



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 20, 2013

MINUTES

4:00 P.M.

WORKSHOP

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Attorney Marvin Jones, Detention Center Director Arthur Benjamin, Building and Planning Director LeNolon Edge

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act the electronic and print media were notified. During periods of discussion and/or presentations minutes are typically condensed and paraphrased.

CALLS TO ORDER – Chairman Etheridge called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

BUDGET DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Mr. Malphrus provided the Council with a worksheet that included the changes previously discussed. Mr. Malphrus said the risk manager position with benefits would cost \$46,000. Mr. Malphrus said \$8,000 was added for broadcasting the School Board Meetings. Mr. Malphrus said the additional \$85,000 requested by the Solicitor was not included and that he has not received a budget request from the Delegation, but currently the County is providing \$56,100 in this year's budget. Councilman Johnson said that it was indicated that the Delegation could attach the local government fund if they were not funded. Mr. Malphrus said they did that last year when the Council did not approve what was requested, but this year they have not made a request. Chairman Etheridge said he tried to contact the Delegation, but his phone calls were not returned. Councilman Johnson asked about the offices in the Mary Gordon Ellis Building. Mr. Malphrus said the Delegation Office has moved in and the phone lines and internet has been connected for that office. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she would like an accounting of what the money provided to the Delegation Office was spent on and she was waiting to hear from the Delegation. Councilman Drayton asked why the County would pay to televise the School Board Meetings and Vice Chairwoman Clark responded because they won't do it. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the

citizens have requested it and the School Board won't do it because they don't want the citizens to see what is happening. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that all entities' meetings are televised except the School Board. Councilman Drayton said that it should be taken out of the School District's Budget. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she requested it every month that she served on the School Board and the Superintendent would not do it. Chairman Etheridge asked if they could deny having the meetings televised and Councilman Johnson responded not easily because it is a Freedom of Information Issue. Councilman Drayton said he did not object to the meeting being televised, he just felt the School District should have to pay for it. Councilman Johnson said there was a major problem with credibility and the people need to know what is going on. Mr. Malphrus said it could cost about \$12,000 for the year. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked the administration to negotiate with Mr. Brodie since he does multiple meeting for the County. Chairman Etheridge said that he did not think the Council had a choice about funding the Public Defender's request if the County wanted to get the cases tried. Councilman Johnson said he was not as impressed with the career criminal team and while he agreed with the concept he did not think one person's case deserved more attention than someone else's case. Councilman Johnson said the career criminal group focuses on a small number of cases, but what doesn't get done is paid for by people staying in the detention center longer. Councilman Johnson discussed moving Judge Malphrus to the old Jody Malphrus Offices and possibly getting another judge in Jasper County so they would have more time to hear the cases. Councilman Johnson said the old Jody Malphrus Offices has two entrances and could house two judges. Councilman Johnson said that the public defenders and solicitors need to be equal, but it doesn't matter if they don't get judge time. Councilman Johnson said the judges are set up on a week by week basis and they try not to start a trial if it cannot be finished by Friday. Mr. Benjamin said it is also a problem when other Counties cut into our time. Councilman Johnson said if the County offered Judge Mullins an office here, she would spend more time here, and if asked she take a plea, she might do it while she was here and the County would benefit from that. Councilman Johnson said that he spoke with Judge Malphrus and she would prefer her father's old office, but she is agreeable to go to either place. Councilman Johnson said getting Judge Mullins here would save the County some money. Councilman Drayton said that he did not think the Council should approve funding for the Council on Aging to pay back money caused by their mistake. Vice Chairwoman Clark agreed that it should stay at \$100,000 because people always ask for more than they need. Chairman Etheridge said he did not want to cut any services for the senior citizens. Councilman Drayton said the Council on Aging needs to ask for forgiveness for the debt because sometimes the federal government is more forgiving than state government. Chairman Etheridge said he felt the Council on Aging should get a \$15,000 increase. Mr. Fulghum said the only line item that the administration recommended being increased was the public defender and the budget he provided was a flat budget with no increase. Mr. Fulghum said he can make the increase for Marine Rescue, but he will have to cut

something else. Chairman Etheridge said to give the Council on aging \$110,000. Mr. Malphrus reminded the Council that several years ago the County increased the appropriation by \$20,000 to keep Grays and Coosawhatchie Senior Centers open, and there are only about 3 people that go to the Grays Center and maybe 8 or 9 that go to the Coosawhatchie Center. Chairman Etheridge said Mr. Roache said they cannot afford to feed everyone who wants to come to three main centers. Mr. Malphrus said that Soil and Water asked for a \$1,000 increase for the county to be able to use the nature center for meetings. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the little league football should not receive funding since they operate the concession stand and charge a gate fee. Councilman Johnson said he is for recreation, but he was concerned about some teams receiving funding and others not. Councilman Johnson said he felt it should be handled by the recreation dept. Mr. Malphrus said that none of it was under the recreation dept. and there was only one baseball league countywide and they get \$8,000 and they cannot charge a gate fee. Chairman Etheridge said he liked to see the people have fund raisers to earn money for the youth leagues. Mr. Malphrus said they recommended leaving EOC, TCL, JARM, JCNU the same as last year and they have not budgeted anything for Parents University. Mr. Malphrus said they did not include funding for the purse scanner. Councilman Johnson said the Clerk of Court is not in favor of the purse scanner, but a lot of people are upset and he wanted to wait and see if funds could be found for it. Mr. Malphrus said they have not received any final determinations on the local government funds, but as of now they are projecting a loss of \$104,000 from what was previously projected. Vice Chairwoman Clark and Councilman Drayton agreed that Parent University should get at least \$500 or \$1,000 as they are providing a good service to the people. Chairman Etheridge said that since JARM is getting more food for the animals that their budget should be cut to \$135,000, give \$1,000 to Parent University and \$10,000 to Council on Aging. Councilman Johnson said that JARM does a lot more than a dog pound does. Mr. Malphrus said they are a dog pound and an adoption agency. Councilman Drayton said he did not understand how they are not funding TCL after the success story they heard at the last budget workshop. Councilman Drayton said he felt TCL should receive something. Mr. Malphrus said that USCB did not even make a request this year. Chairman Etheridge said that every time the State or Federal governments make a cut, the agencies expect the County to make it up and so do the schools. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that the people and businesses in Jasper County need and deserve a tax break this year. Mr. Fulghum said that TCL and USCB need to move in another direction like a TIF for funding and not request to be funded through the County's budget. Vice Chairwoman Clark and Councilman Johnson agreed that TCL and USCB are a part of moving forward, but this is not a year that the County will be able to fund them. Chairman Etheridge said he felt that 2 mils needed to be cut from the budget and that the fee on automobiles should be cut to \$15.00. Councilman Sauls asked how the administration could make that happen. Mr. Malphrus said he did not think it could be done without cutting positions. Chairman Etheridge asked if there were any positions that can

be cut. Councilman Drayton said they needed to put off hiring a risk manager. Mr. Malphrus said the risk manager was not included in the budget the administration presented. Councilman Johnsons said they needed statistics as to who was making the claims and why are they being continued. Mr. Malphrus said that the detention center and EMS have the most claims. Mr. Benjamin said he was working on educating his employees based on previous injuries. It was agreed to eliminate the risk manager position and that the administration needed to have safety meeting with the department heads. The consensus of the Council was to have minutes taken at the safety meetings and the minutes should be given to Council. Councilman Johnson said he had an attorney who would meet with the staff and discuss ways to keep the claims down. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that SCAC will also provide training for the department heads. Mr. Fulghum asked for parameters of where the Council wanted to go with the budget. Chairman Etheridge said they wanted 2 mils cut from the budget and they wanted road maintenance fee on automobiles reduced. Mr. Malphrus said he felt they could cut one mil, but beyond that would be tough. Chairman Etheridge asked when they would know about outsourcing EMS and the proposal for the value of the dirt. Mr. Fulghum said that the funds from the dirt should be reinvested in the park. Councilman Drayton said the Council has to make some hard decision and he felt cutting the road maintenance fee on vehicles was a good thing. Mr. Fulghum said he would meet with the Chairman and bring back a recommendation on Tuesday. The Council discussed the Public Defenders and the Solicitor's request. Mr. Fulghum said he will come back with the best scenario for both agencies.

ADJOURN – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to adjourn the budget workshop and to go into executive session at the conclusion of the dinner break for the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates 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 – [Jasper Ocean Terminal](#); [Settings at Mackey Point](#); [Ridgeland Airport](#); 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 – [St. James Properties](#) and discussion regarding the development of security personnel or devices – [Detention Center](#). The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The budget workshop ended at 5:45 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

No action was necessary as a result of executive session.

7:00 P.M.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, Director of Administrative Services Ronnie Malphrus, Attorney Marvin Jones, Detention Center Director Arthur Benjamin, Building and Planning Director LeNolon Edge, Director of Engineering Services Dale Terry, Director of Emergency Services Wilbur Daley

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CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Etheridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION – Vice Chairwoman Clark gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Approval of the Minutes - Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 04/22/ 2013 and 05/06/2013 Council meetings. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - LeNOLON EDGE – UPDATE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT – Mr. Edge told the Council that Mr. Martelli was hired as the building official and that a code enforcement officer position was being advertised. Mr. Edge said there was going to be a County Wide Spruce Up Project from June 20-June 24, 2013 and the County would be collecting appliances and vehicles. Mr. Edge said the citizens needed to schedule an appointment for pickup. Mr. Edge also asked the public to contact the County and identify people who may need this service.

ORDINANCES - ANDREW FULGHUM –1st READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH JASPER COUNTY RADIO CONTROL, CHAPTER NO. 5096 OF THE ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS, INC. - Mr. Fulghum explained that the license agreement was up in June and it needed to be renewed. Mr. Fulghum said this ordinance approved a 3 year license agreement. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion that this be the 1st reading of the ordinance to authorize entering into a license agreement with Jasper County Radio Control, Chapter No. 5096 of the Academy Of Model Aeronautics, Inc. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RESOLUTIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - RONNIE MALPHRUS- APPROVAL OF SMITH DATA CONTRACT- Mr. Malphrus explained that this contract needed to be renewed annually and it covered the software for taxes and some court software. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to renew the Smith Data contracts as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

ANDREW FULGHUM – APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR RIDGELAND AIRPORT- Mr. Fulghum said the Council discussed this in executive session and there may be a need for services from the airport consultant. Mr. Fulghum asked the Council to approve up to \$30,000 from the commercial development fund for a contract with the airport consultants to help with the purchase of property at the airport. Councilman Johnson motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve of to \$30,000 for a service contract with the airport consultants to help with the purchase of property at the airport and the contract is to be paid from the commercial development fund. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

WILBUR DALEY – UPDATE ON COUNTY I-D PROGRAM – Mr. Daley explained that they were upgrading the County employees I- D program and the badges will multi-purpose badges and they will be worn by all County employees. Mr. Daley said the I-D cards will also open the doors and provide entry back into the County after an evacuation. Mr. Daley said the volunteer firemen will also be provided with identity cards. Councilman Drayton asked about the cost and Mr. Daley said it was paid for with grant funds.

ARTHUR BENJAMIN – APPROVAL OF DETENTION CENTER IMPROVEMENTS – Mr. Benjamin explained that the improvements were for the sprinkler system and security. Mr. Fulghum said the cost of the security improvements is \$57,675 and the money could come from the inmate housing line. Mr. Benjamin explained that the fire marshal was requiring that the sprinkler system be corrected. The cost of \$18,800 could be paid for from the inmate housing line in the budget. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to approve spending \$57,675 from the inmate housing line to pay for security improvements. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Johnson motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve paying \$18,800 from the inmate housing line to correct the sprinkler system. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Councilman Drayton reported that he visited the Firetower Road Fire Station and was very impressed and asked when it would be complete. Mr. Daley responded that he thought it would be complete by the end of June. **Councilman Johnson** reported that he attended the Alliance Event and he received encouraging interaction including the Port. **Vice Chairwoman Clark** reported that she also attended the Alliance meeting and she visited all the schools. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she met with Mr. Turano and she also attended many budget meetings. Vice Chairwoman Clark said the citizens will see a change. **Councilman Sauls** reported that he met with Daniel Defense and they were working on a strategic plan to bring more businesses to the County. Councilman Sauls provided an

update of the Chamber of Commerce Events that have been scheduled. Councilman Sauls said the also met with an individual about an assisted living facility. **Chairman Etheridge reported** on the second session of the SC Economic Institute that he attended and that he attended a meeting at LCOG. Chairman Etheridge said that LCOG has funds for home renovation and down payment assistance. Chairman Etheridge said since the last Council Meeting there have been several budget workshops and that they have accomplished a lot and the Council was going to make things happen. Chairman Etheridge said that Mr. West, Jasper County School District Finance Director, promised to get all the information needed to clarify the questions asked by Council. Councilman Johnson said he also met with Mr. West and he felt it was a very informative meeting. Councilman Sauls added that he was to meet with Mr. West this week.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Mr. Fulghum said he provided the Council with an update of his activities. Mr. Malphrus reported on the local A-tax requests. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked about the Event at EMS. Mr. Fulghum said there was a lot of activity and this type of safety training goes on every year. Mr. Daley said the exercises are with the National Guard and there was very good participation.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC – PER ORDINANCE 08-17 ANY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY MAY SIGN TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO COUNTY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES (TOTAL PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 MINUTES) – Chairman Etheridge opened the floor to the public. **Richie Smalls-Reed, EdD** read a letter she wrote to the County Council that expressed her opinion of the Council’s actions and behavior. She requested that the Council demonstrate mutual respect. **Barbara Bartoldus** commented on the audio system and that the public could not hear the Council. Ms. Bartoldus asked if the Sheriff has reimbursed the County for the patrol cars. **Denise Davidson** told the Council she attended several budget workshops and asked why Mr. West was meeting with the Council Members individually and not collectively. Ms. Davidson provided the Council with copies of reports regarding the School District’s finances and that the reports do not always meet the general ledge activities and that the School District’s cash management requirements failed. Being no further comments Chairman Etheridge closed the floor to the public.

ADJOURN- Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Henry Etheridge
Chairman

