



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING**

Council in person with Electronic Virtual Access for the Public
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

**June 21, 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, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess, Emergency Services Director Chief Russell Wells, Lisa Wagner Director of Planning and Building, and Jonathan Dunham.

Others Present: Sandy Steele, SouthernCarolina Alliance

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session and asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 5:09pm.

Wanda Simmons, Clerk to Council read the Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Motion to go into executive session: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Call to Order by Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark

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

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:

(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; Proposed Purchase of Property for Project Fence (421 N. Jasper St., Ridgeland SC.); Nickel Plate MCIP

(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 Lite

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 Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Councilman Sauls

The motion was amended to approve the revised agenda with the removal of Item # 11G - David Tedder – 3rd reading of Ordinance # [2021-16](#) of Jasper County Council to Amend Certain Provisions to the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, to Authorize Meetings to be Held by Telephonic or Other Electronic Means, and Matters Related Thereto: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of April 19, 2021, May 3, 2021, and May 17, 2021:

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Proclamations and Presentations:

There were no proclamations or presentation for this meeting.

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.

Clerk to Council Wanda Simmons read the two public hearing comments for the record that were received from Coroner Willie Aiken and Ms. Emily Covey.

Resolutions:

A: David Tedder - Consideration of Resolution # 2012-13 to Extend the Business License Penalty Date from July 1st to August 1st.

Mr. Tedder reviewed this resolution and information for Council. He noted that this was only asking to extend the penalty date, and in order to get the collection service going this was the first step in getting this in line.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B: Sandy Steele – Consideration of Resolution # 2021-14 Authorizing (1) The Execution and Delivery of a Fee In Lieu Of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (The “County”) and a Company Known to the County as Project Lite, Acting for Itself, One or More Affiliates, and/or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The “Company”), Pursuant to Which The County Shall Covenant to Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes with Respect to the Establishment and/or Expansion of Certain Facilities in the County (The “Project”); and (2) Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Sandy Steele presented this request on behalf of the SouthernCarolina Alliance. She reviewed the information with Council and discussed the Fee in Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Ordinances:

A. Lisa Wagner – Public hearing and 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-18 to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 083-00-03-058 from the Community Commercial Zone to the Mixed Business Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. (5851 Lowcountry Drive)

Ms. Wagner addressed this request. She noted that the subject property consisted of 3 acres and is located at 5851 Lowcountry Drive. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Mixed Business (MB). The property is currently zoned Community Commercial. Two commercial structures are located on the property. One is approximately 6,000 s.f. and the other one is approximately 15,000 s.f. According to the Assessor's property record, the property is valued at more than \$600,000. The property was developed in 1999 and has been home to Roll-A-Way Doors, Armor Building Solutions, and Rondavel. Each of these businesses has used the site for warehousing, manufacturing/fabrication, showrooms, and offices. Since the adoption of the 2007 Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, the businesses have operated as a legal non-conforming use. However, the Mixed Business District would allow these uses. According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Rural Conservation," which seeks to protect and promote the character of Jasper County that largely exists today outside of the municipalities. Most development, particularly commercial development, should be guided to the hamlets. It should be noted that the Jasper County Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Exhibit shows the actual current use of this immediate area as commercial.

She noted that the adjacent parcels are zoned Community Commercial and Rural Preservation with Industrial Development and General Commercial nearby. Adjacent land uses are commercial, industrial, and vacant property that is planned for mixed use development. The subject property is accessed by Lowcountry Drive, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as an arterial road. Ms. Wagner noted that from a land use perspective, the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request to have the property designated as Mixed Business.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B. Lisa Wagner – Public hearing and 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-19 to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 067-00-01-002 from the Planned Development District to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. (Argent Blvd. LRTA)

Ms. Wagner addressed this request. She noted that the subject property consisted of 7.24 acres and is located along Argent Boulevard. The subject property is owned by LRTA and is undeveloped. The property is inappropriately zoned Planned Development District, although it is not located within a PDD. This is a staff-initiated effort to have the property appropriately zoned. According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Commercial Centers," which are commercial nodes that are already developing and have a suburban rather than rural character.

She noted that the adjacent parcels are zoned General Commercial and Community Commercial and the property is adjacent to the City of Hardeeville. Adjacent land uses are commercial and vacant property, which is planned for mixed use development through the City of Hardeeville. Ms. Wagener noted that the subject property is accessed by Argent Boulevard, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway,

classified as an arterial road. She also noted that from a land use perspective, Planning Commission recommends approval to have the property designated as General Commercial. Ms. Wagner noted that the property had been posted and all notifications had been made. The public hearing was opened but no comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

C. Lisa Wagner – Public hearing and 2nd Reading of Ordinance # 2021-20 to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 038-01-00-003 from the Resource Conservation Zone to the Residential Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map. (186 Macedonia Road)

Ms. Wagner addressed this request. She noted that the subject property consisted .69 acres and is located at 186 Macedonia Road. The property is owned by Maria Hernandez and has a manufactured home located onsite. The property is currently zoned Resource Conservation and is non-conforming because the Resource Conservation Zoning District requires a minimum lot size of 2 acres. This is a staff-initiated effort to have the property appropriately zoned. 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 either the City of Hardeeville or the Town of Ridgeland. For these areas that experience new development or redevelopment, consideration should be given to working with the adjacent municipality for annexation.

She noted that the adjacent parcels are zoned Residential. The City of Hardeeville municipal limits are nearby but are not adjacent to the property. Adjacent land uses are residential and vacant property, with a church nearby. The subject property is accessed by Macedonia Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained road, classified as a limited local road. She also noted that from a land use perspective, Planning Commission recommends approval to have the property designated as Residential.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

D. Lisa Wagner – Consideration of 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 087-00-03-011 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – 8881 Coosaw Scenic Drive

Ms. Wagner addressed this request. She noted that the subject property consisted of 2.4 acres and is located at 8881 Coosaw Scenic Drive. The Applicant has requested a Zoning Map Amendment to have the property designated as Community Commercial (CC). The property is currently zoned Residential. The property was developed as a funeral home in 2006. The county-wide re-zoning project made this business

non-conforming. The applicant would like to expand the use of his business to add a crematory. Crematories are not allowed in Residential; however, a crematory is allowed in the Community Commercial Zoning District. According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as "Hamlets," which serves as commercial centers for everyday needs. Small scale commercial developments should be allowed, with proper design.

She noted that the adjacent parcels are zoned Residential, Rural Preservation, and Community Commercial. Adjacent land uses are residential, commercial, and vacant property. The subject property is accessed by Coosaw Scenic Drive, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as an arterial road. She also noted that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

E. Lisa Wagner – Consideration of 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 084-00-02-065 from the Residential Zone to the Community Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map – 358 Chippa Willow Road.

Ms. Wagner addressed this request. She noted that the subject property consisted of .90 acres and is located at 358 Chippa Willow 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 property was developed as a commercial property in 1975 and has served as a store and as night club. The county-wide re-zoning project in 2007 made the commercial use non-conforming. The applicant would like to establish a non-profit social club, which is not allowed in Residential; however, a social club is allowed in the Community Commercial Zoning District. According to the 2018 Jasper County Comprehensive Plan, the Future Land Use Map identifies this area as a "Hamlet," which serves as commercial centers for everyday needs. Small scale commercial developments should be allowed, with proper design.

Ms. Wagner noted that the adjacent parcels are zoned Residential, with Community Commercial nearby. Adjacent land uses are residential and vacant property. There are several commercial businesses nearby which includes two churches, a store, restaurant, and a fire protection business. The subject property is accessed by Chippa Willow Road, which is a two-lane state-maintained highway, classified as a limited local road.

