



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg.
358 3rd Avenue, Ridgeland, SC 29936
Monday, May 20, 2024
MINUTES

4:00PM

Budget Workshop:

Motion to appoint Councilman Kemp to oversee the meeting until Vice Chairwoman arrived for the meeting: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous

Councilman Kemp began the Workshop in the absence of Vice Chairwoman Clark.

Jasper First Steps – Duchette Polite Hylton

Ms. Duchette Polite Hylton of Jasper First Steps presented her 22/23 Annual Report. She discussed the Dolly Parton Imagination Program. She noted that they had served 776 children last year and that 128 parents and caregivers received Their support. She talked about the different types of support that they offer and explained what Jasper First Steps was all about.

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

Dr. Richard Gough, President of Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) he discussed their measurable impact, and noted that their percentage of students were 91% local. He gave the 2023-2024 College Highlights. He noted that they work with Dual Enrollment. He discussed the fact that they provided free tuition throughout COVID. He also discussed how they are funded. He also discussed their funding request for this year from the County.

Hardeeville Marine Rescue Squad – Patricia Davis

No one was present to address this request.

Jasper County Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Hipp

Sheriff Hipp of the Jasper County Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Hipp acknowledged his staff and how much help they had been to him. He noted that their biggest demand was for additional personnel. He noted that he had spoken with Ms. Burgess and that they had come up with approximately 10 positions of needed personnel. He noted that the call volume was at a great demand. He noted that the Council had copies of

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his budget request and discussed some of the 2021 thru 2023 Accomplishments of the Sheriff's Department. He noted there was a lot of information for them to go thru and if they had any questions to let him know. Vice Chairwoman arrived and was welcomed to the workshop. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked the Sheriff and apologized for interrupting his presentation. Councilman Kemp asked if he had received a Traffic Enforcement Team Grant last year. He said that although he had applied but did not receive a grant that he did have a traffic count. He noted that they had Deputies working Traffic. He also noted that the SC Department of Public Safety that were approximately 63,600 vehicle passes thru Jasper County just from the State of Georgia line daily as of 2023. Councilman Kemp turned the meeting over to Vice Chairwoman Clark. He noted that a Traffic Enforcement Team would be created this coming year.

Coastal Empire Community Mental Health – Judith L. Birchenough

Ms. Birchenough was not present to speak, but Christy Jenks presented for Coastal Empire Community Mental Health in her stead. She said that she was here to discuss the Jasper County Mental Health System. She discussed their mission for the program and who they treated at their locations. She said they just started working with the Highway to Hope Program a couple of months ago. She discussed their needs and their budget requests.

The Regular Council Meeting began after the conclusion of the Budget Workshop.

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

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Chief Russell Wells, Rose Dobson Elliott and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

1. Call to Order of Council Meeting by Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vice Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order as soon as the Workshop was over. 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.*

2. 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 – Detention Center, Information Technology, Human Resources, Administrative Services, Engineering Services, Development Services

(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

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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 –[Tax Map # 063-26-14-001](#) and [# 063-26-14-002](#); [Banking Matters](#); [Nickel Plate MCIP](#); [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 – [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.

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman Kemp
Second: Councilman Rowell
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

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

3: Return to Open Session at 6:30PM

Motion to return to regular session: Councilman Garbade
Second: Councilman Kemp
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

○ **3.1 Action coming out of Executive Session**

Motion to authorize the Administrator to request an amendment to the Optim Contract on the Weathersby property as discussed in Executive Session to include a price adjustment and an extension of the option period until June 10th, 2024: Councilman Rowell
Second: Councilman Garbade
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell.

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items:

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Councilman Kemp noted that Item # 18 needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda since it was a presentation.

Motion to approve with the removal of Item # 18: Councilman Kemp

There was no second immediately made, so Vice Chairwoman Clark said the motion died for the lack of a second. However, at this time, just as she was saying that Councilman Garbade offered a second to the motion.

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

6. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda with Item # 10 being removed: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

7. Craig Winn and Daniel Burton of SCDOT – Updates and Project Summary for Jasper County

Mr. Winn and Mr. Burton of the SCDOT were present to provide updates and Project Summary for Jasper County. The I95 Widening Project was discussed. SCDOT Updates, Interstate Updates, Project Backgrounds, Project Updates and Resurfacing Updates were given. The SC DOT named a new Secretary of Transportation Justin Powell and Mr. Winn noted that he had appointed his leadership team:

Robb Perry – Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Karl McCarthy - Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration

Brent Rewis - Deputy Secretary for Planning

Jen Necker - Deputy Secretary for Intermodal & Freight Programs

He noted that SCDOT has dramatically increased its work program for active construction work.

They discussed 10-year Plan Accomplishments:

Rural Road Safety: 1009 miles

Paving: > 8800 miles

Bridges: 349 bridges

Interstates: 109 miles

They discussed inflation impacts and project interstates in regard to where they are not and where they are headed. They discussed resurfacing updates, they discussed the following roads: US321, Speedway Blvd., they discussed the Route Selection Procedure; ACT 114 (2007)/ ACT 275 (2016), Freedom Parkway, SC 170

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and other roads. They discussed the local projects, local roads and what was going on in the Jasper County area.

8. Dwayne Lee, P.A.H. Community Members (Purrysburg and Arm Oak Community) – Discussion of Recreation Equipment, Road Hazards/Improvements, Dredging of ditches, Future plans to improve the communities.

Mr. Lee representing the P.A.H. Community Members (Purrysburg and Arm Oak Community) was present to discuss Recreation Equipment, Road Hazards/Improvements, Dredging of ditches, Future plans to improve the communities for Purrysburg. He discussed the Purrysburg residents, and their hopes, plans and desires for the area. He discussed the current concerns of the people and what they are wanting to see for their area.

RESOLUTIONS

9. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration of Resolution [#R-2024-16](#) approving the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Recommendations and Authorizing the Award of Funds for State Accommodations Tax requests.

Ms. Burgess was present to review and discuss the consideration of Resolution [#R-2024-16](#) approving the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Recommendations and Authorizing the Award of Funds for State Accommodations Tax requests.

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

10. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration of Resolution [#R-2024-17](#) Authorizing the Award of Funds for Requests for Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes.

Ms. Burgess was present to review and discuss the consideration of Resolution [#R-2024-17](#) Authorizing the Award of Funds for Requests for Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes.

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

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11. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration of the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance #O-2024-13 To Provide For The Levy Of Tax For Public Purposes In Jasper County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1st, 2024 And Ending June 30th 2025 And To Make Appropriations For Said Purposes; To Adopt And Approve The Jasper County Capital And Operations Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, To Adopt And Approve The Jasper County School District Capital And Operations Budget For Fiscal Year 2024–2025; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxation For Fiscal Year 2024–2025; To Limit The Disbursements By The County Treasurer To Those Appropriated By Law; To Provide That Expenditures Not Exceed Appropriations; To Authorize Tax Anticipation Notes; To Make Authorization Of Certain Transfers; To Provide For Additional Appropriations And Borrowing; To Codify Jasper County Rates And Fees; To Provide For Lapsing Funds And Continuing Appropriations For Subsequent Years; To Require Certain Agencies And Departments To File Accountings; To Require The Treasurer To Sign General Fund Checks; To Provide Special Rules For Travel And Training Disbursements; To Provide For Travel Reimbursements; To Provide Compliance With Act No. 317 Of 1990; To Provide Certain Benefits To Council Members; To Provide For County Commission And Committee Stipends; To Provide For Jury Mileage; To Adopt Property Values; And To Provide For Effective Date Of This Ordinance (*1st reading 05.06.2024*)

Ms. Burgess was present to review and discuss the consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2024-13 to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1st, 2024 and ending June 30th 2025 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County Capital And Operations Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District Capital And Operations Budget For Fiscal Year 2024–2025; to provide for the levy of taxation for Fiscal Year 2024–2025; to limit the disbursements by the County Treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize Tax Anticipation Notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for additional appropriations and borrowing; to Codify Jasper County Rates and Fees; to provide for lapsing funds and continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the Treasurer to sign General Fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide compliance with Act No. 317 Of 1990; to provide certain benefits to Council Members; to provide for County Commission and Committee Stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance.

The public hearing for this ordinance was called to order, but there were no comments from the public. The public hearing was then closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote:

Councilman Kemp- No

Vice Chairwoman Clark – Yes

Councilman Rowell – Yes

Councilman Garbade – Yes

The motion passed.

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11A: Kimberly Burgess - Bid Presentation for the Directional Bore at Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport.
(Formerly Item # 18)

Ms. Burgess was present to address this request for the Bid Presentation for the Directional Bore at Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport. She reviewed the staff report for this item that was in the agenda e-packet with Council. She noted that staff requests that Council accept the bid from CAB Installers, Inc. in the amount of \$17,573.04 to provide a directional bore from Grays Highway West to the location of the airport fuel farm located at Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport and to authorize the County Administrator to execute all documents necessary to complete the project.

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

Mr. Smittie Cooler was present to give a Jasper County Committee 250 update.
John W. signed up to speak but did not.

13. Administrator's Report: Mr. Fulghum reviewed the information from his report. There were no Action Items requiring a vote from the Council in the Administrator's Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

14. David Tedder – Consideration of the 3rd reading, of Ordinance #O-2024-10 Authorizing An Amendment To That Certain Fee Agreement By And Between Jasper County, South Carolina And Hardeeville Industrial, LLC, As Successor To SDKM COMMERCE, LLC, Relating To The Investment Period Thereunder; And Other Related Matters. (1st reading 04.15.2024; 2nd reading 05.06.2024; public hearing 05.06.2024)

15. Chief Russell Wells – Acquisition of portable radios to establish a small spare equipment cache for times as needed.

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16. **Danny Lucas** - Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) Change Order #1.

17. **Danny Lucas** - Ridgeland Airport Aviation General Liability Insurance 24 – 25 Renewal.

18. *Kimberly Burgess - Bid Presentation for the Directional Bore at Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport. (Moved to Item # 11A)*

19. **Approval of the Minutes of 03.18.2024**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

20. **Council Members Comments:** There were no Councilmember Comments.

21. **Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.** There was no need to return to the Executive Session for this meeting. For additional information on this meeting please visit our website for this meeting's agenda E-Packet or for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



L. Martin Sauls IV
Chairman