

JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 6, 2009  
2:30 P.M.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

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

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 BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 2:30 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

**GLADYS JONES – SILVER HAIR LEGISLATOR:**

MS. JONES UPDATED THE COUNCIL ON THE ISSUES THAT WERE CURRENTLY BEING WORKED ON BY THE GROUP. MS. JONES SAID THAT LAST YEAR THE COUNCIL PROVIDED \$3,000.00 FOR TRAVEL TO

THE VARIOUS CONFERENCES. MS. JONES SAID THAT CURRENTLY THERE WAS ABOUT \$1,500.00 LEFT IN THAT LINE OF THE BUDGET. MS. JONES ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MOVING THAT FUNDING FORWARD INTO THE NEW BUDGET. MS. JONES SAID THE REASON FOR THE BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT WAS BECAUSE SHE USED A FREE AIR TICKET THAT SHE RECEIVED. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHO WOULD BE USING THE FUNDS. MS. JONES RESPONDED THAT SHE WOULD OR HER ALTERNATE WOULD WHEN THEY HAD TO TRAVEL FOR THE ORGANIZATION. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW THIS ORGANIZATION BENEFITTED JASPER COUNTY. MS. JONES REVIEWED THE FIVE RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE IN JANUARY AND SHE ADDED THAT THE RESOLUTIONS WOULD BENEFIT THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN JASPER COUNTY. MS. JONES SAID THAT UP TO A YEAR AGO SHE PAID ALL HER EXPENSES PERSONNALLY AND THESE FUNDS HELP TO DETER THE EXPENSES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT SHE WOULD DO WHEN THE FUNDS RAN OUT AND MS. JONES SAID THAT IF THE FUNDS RUN OUT SHE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING HERSELF.

**CARRIE FAIR – JCNNA:**

MS. FAIR WAS NOT PRESENT.

**OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

BARBARA CLARK SAID SHE HAD CONCERNS ABOUT THE BUDGET AND WHEN REVIEWING THE BUDGET TO KEEP THE CITIZENS IN MIND. MS. CLARK SAID THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE NEEDED TO LOOK DOWN THE ROAD AND THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE MONEY WAS NOT COMING IN AND NEW PEOPLE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HIRED. MS. CLARK SAID THAT SOME EMPLOYEES NEED TO BE CUT AND NOT THE ONES WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE COUNTY FOR A LONG TIME. MS. CLARK SAID SHE ALSO THOUGHT BUDGET WORKSHOPS SHOULD BE HELD IN THE EVENING TO ACCOMMODATE THE PEOPLE. SHE SAID SHE HOPED THIS FISCAL YEAR WILL NOT BE LIKE THE LAST ONE WHERE THEY JUST KEPT SPENDING MONEY.

MS. GABBARD, DIRECTOR OF JARM, TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE FEES FOR SPADING AND NEUTERING ANIMALS HAVE GONE UP SINCE SHE MADE HER BUDGET REQUEST AND THERE WAS NO FREE PUPPY FOOD AVAILABLE THIS WEEK. MS GABBARD TOLD THE COUNCIL SHE NEEDED WHAT SHE ASKED FOR IN HER BUDGET REQUEST. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH THE FEES WENT UP AND MS. GABBARD SAID THAT THEY WENT UP \$10.00 PER SURGERY. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED COST CUTTING MEASURES AND GAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR DIRECTIVES AND HE WAS TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL WITH ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

**OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.  
BARBARA CLARK SAID SHE DID NOT SEE ANY REASON FOR THE EMPLOYEES TO HAVE BLACKBERRY PHONES. MS. CLARK SAID TO GIVE THEM THE AMOUNT THAT IT COSTS FOR A MINIMUM CELL PHONE AND LET THEM PAY ANYTHING OVER IF THEY WANT A BLACKBERRY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE CELL PHONES WERE DISCUSSED.  
RANDY POWELL ASKED WHO MADE THE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE THE FINAL VOTE. MR. POWELL TOLD THE COUNCIL TO START CUTTING EMPLOYEES FROM THE TOP DOWN AND SAVE THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S JOBS.

BARBARA CLARK SAID THAT PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR HOMES BECAUSE THEY CANNOT PAY THE TAXES AND THERE IS NO MONEY OUT THERE.

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

**ADJOURN:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACK-SHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BUDGET WORKSHOP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN