

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

APRIL 6, 2009

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SERVICES
WILBUR DALEY, DEP. ADM. EMG. SERVICES
WENDY KELLY, DEP. ADM DEV. SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY
DAVID JIROUSEK, PLANNING DIRECTOR
LISA LAMB, PLANNING AND ZONING COORDINATOR
HONEY JOHNSON, ASSISTANT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR
SUSAN WAITE, ASSESSOR

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 4:05 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY GAVE THE INVOCATION.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2009, MARCH 12, 2009, MARCH 16, 2009, MARCH 19, 2009, MARCH 26, 2009, AND MARCH 30, 2009. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR PRESENTED 2

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES FROM THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING. THE CORRECTIONS WERE NOTED. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

STEVEN MALPHRUS – NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS’ WEEK:

STEVEN MALPHRUS READ THE PROCLAMATION MAKING THE WEEK OF APRIL 12-18, 2009 AS NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS’ WEEK IN JASPER COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE PROCLAMATION. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES:

MARVIN JONES – PUBLIC HEARING AND 2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CORRECT SCRIVENER’S ERRORS IN SECTION FOUR (4) OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-08:

MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS TO CORRECT AN ERROR REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE CHARGED. THE FEE IS \$500.00 NOT \$50.00 AS LISTED IN 09-08. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CORRECT SCRIVENER’S ERRORS IN SECTION FOUR (4) OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-08. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

DAVID JIROUSEK – 2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER THAT PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 4.94 ACRES BEARING JASPER COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 080-00-03-159 AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE END OF PEARLSTINE ROAD FROM THE RURAL PRESERVATION ZONE TO THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP:

MR. JIROUSEK PRESENTED THE ORDINANCE AND STATED THAT THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY REQUESTED THE ZONING CHANGE FROM RURAL PRESERVATION TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL. MR. JIROUSEK INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THERE WAS A TYPO IN THE ORDINANCE AND THE AMOUNT OF LAND WAS ACTUALLY 4.94 ACRES. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THE OTHER PROPERTIES NEAR THIS PROPERTY ARE ZONED GENERAL COMMERCIAL.

COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2ND READING OF THE

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER THAT PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 4.94 ACRES BEARING JASPER COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 080-00-03-159 AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE END OF PEARLSTINE ROAD FROM THE RURAL PRESERVATION ZONE TO THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

DAVID JIROUSEK –1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR THE PERMITTING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ALL EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN JASPER COUNTY; TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD SECTION 3:6.1.2A TITLED “EXCAVATION PERMIT”; TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY AS AMENDED, TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR “EXCAVATION PLAN”; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF “EXCAVATION, EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES, AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS” FOUND IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED; TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE RESOURCE EXTRACTION” TO SECTION 5.1; TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD THE INTENT OF “RE RESOURCE EXTRACTION” TO SECTION 5.3; TO AMEND TABLE 1 OF SECTION 6:1 OF ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS MENDED, TO REPLACE CERTAIN ENTRIES IN SECTOR 21 AND TO AMEND ZONE RC TO CHANGE “C” TO “N”, TO AMEND ZONE RP TO CHANGE “C TO N”; TO AMEND SECTION 6:2 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED, TO CHANGE THE TABLE ENTRY FOR “MINING” TO “MINING OR EXCAVATION”; TO AMEND THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT (RE) AND TO ADD “RE” USE REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 6.1; TO MAKE CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6:2.14 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED; TO AMEND ARTICLE 7 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE” SETBACK AND AREA REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 7.3, TABLE 1; TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD SECTION 11:7 TITLED “EXCAVATION, EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS” TO INCLUDE SECTION 11:7.1, 11:7.2, 11:7.3, 11:7.4, 11:7.5, 11:7.6 AND 11:7.7; TO AMEND ARTICLE 12 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE” USE AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 12:1, TABLE 12:1; TO AMEND TABLE 4 OF SECTION 12:8.2-3 OF THE JASPER COUNTY

ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, TO ADD “EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES” AS A PROPOSED USE AND ADD CERTAIN BUFFER REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 12:8.2-4 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, TO ADD BUFFERYARD 7A AND 7B TO THE BUFFERYARD ILLUSTRATION TABLE; AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE 14 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED:

MR. JIROUSEK REVIEWED THE ORDINANCE AND EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD A WORKSHOP REGARDING THIS ORDINANCE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ANNOUNCED THAT THE ORDINANCE IS ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE AND IF ANYONE HAD ANY QUESTIONS THEY SHOULD CONTACT MR. JIROUSEK.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR THE PERMITTING, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION OF ALL EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN JASPER COUNTY; TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD SECTION 3:6.1.2A TITLED “EXCAVATION PERMIT”; TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY AS AMENDED, TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR “EXCAVATION PLAN”; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF “EXCAVATION, EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES, AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS” FOUND IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED; TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE RESOURCE EXTRACTION” TO SECTION 5.1; TO AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD THE INTENT OF “RE RESOURCE EXTRACTION” TO SECTION 5.3; TO AMEND TABLE 1 OF SECTION 6:1 OF ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS MENDED, TO REPLACE CERTAIN ENTRIES IN SECTOR 21 AND TO AMEND ZONE RC TO CHANGE “C” TO “N”, TO AMEND ZONE RP TO CHANGE “C TO N”; TO AMEND SECTION 6:2 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED, TO CHANGE THE TABLE ENTRY FOR “MINING” TO “MINING OR EXCAVATION”; TO AMEND THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE RURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT (RE) AND TO ADD “RE” USE REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 6.1; TO MAKE CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6:2.14 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED; TO AMEND ARTICLE 7 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE” SETBACK AND AREA REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 7.3, TABLE 1; TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD SECTION 11:7 TITLED “EXCAVATION, EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS” TO INCLUDE SECTION 11:7.1, 11:7.2, 11:7.3, 11:7.4, 11:7.5, 11:7.6 AND 11:7.7; TO AMEND ARTICLE 12 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SO AS TO ADD “RE” USE AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 12:1,

TABLE 12:1; TO AMEND TABLE 4 OF SECTION 12:8.2-3 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, TO ADD “EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES”AS A PROPOSED USE AND ADD CERTAIN BUFFER REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 12:8.2-4 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, TO ADD BUFFERYARD 7A AND 7B TO THE BUFFERYARD ILLUSTRATION TABLE; AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE 14 OF THE JASPER COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

WENDY KELLY – 2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE OKATIE CROSSINGS MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT:

THIS ITEM WAS TABLED TO BE HEARD AT A FUTURE MEETING.

RESOLUTIONS:

MARVIN JONES – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT RESOLUTION.

MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT EACH YEAR THE COUNTY IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION REGARDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT RESOLUTION. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

WENDY KELLY- FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION:

MS. KELLY EXPLAINED THAT APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND EACH YEAR THE COUNCIL IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION REGARDING FAIR HOUSING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS:

RONNIE MALPHRUS – ACCEPT THE 2007-2008 AUDIT:

MR. MALPHRUS ASKED FOR THE COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE 2007-2008 AUDIT AS PRESENTED BY THE OUTSIDE AUDITOR. COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 2007-2008 BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

NEW BUSINESS:

RONNIE MALPHRUS - APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER BOARD:

THIS ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

MARGARET BOSTICK –APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSAL FOR USE OF FACILITIES BY THE CLERK OF COURT:

MS. BOSTICK INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT WHILE THE COURTHOUSE IS BEING RENOVATED THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS APPROVED HER USING THE CAFETERIA OF THE OLD RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR COURT. MS. BOSTICK SAID THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL REQUIRE THE COUNTY TO PAY FOR THE UTILITES FOR THE FACILITY, ANY RENOVATION (WHICH MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD), AND TO PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE TO COVER ANY ACCIDENTS. MS. BOSTICK SAID THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO DECIDE IF ANY OF THE MODIFICATIONS WILL REMAIN OR THE COUNTY WILL BE ASKED TO RESTORE THE BUILDING BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL LAYOUT. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE COUNTY RECEIVES ANY FUNDS FROM THE CLERK OF COURT AND MS. BOSTICK RESPONDED THAT FUNDS ARE LEVIED AGAINST THE INDIVIDUALS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT ANY CHANGES. MS. BOSTICK STATED THAT NO ADDITIONAL CHANGES WERE NECESSARY SINCE THE SCHOOL BOARD MADE THE CHANGES SHE REQUESTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE BUILDING WAS BEING USED FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HOW MUCH THE UTILITIES WOULD COST. MS. BOSTICK SAID THE BUILDING WAS BEING USED FOR SECURITY PURPOSES AND SHE WAS NOT SURE ABOUT THE UTILITIES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE CLERK OF COURT TO USE THE CAFETERIA IN THE RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR COURT AND THE COUNTY WOULD PAY THE UTILITES AND PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE TO COVER ANY ACCIDENTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RONNIE MALPHRUS – APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR FENCING AT THE JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING:

THIS ITEM WAS TABLED BECAUSE ONLY TWO BIDS WERE PRESENTED AND THEY WERE FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF FENCING.

