of 3 current members to the Board of Zoning Appeals.**

Ms. Simmons was present to address this item with Council. She noted that there was a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals (Seat # 01-BZA). She stated that there had been two candidates for this seat for a 4-year term, but since Mr. Rothenberg had been appointed in the last agenda item to the Planning Commission that only left Mr. Scott Cuff available for appointment to the open seat on this Board. She requested that Mr. Scott Cuff be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the term beginning on 12.06.2021 and ending on 12.31.2025.

Ms. Simmons also noted that there were 3 current members that needed to be reappointed to their seats for a 4-year term:

Jeff Richardson	Seat # 02-BZA
Carmen Malphrus	Seat # 03-BZA
Barbara Bartoldus	Seat # 04-BZA

She requested that these current members be reappointed to their current seats with the noted term end dates shown below in order to keep the staggered terms on schedule:

Seat # 02-BZA – Jeff Richardson	with a term end date of 12.31.2023
Seat # 03-BZA – Carmen Malphrus	with a term end date of 12.31.2023
Seat # 04-BZA – Barbara Bartoldus	with a term end date of 12.31.2024

**Motion to approve and appoint Scott Cuff and the reappointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals as presented by the Clerk to Council: Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley**

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**E: Chief Russell Wells - Motorola 911 Phone System Refresh**

Chief Wells was present to address this request with Council. He noted that before Council was a proposal for a 911 system phone refresh, noting their current system was actually eight years of age being acquired in September of 2013. He noted it was built on the current infrastructure. He noted that they had recently signed an agreement with the State of South Carolina for Internet Protocol based 911 services and that the current platform needs a refresh to transcend to the Internet Protocol based on the 911 processing. Part of this system, he noted this also would update the servers allowing us to geo diversify. He noted that we currently have both of our 911 servers in one building. If there should there be a catastrophic event he noted, in that building, it



would neutralize their ability to receive and process 911 phone calls. He said they would be taking half of those servers and sending them off property, then they would also be able to deploy text to 911 as well and could receive a video to 911 capabilities. He did not that there were some additional back-end networking and infrastructure within the communications center and part of that example would be the ability to record and capture that data in their audio servers. He noted however, that this should be minimal cost investment at a future date. He noted that this expenditure is eligible for 80% reimbursement through the State of South Carolina 911 funds, and we would receive \$400,000 back on this as well as the five-year service agreement for the 24/7, 365 day monitoring safety securities. He noted that they had been having some issues here and there and had been expending roughly just under \$34,000 a year on our current system with a five-year maintenance agreement. Within this refresh cost he noted we would be saving our citizens roughly just under \$70,000 for this system refresh. He noted that they were asking for Council's approval so that they could move forward in technological advances needed within the 911 center.

Chairwoman Clark asked if there were any questions at this time. Councilman Kemp said that in the contract there's a section that says citizens input with an annual cost of \$48,000 and asked if that meant for the entire year or if the County would pay 48,000 each year? Chief Wells stated that he would want to clarify that and mentioned that he had the systems engineer on standby for any questions. He said he could certainly clarify that the citizen input is actually the portion that would allow the interface to live stream video if the center actually engages in that. He said a part of that caveat would be if you have a collar that is dealing with a severe car crash, that this would allow a dispatcher to actually view what the caller is seeing within that, but that he would certainly clarify that. Councilman Kemp said that another thing is they have a fee in there for firewall. He said he was not sure what firewall they were talking about, because in the other part of it says that we're responsible (meaning Jasper County) is responsible to maintain a firewall. He asked if there are two different firewalls, and asked if they had gone to IT and make sure that they know about this? Chief Wells said that they are separate firewalls. He said that if we look back at our data breach back in 2018 he believed, the firewalls inhibited their ability to get into the 911 servers. He said he could certainly ask Councilman Kemp's question if he could have the system engineer weigh in on this. Mr. Fulghum said that would be fine to do. Councilman Kemp said he was only asking these questions just to get a clarification. Chief Wells asked if they wanted the system engineer to get on the meeting or did Councilman Kemp want him to ask that system engineer that question? Councilman Kemp said it was not necessary to be answered now he was just asking. Chief Wells said he could get clarification on that and report back.

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

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

#### **F: Chief Russell Wells – Motorola 911 Communications Radio System Service Agreement**

Chief Wells was present to address this item with Council. He noted that the 911 communication center operates on public safety radio system. He said this was through Motorola Solutions in a public private partnership with the state of South Carolina. He noted that the uniqueness of this 911 center was that it is a hard line system which is backed up to basically their core network located in the Columbia area. He said it allows for redundancies for public safety radio

communications. He said when we acquired this system several years ago and financed it the annual maintenance agreement was within that capital outlay project. Now he noted that those radios have been paid off in full and there is an ongoing system maintenance cost that's associated with that at a cost of \$36,288.47. He noted they were asking that's this be authorized for approval for that service agreement moving forward. Chairwoman Clark asked if there were any questions of Council but there were none.

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

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

#### **G: Kimberly Burgess - Tarboro Community Center Roof Bid Presentation**

Ms. Burgess was present to address this item with Council. She noted that the Tarboro Community Center roof had been advertised for sealed bids for the replacement of the roof at Community Center. She said they had received four bids in a timely fashion and that two of which were compliant with the bid requirements. She noted that the perceived low bidder of the two compliant bids was Alternative Roofing Solutions out of Ridgeland, SC for a total of \$37,700. She stated that therefore staff recommends that the Council accept the bid proposal submitted by Alternative Roofing Solutions for \$37,700 and requested that they authorize Mr. Fulghum as the County Administrator to execute all necessary documents.

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley called for the vote as Chairwoman Clark lost her ZOOM connection.

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

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

#### **H: Kimberly Burgess - Discussion of an Accommodations and Hospitality Local Tax Guidebook**

Ms. Burgess was present to address this item with Council. She noted that they had included in the agenda packet was a guidebook that was created in her department. She said Ms. Epperson takes the local accommodations taxes and hospitality tax payments and that they noticed that a lot of taxpayers were unaware of all of the rules or the regulations regarding local accommodations and hospitality tax. She said that Ms. Epperson had taken it upon herself to put create this guidebook for the taxpayers. She said that she and Ms. Epperson had reviewed this guidebook together, and that they had sent it out to a taxpayer in the community for their review and make sure it was easily understood. She said they had included the few comments that they were included. She said it will be put on the website and sent out with the business license. She noted that there was no motion needed or vote to be taken. Councilman Kemp said this was well needed and would be valuable information.

#### **I: Andrew Fulghum - Intergovernmental Agreement Between Beaufort County, Jasper County, and the City of Hardeeville for SC 170 Near Term Improvements.**

Mr. Fulghum was present to address this item with Council. He noted that Chairwoman Clark was having some connection issues and asked Mr. Dunham to reach out to her for assistance. Mr. Fulghum also noted that Chairwoman Clark thanked Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley for picking up the meeting.

Mr. Fulghum noted that this was an IGA between Beaufort County, Jasper County and the City of Hardeeville for South Carolina 170 near term improvements. He noted that Council may recall that they had a presentation by AE COM who designed the improvements for Route 170. He said they had been discussed for some time about entering into this agreement with both the City of Hardeeville and the County of Beaufort to fund these near term improvements. He said this could have a substantial positive impact on the traffic situation on Route 170, and that the IDA called for Jasper County to dedicate \$1,000,000 from the Transportation Sales Tax Revenue for this project. He noted that as Council may recall from the ordinance that Council passed earlier this evening it is an authorized Transportation Sales Tax Project at this point. He noted that staff is requesting that Council entered into this Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hardeeville and the County of Beaufort for the near-term improvements to US 170.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**J: [Andrew Fulghum](#) - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office and Jasper County Government to Enhance their Working Relationship and the Prosecution of Career Criminals.**

Mr. Fulghum addressed this issue of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office and Jasper County Government to Enhance their Working Relationship and the Prosecution of Career Criminals and reviewed the request with Council.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**A: [Chief Russell Wells](#) - COVID update**

Chief Wells noted that the positivity rates for COVID were on the rise. Jasper County was currently at a 6.6% positivity rate (up 3.4% since the last report). South Carolina was currently at a 4.6% positivity rate (up 0.8% since the last report). He provided the testing site locations and the vaccine locations throughout the County for Council.

**Council Members Comments:**

**Councilman Adkins:**

Councilman Adkins thanked God for everything in his life and noted that he had been working with the Administrator the Finance Department and that Council had gotten a lot done. He noted he was thankful for the courses that he had been able to take this year. He noted that he was praying for everyone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Councilman Kemp:**

Councilman Kemp noted he had been over to Dominion Electric at a workshop. He noted that they are putting in new lines down into the Levy area. He said there seems to be no problems except when they get down to the lower part of the County. He said they were going to run into residential areas and wetlands. He said there are a lot of unregistered cemeteries in the area, and he had also questioned the engineers about broadband. He said that maybe with all this federal money they could include with this construction having broadband down in that area which is greatly needed. He said he had gone to the monthly FIT meeting and over to the Levy VFD meeting. He said the people at the Levy VFD are very upset, but he thinks they have to work with them and show what we need to do. He also noted that he had been over Sun City meeting. He said at the Sun City meeting he found out there was a new housing development that would be coming. He also mentioned the development along Argent Blvd. and future stores. he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and ask that everyone be safe.

**Councilman Sauls:**

Councilman Sauls said the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce have rescheduled the Scholarship Golf Tournament due to inclement weather. He noted that on Thursday evening the Southern Carolina Alliance was hosting its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Allendale. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and ask that everyone remember this season is about Christ's Birthday.

**Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley:**

Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley said that he was hold our Chairperson before the Lord in her recuperation. He asked that everyone remember the Lord is the reason for the season and asked that God bless everyone.

Vice Chairman Brantley noted that Chairwoman Clark had gotten reconnected and turned the meeting back over to her.

**Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Fulghum noted that he had nothing new to report other than his report in the packet. He noted that he was available to answer any questions. Mr. Fulghum noted as a reminder that the next Council Meeting was to be held on 01.03.2022. He stated that staff is most appreciative of Council. He said that the teamwork was really good to see and that he was grateful for that.

**Chairwoman Clark:**

Chairwoman Clark said Merry Christmas and thanked Council for all they had done throughout her recuperation. She said she was recuperating but it was slower than expected and thanked everyone.

**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:** Vice Chairman Dr. Brantley

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.


The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**Respectfully submitted:**



Wanda H. Simmons  
Clerk to Council

**Approved:**



Barbara B. Clark  
Chairwoman