

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
PALM KEY
MARCH 21, 2008
10:00 A.M.**

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD, CHAIRMAN
FRED TUTEN, VICE CHAIRMAN
GLADYS JONES, COUNCILWOMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
JUDITH M. FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

FACILITATOR:

BO SHETTERLY

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.

CALL TO ORDER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:10 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN GAVE THE INVOCATION.

MISSION STATEMENT:

MR. SHETTERLY PRESENTED A SAMPLE MISSION STATEMENT AND THE COUNCIL WORKED TO DEVELOP ONE FOR JASPER COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT QUALITY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INCLUDED AND VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SUGGESTED MANAGED AND CONTROLLED GROWTH. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR COMMENTED THAT GROWTH WILL BE CONTROLLED WITH THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ORDINANCE IS ENFORCED. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT THE PEOPLE ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BECAUSE OF THE GROWTH. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE LDR AND THE ZONING ORDINANCE PRIORITIZE THE GROWTH.

THE COUNCIL AGREED THE MISSION STATEMENT WOULD BE:
TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND MANAGE GROWTH
THROUGH LAND USE CONTROLS, WHILE PROTECTING JASPER COUNTY'S
RICH ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

GOALS:

MR. SHETTERLY HAD EACH OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS LIST THE VARIOUS GOALS TO BE SET FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO ACHIEVE.

THE GOALS THE COUNCIL SET WERE:

1. DEVELOP PERSONNEL GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION
2. IMPROVE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION
3. SUPPORT JASPER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
4. IMPROVE IMAGE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT
5. MAKE PROVISIONS FOR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS FOR TAXES
6. IMPROVE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION
7. EMPLOYEE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
8. A PLAN FOR AND SUPPORT OF LOW INCOME HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
9. EXPAND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
10. GOVERNMENT ANNEX IN SOUTHERN END OF COUNTY
11. PLAN FOR GROWTH

RULES FOR COUNCIL:

MR. SHETTERLY DISCUSSED THE RULES FOR COUNCIL PRESENTED AND MADE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

A PROVISION FOR NO PROXY VOTES NEEDED TO BE ADDED.

MR. SHETTERLY DISCUSSED PLACING THE ATTORNEY UNDER COUNTY COUNCIL. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE LARGER COUNTIES ALL HAVE THE ATTORNEY UNDER THE COUNCIL AND MR. SHETTERLY STATED THAT THEY ARE DOING IT, BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN TESTED IN COURT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION REGARDING THE ATTORNEY. MR. SHETTERLY SAID IF THE ATTORNEY IS HIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, THE ATTORNEY GETS HIS DIRECTIONS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR WILL LISTEN TO THE COUNCIL AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THIS WAS EVEN BEING DISCUSSED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES COMMENTED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS AWARE THAT DOES NOT ALWAYS HAPPEN. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE COUNCIL GENERALLY GETS HIS LEGAL OPINION AND THAT THE ATTORNEY RESEARCHES THE LAW AND THE COUNCIL IS NOT ALWAYS SURE IF HIS OPINION IS FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR OR THE COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY ATTORNEY PROVIDES LEGAL ADVICE FOR THE COUNTY. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID HIS OPINION AND LEGAL OPINION MAY NOT BE THE SAME.

MR. SHETTERLY REVIEWED THE WAYS TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND HE DID NOT THINK THE AGENDA SHOULD BE CHANGED UNLESS THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD BE CHANGED WITH A TWO THIRDS VOTE. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE COUNCIL HAD TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AND MR. SHETTERLY SAID THAT THE AGENDA IS POSTED AND IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE APPROVED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT EXECUTIVE SESSION AND IF A CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED, IS THE MATTER STILL ELIGIBLE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. MR. SHETTERLY SAID THAT IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE DONE AND THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED, IT IS PUBLIC INFORMATION. MR. SHETTERLY SAID THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT VOTE OR TAKE A POLL IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THE COUNCIL QUESTIONED MR. SHETTERLY ABOUT A QUORUM AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BEING AT THE SAME SOCIAL FUNCTION. MR. SHETTERLY SAID THE COUNCIL MEMBERS CAN BE AT THE SAME PLACE, BUT THEY CANNOT DISCUSS COUNTY BUSINESS.

MR. SHETTERLY SUGGESTED HAVING THE RULES RELATING TO PEOPLE WHO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL BE WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THE AGENDA. HE ALSO SUGGESTED HAVING PEOPLE SIGN UP PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF THEY WANTED TO SPEAK AND THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER.

MR. SHETTERLY GAVE THE CLERK TO COUNCIL HIS SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CHANGES TO THE RULES OF COUNCIL HE DISCUSSED WITH THE COUNCIL FOR HER TO INCORPORATE INTO THE RULES THAT WERE PRESENTED.

MR. SHETTERLY LEAVES AT THIS TIME.

NAMING ANNEX BUILDING:

VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT NAMING THE ANNEX BUILDING FOR MS. ZENIE INGRAM. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION THAT THE FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS AGREED THAT ALL COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS SHOULD BE NAMED JASPER COUNTY AND NOT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID THAT COULD BE CHANGED. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT HISTORICALLY BUILDINGS ARE NOT NAMED FOR A PERSON RIGHT AFTER THEY DIE. THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO HAVE A MEETING TO PREPARE GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR NAMING COUNTY OWNED BUILDINGS. THE COUNCIL WILL MEET AT APRIL 3, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING.

TAX DEEDS:

COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT 30 DAYS AFTER THE TAX SALE, DEEDS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE HAD THE DEEDS AND IT IS THE END OF MARCH AND THE PEOPLE STILL DO NOT HAVE THEM. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT STATE LAW IS BEING

VIOLATED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT WHEN THE ATTORNEY WAS HIRED AND CAME TO WORK FOR THE COUNTY, THE ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD HAVE HAD HIS OFFICE EQUIPPED AND READY FOR HIM. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE LAWSUIT WITH ROY WALKER HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THREE YEARS AND IT IS STILL NOT HANDLED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR TELLS THE ATTORNEY WHAT HIS PRIORITIES ARE AND THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES ARE NOT BEING HANDLED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT WHEN THE ATTORNEY CAME TO WORK, HE HAD NO PHONE, NO COMPUTER, NO OFFICE AND SHE SAID THAT SHE FELT THAT MR. FULGHUM SHOULD HAVE HAD EVERYTHING IN PLACE SO THAT THE ATTORNEY COULD GET TO WORK. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID SHE FELT IT WAS VERY POOR MANAGEMENT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THERE WERE TWO EMPTY OFFICES IN THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING (THE CLERK'S OLD OFFICE AND THE EMPTY OFFICE OFF OF THE HR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE) THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED AND THERE WAS SPACE IN THE PERRY HOUSE (MR. SAGER'S OLD OFFICE) AND THEY WERE NOT USED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WAS ALLOWING MR. FULGHUM TO MANAGE THE EMPLOYEES VERY BADLY. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR ENCOURAGED THE COUNCIL TO PURCHASE A HOUSE SO THE ATTORNEY COULD HAVE AN OFFICE, AND THEN THE ATTORNEY COULDN'T USE IT UNTIL IT WAS RENOVATED.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 1:55 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN