



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
**WORKSHOP AND  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg.  
358 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936  
Monday, April 17, 2023  
**Minutes**

## **Budget Workshop:**

### **14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender's Office – Stephanie Smart-Gittings, Public Defender**

No one was able to attend from the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender's Office appeared to speak on behalf of the budget.

### **Beaufort Jasper EOC – James Williams, Executive Director**

Mr. Williams of the Beaufort Jasper EOC was present to address his request of \$35,000.00 from the Jasper County Council to assist with funding programs that they have in place for Jasper County families.

### **Lowcountry RTA /Palmetto Breeze Transit – Mary Lou Franzoni, Executive Director**

Ms. Franzoni was present to discuss her budget request in the amount of \$42,801.00 with the Jasper County Council. She noted this past year's repairs to the buses, and noted that not much had changed since last year.

### **USCB – Al M. Panu, Chancellor**

Dr. Panu was present to discuss his request in the amount of \$75,000.00 with the Jasper County Council. He discussed USCB and their needs, the graduates for 2023 and their upcoming acceptance into the NCAA Division II Peach Belt Athletic Conference.

### **Election Commission – Jeanine Bostick**

Ms. Bostick and some of her Board Members were present to discuss their budget request for the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Amount of \$450,988.00 which was an increase of \$21,588.00. She noted that they had hired a Deputy Director and have an Administrative Assistant.

**Officials Present:** Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins (arrived at 5:07pm), Councilman John Kemp. **Absent:** Councilman Coy Garbade.

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

### 1. Call to Order:

Chairman Sauls called the meeting to order at 5:30PM and welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Chairman Sauls asked the Clerk to Council to read the Report of Compliance to the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Simmons, Clerk to Council to read the Clerk's Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 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:

(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 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 – **Election Matters; Bailey Park; Professional Services—Pratt Memorial Library; Airport Matters**

(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**

**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 go into executive session with moving Election Matters off of Executive Session to be discussed in a Public Forum:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

### 3. Return to Open Session at 6:30PM

- **3.1 Action coming out of Executive Session –**  
There was no action coming out of Executive Session

### 4. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation:

Minutes  
04.17.2023

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

**5. Discussion of Consent Agenda and Agenda Items:**

There was no discussion on this topic.

**6. Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of "Election Matters" as Item # 6A:** Councilman Kemp

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**Item 6A: Election Matters:**

Mr. Michael Burchstead of Burr Foreman was present to address this topic. He noted that he was present to give an update on the case of Jasper County vs Alvin Adkins. He said he had been at the Council Meeting 3 months ago and that they had been trying to get this to a hearing. He noted that after the last Council Meeting they had a Mediation deadline to adhere to. He said they engaged with Council and got the matter exempted from Mediation. He noted that they had updated their discovery responses. He said they had sent written discovery to Mr. Adkins attorney. A hearing has been scheduled for Thursday but are they are awaiting information on / from other Counsel. He said they had received written discovery responses this week from Mr. Adkins' Counsel. He also mentioned that they are looking at the Supreme Court and trying to move as quickly as they can in the system. Chairman Sauls noted that none of the County Council up there like this situation. He said it is referred to as the County vs Alvin Adkins and that is not how it is. He stated that Mr. Adkins is a good man, and heat he believes him when he said he didn't realize that he wasn't in the right district. He said this is simply a formality to protect the County.

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**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

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**Proclamations:**

**7. Chairman Sauls - Proclamation to the family of Rev. Samuel Gregory recognizing his contributions to Jasper County. (this item as done after item # 9)**

**Presentations:**

**8. Heather Rath – Legislative Update**

Ms. Rath said at the last meeting she brief Council on our delegation, their ask and on the Opioid Settlement. She noted that today she would discuss their Federal Ask and the Broadband Update. She said that the Federal Ask (project delegation) would be 1. Levy Infrastructure Improvements at a cost of \$12 million and 2. JC BMX Bicycle Track at a cost of \$750,000.

Broad Band Update – significant investment into the area to be completed by the end of 2024.

Arts and Education Funding

Reminder of State Projects:

1. Stand alone Sheriff's Office
2. BMX

She noted the next update would include requests of State and Federal Funding; the RIA Update for 5 potential projects; Legislation of Interest and Opioid Plans.

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## PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

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9. **David Tedder** – **Public Hearing Only** of an ordinance to amend Chapter 6 of the County Code of Ordinances (Buildings and Building Regulations) to Update References, Fees and Matters Related Thereto (*Matter tabled on 04.03.2023 until a workshop*) No vote will be taken on this item.