Councilman Kemp noted that 2 Planning Commission members were against this request but the rest were for it. He said this was next to a church if they plan to serve alcohol. Ms. Wagner noted that the applicant said this is a nonprofit social club. Ms. Wagner noted that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request to have the property designated as Community Commercial. Councilman Sauls said he had similar concerns as Councilman Kemp since it was near a church. Chairwoman Clark noted that she is not one that is for clubs.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp
Second: Councilman Sauls
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

F. David Tedder – 3rd reading of Ordinance # 2021-15 amending Chapter 4, *Alcoholic Beverages*, of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, so as to clarify hours of operation and related matters.

Mr. Tedder was present to address this request and reviewed this ordinance with Council for the 3rd reading. He said there had only been one minor change since the 2nd reading and it was simply a numbering issue. He said the Sheriff had been consulted regarding the enforcement issues. He noted that this was the 3rd reading of this ordinance.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls
Second: Councilman Adkins
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

G. David Tedder – 3rd reading of Ordinance # 2021-16 of Jasper County Council to Amend Certain Provisions to the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, to Authorize Meetings to be Held by Telephonic or Other Electronic Means, and Matters Related Thereto.

This item was removed from the agenda.

H. Andrew Fulghum – 3rd reading of Ordinance # 2021-17 to Adopt the 2021-2022 Jasper County Capital and General Operations Budget, to make such amendments to the 2020-2021 Capital and Operational Budget to recognize and ratify transfers as authorized by Section 7 of that Budget, and other matters related thereto.

Mr. Fulghum and Kimberly Burgess reviewed this item with Council. Mr. Fulghum addressed this item and noted that the was the 3rd and final reading of the ordinance to adopt the 2021-2022 Jasper County Capital and General Operations Budget, to make such amendments to the 2020-2021 Capital and Operational Budget. It was noted that this was the budget that they had all discussed, reviewed and had two readings on. It was noted that Council had been provided copies from Ms. Burgess. It was noted that staff was requesting approval for the 3rd reading of this ordinance. Chairwoman Clark noted that all of Council had been through the budget and that there had been budget workshops, and opportunities for questions and answers. She also noted that Council realized that there may be necessary times that budget amendments must be made during the year.

Motion to approve minus the position for the Auditor's Office: Councilman Sauls
Second: Councilman Adkins
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

- I. **Andrew Fulghum – 1st reading** by Title Only of an Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution and Delivery of a Fee In Lieu Of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Jasper County, South Carolina (The “County”), a Company Known to the County as Project Lite, Acting for Itself, One or More Affiliates, and/or Other Project Sponsors (Collectively, The “Company”), Pursuant to which the County Shall Covenant to Accept Certain Negotiated Fees In Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes with Respect to the Establishment and/or Expansion of Certain Facilities in the County (The “Project”); and (2) Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Mr. Fulghum presented and reviewed this item for Council. He noted that this was first reading by Title Only.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

New Business:

A. Kimberly Burgess – Bid presentation Fire Station #30 Roof

Description: Ms. Burgess was present to address this item. She noted that Jasper County had advertised for sealed bids for a New Roof for Fire Station #30 with a deadline of 2:00 PM May 26, 2021. Three bids were received timely. The three bids were received from Alternative Roofing Solutions, Inc., ARC Incorporated, and Robert W. Nunnery Roofing Co. She noted that Robert W. Nunnery Roofing Co. was the perceived low bidder at the time of the bid opening with a total bid amount of \$83,000. The next lowest bidder was ARC Incorporated at \$145,500. Because the low bid was \$62,500 less than the next lowest bid and to perform due diligence with regard to the description of work covered under the bid, we reached out to the low bidder to confirm the scope of work covered under the bid. It was determined that the Nunnery bid included all of the described work, including asbestos abatement, but that the gauge of the roof panels was 26 gauge rather than 22 gauge. Nunnery provided an amount to correct the gauge of the metal which increased the bid \$8,450 from \$83,000 to \$91,450. A total amount \$54,050 less than the next lowest bid. It should be noted that the local preference provision of the procurement ordinance was applied to the bid of Alternative Roofing Solutions, however, the local preference did not change the bid results.

Ms. Burgess stated that based upon a careful review of the bids and additional due diligence inquiries regarding the scope and description of work included in the perceived low bid, staff recommended that Council award the contract for the Fire Station #30 roof replacement to Robert W. Nunnery Roofing Co. and authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with said company.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

B. Kimberly Burgess – Bid presentation Tarboro Community Center Roof

Description: Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that Jasper County had advertised for sealed bids for a New Roof for Tarboro Community Center with a deadline of 3:00 PM May 20, 2021. Six bids were received timely. The description of work in the bid notice required asphalt shingles and a metal roof as an alternate. The metal roof is preferred for its longevity and to be consistent with the other community centers in the County. Reliable Roofing & Repairs, LLC is the perceived low bidder for both the asphalt shingles (\$9,820) and the alternate metal roof (\$14,220.) The next lowest bidder is CMS Roofing LLC with a bid of \$13,700 for asphalt shingles and \$23,450 for the metal roof. She noted that because the low bid for the metal roof is \$9,230 less than the next lowest bid, staff reached out to the low bidder to confirm the scope of work and the gauge of metal quoted. Based on conversation with Mr. Stover from Reliable Roofing and Repairs, LLC, he originally bid 29-gauge metal since the gauge was not specified in the bid notice. The bid amount for 26-gauge metal will increase \$3,000 to \$17,220.00 which is \$6,230 less than the next lowest bidder.

Ms. Burgess stated that therefore, based upon a careful review of the bids and additional due diligence inquiries about the scope of work and the material included in the perceived low bid, staff recommends that the Council award the contract for the Tarboro Community Center Re-Roof to Reliable Roofing & Repairs, LLC for the metal roof.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

C. Kimberly Burgess – Bid presentation food service proposal and contract for the Detention Center

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that Jasper County had advertised for proposals for the Provision of Food Services at the Jasper County Detention Center with a deadline of 2:00PM on May 6, 2021. Two proposals have been received timely via Vendor Registry. The two proposals or summit food services, LLC (the incumbent) and Trinity Services Group.

She noted that Summit food services, LLC has provided food service to the detention center for at least 21 years and during that time there had been very few, if any, complaints. The food service and quality had been exemplary. Summit provides food service to neighboring counties including Beaufort, Colleton, and Marlboro counties. Although, the cost per inmate for summit is approximately 25% higher than that of Trinity, the Summit staffing hours are approximately 36% greater than that of Trinity, which provides a more consistent product and minimizes discontent among the inmates.

Ms. Burgess noted that staff has carefully reviewed the proposals and recommends that Council award the contract for the provision of food services at the Jasper County Detention Center to Summit Food Services LLC, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign all applicable documents to award the food services contract to Summit.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

D. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration of Cyber Security Proposal - GlobalKynect

Description: Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that Jasper County had sought proposals from cyber security firms for a proposal to provide cyber security support to the County. The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) previously recommended that the County hire a cybersecurity expert, however, the IT Director, was unable to fill the position. Therefore, to provide the needed cyber security support, the IT Director sought proposals from thirdparty cyber security providers. Three proposals were received. The GlobalKynect Solutions proposal provides the needed services at the best price of \$170,000 annually.

Recommendation: Ms. Burgess noted that staff recommends that the Council accept the GlobalKynect Solutions proposal for Cyber Security Support and enter into a three-year contract with GlobalKynect Solutions for the agreed upon services.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Old Business:

A. Kimberly Burgess – Jasper County State Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that the Jasper County Accommodations Tax Committee had met on May 5, 2021, to review the requests made by local organizations for State Accommodations Tax funds. The committee's recommendations are attached as well as the minutes of the meeting and the information submitted by each organization making a request.

Ms. Burgess noted that staff recommends that the County Council approve the allocation of State Accommodations Tax funds as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee on May 5, 2021. Chairwoman Clark noted that the staff had done a great job working on this and had figured out who would be getting what amount. Councilman Sauls noted he would be recusing himself since he served as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: All votes were yes with Councilman Sauls recusing himself from the vote.

The motion passed.

B. Kimberly Burgess – Local Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Requests

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request. She noted that annually, Staff prepares an estimate of the local accommodations (A-Tax) and hospitality (H-Tax) taxes anticipated to be received in the succeeding fiscal year. The anticipated proceeds are estimated to be \$590,000 for FY21-22. This amount was calculated based on the YTD A-Tax and H-Tax receipts as of May 31, and an estimated amount for the remainder of the year the current year with an anticipated increase of approximately 11% due to the re-opening of the economy and an increase in collection efforts. Each year Council approves the allocation of local accommodations (A-Tax) and hospitality (H-Tax) tax funds to organizations that have requested funds and use the funds to promote tourism within the unincorporated portions of Jasper County. The organizations that have requested local A-Tax and H-Tax funds for fiscal year 2021- 2022 are provided on the attached list. Also, included on the list are amounts allocated to Jasper County to pay the airport construction loan, to make improvements to Exit 33 on Interstate 95, and to the electric bill associated with the Exit 33 on Interstate 95 lights. Ms. Burgess noted that staff recommends that the County Council approve the allocation as provided.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

C. Wanda Simmons – Consideration of an amendment to the 2021 Official Meeting Schedule for the County Council by changing the 07.06.2021 meeting date to 07.19.2021

Ms. Simmons was present to address this request. She noted that when the meeting schedule was drafted and approved it was approved with a July 6, 2021, meeting date. This request is to move the July 6, 2021, meeting date to July 19, 2021, as shown on the revised 2021 County Council Meeting Schedule. Ms. Simmons noted that the staff recommended approval.

Motion to approve: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

D. Andrew Fulghum – SOLOCO Regional Housing Trust Fund update.

Mr. Fulghum noted that Mr. Danny Lucas would be presenting this request to Council. He noted however, that he would like to make a few comments on this item before Mr. Lucas came forward to speak. He noted that he wanted to remind Council about the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board's meeting tomorrow. He noted that they are going to discuss this item at that time. He stated that back in October 2019 County Council had authorized the County Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Beaufort County for the purpose of cost sharing for contacting a consultant to do some services to develop a Regional Affordable Housing Trust Fund. He noted that Jasper County

had been paying into that their portion in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 of the consultants fees to create this trust fund. He said the Consultant is actually doing a conference event presentation tomorrow and that Councilman Kemp will be there as he serves as the County Council's representative on that board. He noted that those who had attended the last meeting know that part of the Housing Trust fund of how is it going to be paid for and noted that there are several suggestions about how each participant may pay for this. He said some suggestions include direct preparations perhaps even the thought of some of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and even some discussion about additional money coming from HUD through the Home Program from the Lowcountry Council of Governments if it could be used.

Mr. Lucas noted for the Affordable Local Housing Trust Fund, he would be providing an update to Council. He said he would like to start with some background information. He noted that on May 6, 2021, they had a meeting with Consulting Company of Asakura Robinson, which is a Texas based company that is a Planner and Designer Firm. He noted they have a lot of experience in this sort of area setting up housing trust funds. He noted that they were hired in the Fall of 2020, to develop a plan for the regional housing trust fund for Beaufort County and Jasper County.

He noted that with Jasper County and its municipalities at that time \$140,000 was allocated or dedicated to the hiring of the other firm to conduct the plan. The idea was for them to provide a final update to the SOLOCO Board, Steering Committee any other entity that was interested. In the Spring of 2021, they were ready to move forward if the SOLOCO Board was ready for them to move forward. He noted that he wanted to go over the elements of how we got to where we are, and the problem with affordable housing. He said this problem of affordable housing had been going on for quite some time. As the population increases in our region, there is a mismatch of jobs and labor. The jobs he noted, are principally in one place like for instance in Beaufort County and the labor is scattered about in the counties of Allendale, Hampton, Colleton, Jasper and Beaufort.

This mismatch of labor and housing location for hospitality jobs, retail jobs and landscape jobs which are a most critical employment field, is where Palmetto Breeze (our original bus company) plays a huge part in helping this situation. He noted that Palmetto Breeze transports thousands of workers on a daily basis going to work from all five counties to the work location. With people traveling so far for jobs, this means they not only work long, hard hours, but they miss time with their families. He noted that the families do not have time many days to have dinner together and even creates situations with latchkey children in many homes throughout all of these areas. Mr. Lucas also reviewed and discussed the presentation that was in the Council Packet. This verbal presentation is available in its entirety on our YouTube page at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCIIA . Additionally, the packet is also available on our website at [County Council Agenda/Minutes/E-Packets | Jasper County, SC \(jaspercountysc.gov\)](https://www.jaspercountysc.gov/County-Council-Agenda/Minutes/E-Packets) . Councilman Sauls thanked Mr. Lucas for such a thorough and informative verbal presentation. He also noted that affordable housing is a concern for Council. He noted that unfortunately, affordability is based upon the market. There was no vote on this item as it was a presentation and discussion item only.

Councilmember Comments:

Councilman Kemp:

Councilman Kemp noted that at the Episcopal Church on Saturday they would be doing a pickup on snake Rd. He requested that council put money into the budget four letter and ask the citizens and drivers to please pay attention to the signs and slowdown in that area. He also noted that on June 26th Mitchellville was having a clean-up day as well. He mentioned that at some point he would like to talk about the Auditor's office, because Council needed to be able to give people answers if they called them. Councilman Kemp also mentioned that he had attended the City of Hardeeville and Jasper County joint executive session in hopes of having better communication between the two.

Councilman Adkins:

Councilman Adkins thanked everyone for their work. He also noted that he had retired from the County after working for the County 18 years. He said he will be riding around the County and that he likes beautification and looking for ways to beautify the County. He noted that the Courthouse was being pressure washed and the areas around the Administrative and Courthouse they are getting some pinestraw and some trees. He thanked the Administration and everyone for sharing with one another.

Councilman Sauls:

Councilman Sauls noted that Councilman Adkins was doing a good job. He said there is a lot going on with the Chamber of Commerce and mentioned the Grand Opening of the New Gander Mountain and it's ribbon cutting. He noted that they had made the ribbon cutting into a very special event and a flag event for the area. He mentioned that they played the National Anthem until the flag was raised and that this location had created about 100 jobs. He noted that on June 17th that had a ribbon cutting for Ridgeland's new water treatment plant. He mentioned the Spring and Summer Festivities with the Singing Medallions. Also, he noted that the new Community Center in the Town of Ridgeland would be having a ribbon cutting which would be a community event. Additionally, he noted that the Chamber Scholarship Program had made a lot of graduating seniors very happy. Councilman Sauls said he would also like to mention that he had also attended the City of Hardeeville and Jasper County joint executive session.

Chairwoman Clark:

Chairwoman Clark thanked everyone for the many phone calls and text she had received over the weekend. She said that the Emergency Services personnel and group had been great to her and never left her side for a second. She said she truly wanted to let everyone know, how wonderful our Emergency Services Group is when working with patients. She thanked God for keeping her safe when the accident occurred and that he had protected her from further harm.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum mentioned that his report had been placed in the County Council Packet. He noted that a meeting was held on June 14 relating to the Multi-County Park (MCIP) Agreements with Partner Counties to discuss the issue with Beaufort County staff. Staff is actively reconciling the matter and

will report back to Council on this matter at a later time. He also noted that staff is preparing information for Council for a proposed workshop in order to review and discuss the Jasper County Emergency Operation Plan, Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Regional Shelter Project. He also noted that Russell Wells had been serving for 10 months as the Interim Director of Emergency Services and Fire Chief. He said they had advertised the position and that they had 41 candidates apply, of which 11 were interviewed. He said he was pleased to note that today he offered Russell Wells the position of Director of Emergency Services Fire Chief.

Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II:
There was no need to return to executive session for this meeting.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Sauls

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Barbara B. Clark
Chairwoman