



## JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

# VIRTUAL MEETING

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

September 20, 2021

## MINUTES

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

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

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

Chairwoman Clark read the information below for the executive session.

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

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

### Executive Session

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

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

**(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body - [Application of the Salary Study to specific employees / positions.](#)**

**(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim - [Sgt. Jasper Park; Levy VFD; Exit 3](#)**

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

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

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

**Return to Open Session:**

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

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

**Business from Executive Session:**

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

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:**

All votes were yes, except for Councilman Kemp who voted no.

The motion passed.

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Presentation:**

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

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

**Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.**

There were no public comments.

**Resolutions:**

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

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

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

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman

**Second:** Councilman

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Ordinances:**

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

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

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

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

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

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

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Sauls

**Second:** Councilman Kemp

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**New Business: None**

**Old Business:**

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

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

**Council Members Comments:**

**Councilman Sauls:**

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

**Councilman Kemp:**

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

**Councilman Adkins:**

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

**Chairwoman Clark:**

Chairwoman Clark asked blessings for everyone.

**Administrator’s Report:**

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

**Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.** - There was no reason to return to executive session at this time.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Sauls

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

**Respectfully submitted:**



Wanda H. Simmons  
Clerk to Council

**Approved:**



Barbara B. Clark  
Chairwoman