Mr. Tedder noted that at the last meeting they had brought forth a draft of the mandatory building codes and that the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the ordinance showed some fee increases. He said that Council requested a workshop on this matter so since the public hearing was already scheduled, they went ahead and moved forward with the public hearing tonight. He noted that tonight was a public hearing only on this item and that no vote would be taken. The public hearing was opened, and he asked for public comments but there were no public comments.

Former Item # 7 - **Chairman Sauls** - Proclamation to the family of Rev. Samuel Gregory recognizing his contributions to Jasper County.

Councilman Adkins read and he and Council presented a proclamation to the family of Rev. Samuel Gregory recognizing his contributions to Jasper County.

10. **David Tedder** – Consideration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance [#O-2023-06](#) of to extend the date by which certain property subject to a Development Agreement entered into by the County and Conduit Street Partners, LLC (CSP) must be conveyed by the property's current owner to the developer thereof, to allow for additional time for the developer to complete the full entitlement of the property, and matters related thereto. (*1<sup>st</sup> reading 03.20.2023; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 04.03.2023*)

Mr. Tedder was present to address the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance #O-2023-06. He noted there were no changes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. He discussed what the ordinance entailed and noted that this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the ordinance and that a public hearing had been previously held on this item.

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Vote:** 3 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilman Kemp

The motion passed.

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## CITIZEN COMMENTS

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**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.

Hedy Frazier discussed the Coosawhatchie Community Center.

Freddie L. Brantley discussed his concerns for Gillisonville.

L.R. Warren discussed Rivers Hill Rd.

Richard Michael discussed Rivers Hill Rd.

Dr. Joyce Traves discussed Rivers Hill Rd.

Anna Lee discussed Rivers Hill Rd.

Don Newton discussed the Gillisonville Community.

Tony Gastoy discussed the Coosawhatchie Center.

James Williams signed up to speak but had no comments.

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### Resolutions:

**Andrew Fulghum and Smittie Cooler – Resolution #R-2023-04 supporting the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission and recognizing and approving the Jasper County 250 Committee.**

Mr. Fulghum and Mr. Cooler was present to address the request for Resolution #R-2023-04 and explained that this was a resolution in support of the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission and recognizing and approving the Jasper County 250 Committee. Mr. Fulghum noted that the mission of the sC250 Commission is to celebrate and promote South Carolina's role in the American Revolution by educating, engaging and inspiring South Carolinian's and visitors and to create a local committee.

**Motion to approve with the inclusion of the additional 5 names on the resolution:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

### Administrator's Report:

Mr. Fulghum noted that his Administrator's Report was in the packet and that he was available for any questions that Council may have. He noted that there were two items on his Administrator's Report and noted that information was in the packet. He discussed the City of Hardeeville Regional Workforce Training Program.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

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**Approval of the consent agenda:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Second:** Councilman Adkins

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed.

**14. Rose Dobson-Elliott** – Presentation and consideration of bids for up to five (5) 25 ft. containers and one (1) compactor.

**15. Danny Lucas** – Consideration of the **3<sup>rd</sup> reading** of Ordinance **#O-2023-05** to authorize Jasper County to Enter Into A Memorandum of Understanding/Lease Agreement with Jasper-Ridgeland Youth Baseball, Inc. (“JRYB”) for the use of Athletic Facilities. (*1<sup>st</sup> reading 03.06.2023; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 04.03.2023*)

**16. Danny Lucas** – Consideration of the recommended CDBG Needs Assessment for 2023.

**17. Approval of the minutes of March 6, 2023:**

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## END OF CONSENT AGENDA

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### Council Members Comments:

Vice Chairwoman Clark wished everyone a Happy Monday.

Councilman Kemp attended a grand opening and participated in the Planning Commission Meeting. He noted that the Magistrates have a meeting on Wednesday and that today he had attended a Hardeeville Meeting with DOT. He asked everyone to keep Councilman Garbade in prayer.

Councilman Adkins asked blessings for everyone.

Chairman Sauls attended the chamber Meeting last week and the Quarterly Meeting of the SouthernCarolina Alliance. He reminded everyone of Jasper on the Move at Legacy Oaks coming up and said they hope to have exciting news upcoming soon.

**Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II.** No return to Executive Session was necessary.

Minutes  
04.17.2023

**Adjournment:**

**Motion to approve:** Councilman Adkins

**Second:** Vice Chairwoman Clark

**Vote:** Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

**Respectfully submitted:**



Wanda H. Simmons  
Clerk to Council



L. Martin Sauls IV  
Chairman