WENDY KELLY – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE AND THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND FOR PERMITTING AND INSPECTIONS:

THIS ITEM WAS TABLED TO A FUTURE MEETING.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIRMAN HOOD – INFORMATION REGARDING AGAPE FITNESS CENTER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT THE AGAPE FITNESS CENTER AND INFORMED THE PUBLIC THAT THE FACILITY HAS INVITED THEM TO VISIT AND SEE WHAT IS AVAILABLE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE CENTER WAS ALSO LOOKING FOR DONATIONS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD – UPDATE ON STIMULUS PACKAGE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MS. KELLY TO UPDATE THE COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC ON THE STATUS OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE. MS. KELLY EXPLAINED THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE AND THAT THE STAFF IS CURRENTLY MONITORING AND APPLYING FOR THE GRANTS THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. MS. KELLY SAID ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS WERE SENT A COPY OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE SO THAT THEY COULD DECIDE WHAT GRANTS WOULD APPLY TO THEIR DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHO APPLIES FOR THE GRANTS AND MS. KELLY RESPONDED THE DEPARTMENT HEADS MAKE THE APPLICATIONS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MS. KELLY AND MS. HERMAN TO MEET WITH MICHELLE KNIGHT AT LCOG REGARDING STIMULUS MONEY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW AND MS. KELLY SAID THERE WAS FUNDING AVAILABLE, BUT IT WAS THE COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO APPLY FOR IT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF SHE APPLIED FOR FUNDING AND MS. KELLY SAID THE COUNTY HAS APPLIED FOR SEVERAL GRANTS. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF WHEN THE STIMULUS MONEY COMES TO THE COUNTY WILL THE PUBLIC KNOW ABOUT IT. CHAIRMAN HOOD RESPONDED THAT THE COUNCIL WILL SHARE THE INFORMATION AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HE WILL PASS IT ON IMMEDIATELY TO THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS WHEN HE RECEIVES ANY INFORMATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD DO A PRESS RELEASE WHEN THE COUNTY GETS STIMULUS FUNDS AND HE WILL PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH THE INFORMATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SOME GRANTS (LIKE GRANTS FOR HIRING PEOPLE) WILL ONLY BE FOR A FEW YEARS AND THEN THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PICK UP THE EXPENSES FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE IS TRYING TO BE CAREFUL OF ANY PITFALLS SO THE COUNTY DOES NOT COMMIT TO ANY OBLIGATIONS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING AND THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME STIPULATIONS.

SENATOR PINCKNEY COMPLIMENTED THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE STAFF FOR WORKING ON THE FUNDING. SENATOR PINCKNEY DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS WAYS THE FUNDING IS BEING HANDLED AND HE SAID THAT THE COUNTY NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL DURING THE CENSUS. SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THAT THE GOVERNOR WANTED TO USE THE STIMULUS FUNDING TO PAY DOWN THE STATE DEBT. SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THE DEBT IS BEING HANDLED AND CURRENTLY THE STATE'S PROBLEM WAS FUNDING AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THAT SINCE THE MONEY HAS TO BE PAID BACK, IT SHOULD BE USED SO THAT IT BENEFITS THE CITIZENS. SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THAT IF SOUTH CAROLINA DOES NOT TAKE THE FUNDS, THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHARE OF THE FUNDS WILL GO TO OTHER STATES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT SOME STATE EMPLOYEES HAVE TO TAKE ONE FURLOUGH DAY PER MONTH. SENATOR PINCKNEY

SAID THAT LAYOFFS MAY BE NECESSARY IF THE FUNDING DOES NOT COME THROUGH. SENATOR PINCKNEY SAID THE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK TO 1999 LEVELS.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:

MR. FULGHUM INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE STAFF HAS MOVED TO THE NEW BUILDING AND THAT HE WANTED THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THAT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS, BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEETINGS AND THE BUDGET WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD AT THE MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING UNTIL THE END OF MAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE IS PLANNING A GRAND OPENING IN MAY.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY'S BOND RATING WAS A+ AND THAT IS HIGHER THAN EXPECTED.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE RENEWAL OF THE SMITH DATA CONTRACT WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA, HOWEVER, IT NEEDED TO BE APPROVED SO THAT THE TAX FORMS CAN BE ORDERED. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTRACT IS RENEWED ANNUALLY AND THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT WAS \$148,325.64 WHICH IS ACTUALLY \$3,000.00-\$4,000.00 LESS THAN LAST YEAR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THIS WAS IN THE BUDGET AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SMITH DATA SOFTWARE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$148,325.64. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER INDIVIDUAL):

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

MS. BOSTICK ASKED ABOUT THE INFORMATION ON STIMULUS MONEY AND ADDED THAT SHE NEVER RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION AND SHE WAS NOT AWARE THAT SHE COULD APPLY FOR FUNDING. CHAIRMAN HOOD INSTRUCTED MR. FULGHUM TO MAKE SURE ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS GET A COPY OF THE STIMULUS MONEY INFORMATION.

FREDDY BRANTLEY SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE COUNTY WAS APPLYING FOR GRANTS. MR. BRANTLEY ASKED IF THE COUNTY HAD ONE PERSON APPLYING FOR THE GRANTS AND CHAIRMAN HOOD RESPONDED THAT WENDY KELLY AND CHRISTY HERMAN WERE HANDLING THE GRANT APPLICATIONS.

BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO HIRE ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AS NEEDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

ADJOURN:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 6:30 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN