



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
Special Called

COUNCIL MEETING

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

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

MINUTES

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

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

Chairman Sauls called the Council Meeting to order at 11:06AM. 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.* The Pledge of Allegiance was given and the Invocation was led by Councilman Adkins.

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 – Auditor and Treasurer**

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.

Motion to return to go into executive session: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The regular session began at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

Motion to return to open session: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Action coming out of Executive Session: None

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Councilman Adkins gave the invocation.

Discussion of Agenda Items and Approval of the Agenda:

There was no discussion of the agenda items.

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark – Proclamation presented to Verna Garvin for her years of service to Jasper County as County Treasurer.

The Proclamation for years of service was given to Verna Garvin by Council. Chairman Sauls read the Proclamation. Council joined them down front of the podium for this reading of the proclamation and the proclamation presentation. Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark presented Ms. Garvin the Proclamation for her position as Jasper County's County Treasurer.

David Tedder – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2023-10](#) to Authorize Jasper County to Obtain Blanket Fidelity Bond/Insurance to Cover Eligible County Officials And Employees Pursuant To The Authority Of § 4-11-65 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, And Matters Related Thereto.

Mr. Tedder was present to review and present this resolution which would authorize Jasper County to obtain a Blanket Fidelity Bond / Insurance to cover eligible County Officials and employees.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Minutes
06.20.2023

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2023-11](#) allocating \$175,240 of the ARPA funds received by Jasper County to be paid to the Regional House Trust Fund.

Ms. Burgess was present to review and discuss this resolution request to allocate \$175,240 of the ARPA Funds that were received by Jasper County to be paid to the Regional Housing Trust Fund.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of the [3rd reading](#) of Ordinance [#O-2023-09](#) 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.

(1st reading 05.01.2023; Public Hearing and 2nd reading 05.15.2023; 3rd reading tabled at 06.05.2023 meeting)

Ms. Burgess was present to discuss the Consideration of the [3rd reading](#) of Ordinance [#O-2023-09](#) 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.

Motion to approve and accept Budget provided by County Administrator and the Finance Department:

Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote:

Councilman Adkins: Yes

Vice Chairwoman Clark: Yes

Councilman Garbade: No

Councilman Kemp: No

Chairman Sauls: No

The motion did not pass.

Chairman Sauls asked if there were any other motions on the floor. There was no other motion made at this time. Councilman Garbade said that he told his constituents he would not vote for a tax increase. Ms. Burgess noted that the millage rate for the County had remained the same. Ms. Burgess said it went up because of the assessed value of property and that is why the tax total had gone up. She noted that the state law required the County to reassess property every 5 years. The increase was due to the increase of the assessed value.

Vice Chairwoman Clark said she didn't understand why this had been voted down. Councilman Kemp said he was very uncomfortable with the budget. Chairman Sauls discussed his concerns with the County not raising the millage rate and having to operate under the same current millage rate, but the school system asked for a 26.5 mill increase for operations, which could be taken out of the fund balance. He said if the County operates under the current millage that he couldn't see why the school system could not do so as well. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked Dr. Anderson to explain the two differences. Dr. Anderson said that they were not asking for a debt service mill increase which would tax residents. She said they were asking for an operational increase which would only affect businesses. Dr. Anderson discussed further the need for the school district to have the additional millage increase. She discussed and noted capital projects from the 1 cent that failed. She noted that 85% of their budget was personnel in all areas. She said they were not here to ask for money to fund the capital projects. She noted she came before Council in June and gave Council several handouts and one of those listed all of the capital projects that had been included in their fund balance. She said this was because there was a question as to what they were using their fund balance for, and that Council wanted specific information so I provided that to you. She mentioned that what they saw in that is that fund balance is what is being funded not just the fund balance but also Ester Funds being received from the Federal and State governments. There is not a connection between the two and asked that the record reflected this information. She said she would never ask for anything that they do not need. She said they weren't asking for money to hold funds but were asking because we are suffering from a decrease in funds. We now must decide how to teach children and pay our teachers and staff. For further information on this item please see the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . Mr. Tedder gave options of consideration for this item to be reconsidered.

Motion to reconsider: Chairman Sauls

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: 4 yes votes and 1 no vote from Councilman Garbade

The motion passed.

Motion to divide County Budget from the School Budget: Councilman Kemp

Second: There was no second.

The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Motion to approve the Budget provided that the County Budget and the School Budget remain the same as the same as FY22-23 with no millage rate increase: Chairman Sauls

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote:

Councilman Kemp: Yes

Councilman Adkins: No

Chairman Sauls: Yes

Vice Chairwoman Clark: Yes

Councilman Garbade: No

The motion passed.

David Tedder – Consideration of the **3rd reading** of Ordinance **#O-2023-11** of Jasper County Council establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Applications, Administrative Processing and Permitting for approval of Large Residential Subdivisions, Major Subdivisions, Commercial Development Projects and Signage within the described Euhaw Broad River Planning Area, providing for exceptions from the Temporary Moratorium; invoking application of the pending Ordinance Doctrine; and matters related thereto.

(1st reading 05.15.2023; Public Hearing and 2nd reading 06.05.2023)

Mr. Tedder was present to review and present this ordinance which would establishing a Temporary Moratorium on applications, administrative processing and permitting for approval of large residential subdivisions, major subdivisions, Commercial Development Projects and signage within the described Euhaw Broad River planning area and providing for exceptions from the Temporary Moratorium.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

David Tedder – Consideration of **3rd reading** of Ordinance **#O-2023-02**, to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, including Article IV, *Boards and Commissions* of Chapter 2, *Administration*, so as to amend Division 7, *Jasper County Aeronautics Commission*, including provisions regarding the appointment, qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Aeronautics Commission; to amend certain provisions of Chapter 29 to the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, *Aviation*, so as to make clarifications and amendments to certain standards, rules and regulations; and providing for corrections and amendments to the Template Leases approved by County Council pursuant to Ordinance 19-14 and related matters regarding the aeronautical and other activities at the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport, and matters related to the foregoing. *(1st reading 01.17.2023; 2nd reading tabled at 02.06.2023 meeting until a workshop; 2nd reading 06.05.2023)*

Mr. Tedder was present to review and present this ordinance which would amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, including Article IV, *Boards and Commissions* of Chapter 2, *Administration*, so as to amend Division 7, *Jasper County Aeronautics Commission*, including provisions regarding the appointment, qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Aeronautics Commission; to amend certain provisions of Chapter 29 to the Jasper County Code of Ordinances, *Aviation*, so as to make clarifications and

amendments to certain standards, rules and regulations; and providing for corrections and amendments to the Template Leases approved by County Council pursuant to Ordinance 19-14 and related matters regarding the aeronautical and other activities at the Ridgeland – Claude Dean Airport, and matters related to the foregoing.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

At 12:25PM Vice Chairwoman Clark took over the meeting for Chairman Sauls.

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.

Richard Dean was present to discuss the airport.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum's report was in the packet and he was available for questions.

For additional information on this County Council Meeting, please visit our website for the E-Packet or for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmlogX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA.

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Adkins

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous

The workshop adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



L. Martin Sauls IV
Chairman



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Minutes
06.20.2023