



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 13, 2009

2:30 P.M.

BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
WILBUR DALEY, DEP. ADM. EMG. SER.
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
JOHNNY DAVIS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
DAVID JIROUSEK, PLANNING DIRECTOR
HAZEL HOLMES, AUDITOR
VERNA GARVIN, TREASURER

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:

MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
5/13/2009

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

BUDGET REQUESTS:

JOE GAILEY AND JAMES GARDNER – CITY OF HARDEEVILLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

MR. GAILEY AND MR. GARDNER DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HELD BY THE HARDEEVILLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT. THE COUNCIL WAS PROVIDED WITH A LIST OF THE ACTIVITIES AND THE COUNTY RESIDENT PARTICIPATION STATISTICS. MR. GAILEY REQUESTED \$2,000.00 FOR THE HARDEEVILLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT. MR. GARDNER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

ANDREW FULGHUM AND RONNIE MALPHRUS – UPDATE ON BUDGET:

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL ISSUES TO DISCUSS AND SOME WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN OPEN SESSION AND OTHERS NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE HAS PREPARED THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BUDGET ORDINANCE AND IT WILL HAVE FIRST READING ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE KNOWS THE NUMBERS WILL CHANGE, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO GET THE ORDINANCE PASSED; A PUBLIC HEARING MUST BE SCHEDULED AND ADVERTISED 15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AD FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS GONE TO THE PAPERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE MADE TWO CHANGES TO THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE ADDED BACK THE COST OF THE EMPLOYEES FORLOUGH AND EMPLOYEES INSURANCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE STILL WORKING ON SOME OF THE ISSUES AND THEY NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE COUNTY WITH THE ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT REAL SURE WHERE THE COUNCIL WAS GOING WITH THIS AND HE WOULD NEED FURTHER DIRECTIVES FROM THE COUNCIL.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE AMOUNT OF THE EMPLOYEE AND INSURANCE NEEDED TO BE ADDED INTO THE TOTAL OF THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER CHANGES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE THE ONLY TWO CHANGES MADE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE DEPARTMENTS CUT THEIR BUDGETS BY 6%. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ALL THE BUDGET CUTS WERE DONE BY THE DEPARTMENTS, BUT SOME ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE NOT MADE ANY CUTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO BE FAIR AND THE CUTS SHOULD BE ACROSS THE BOARD. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS CANNOT CUT 6% WITHOUT IT AFFECTING

PERSONNEL. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY HAVE CUT EVERYTHING THAT THEY FEEL THEY CAN DO WITHOUT AND AFFECTIVELY PROVIDE SERVICES. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT DEPARTMENTS CANNOT CUT THE 6% AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS ONLY HAVE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE AND THEIR BUDGET ONLY INCLUDES SALARY, FRINGES, A LITTLE TRAVEL AND TRAINING AND SUPPLIES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A DOLLAR AMOUNT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS MAY NOT BE NECESSARY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID NO PERSONNEL CUTS WERE MADE IN THE 6% AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY HAD IT READY FOR THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE DID NOT HAVE IT READY TODAY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE STAFF NEEDED MORE DIRECTION ON THE FIRE DISTRICTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO GET THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT AND THE HANDOUT SHOWS THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE DISTRICT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HARDEEVILLE WOULD HAVE TO ADD 39 MILS TO COVER THE CONTRACT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH WOULD THAT COST FOR A HOME VALUED AT \$150,000.00. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED IT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$234.00 IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR TAXES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH OF THE TAXES THAT ARE PAID GO TOWARD EMS AND FIRE. MR. MALPHRUS STATED THAT 24% OF THE TOTAL MILLAGE GOES TOWARDS EMS.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:

MS. GABBARD SAID SHE WAS VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT HER REQUEST FOR JARM. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY DID NOT ASK FOR AN INCREASE, AND THEY ONLY ASKED FOR WHAT THEY NEEDED. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY TAKE IN ANIMALS FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES DO NOT PROVIDE ANY FUNDING. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY HOLD A LOT OF FUNDRAISERS, AND THEY HAVE RAISED THE COST OF ADOPTION. MS. GABBARD SAID SHE DID NOT THINK JARM SHOULD BE CUT ANYMORE THAN ANYONE ELSE. MS. GABBARD ASKED THE COUNCIL NOT TO CUT HER BUDGET.

ROY POWELL PRESENTED TWO ISSUES FOR COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE. MR. POWELL SAID THAT THE DEPUTIES ARE USING COUNTY EQUIPMENT AND FUEL TO DO SIDE WORK AND SECURITY THAT THEY ARE PAID FOR BY THE BUSINESS AND HE FELT THIS NEEDED TO BE INVESTIGATED. MR. POWELL SAID THE SECOND ISSUE WAS HOW MUCH OVERTIME THE COUNTY PAID FIREMEN, EMS, AND THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. MR. POWELL ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CHECK INTO HIRING PART TIME EMPLOYEES AND ELIMINATE THE OVERTIME. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE SHERIFF IS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL AND THE COUNCIL CANNOT TELL HIM WHAT TO DO, MR. POWELL SAID HE SPOKE WITH THE SHERIFF AND

ALERTED HIM OF THIS PROBLEM. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT ABOUT 10-12 YEARS AGO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COLLECTED OVER \$700,000.00 IN FINES AND NOW VERY LITTLE IS COLLECTED. MR. POWELL COMMENTED THAT THE SHERIFF IS ELECTED; HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL CONTROLS HIS BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENTS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO SHOW THE CITIZENS THAT THE EMPLOYEES THEY HAVE ARE BEING UTILIZED PROPERLY.

BARBARA CLARK SAID THAT SHE COULD ATTEST TO THE PROGRAMS AND THE GREAT JOB THE HARDEEVILLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS DOING. MS. CLARK SAID SHE WAS GLAD TO SEE THE COUNCIL WAS STARTING TO ASK QUESTIONS. MS. CLARK SAID THEY HAD \$200,000.00 IN HAND AND IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO USE THAT MONEY TO BUY A HOUSE IN LEVY WHEN THE MONEY WAS NEEDED FOR THE BUDGET. MS. CLARK ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOW HER HOW THEY CAN PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION FOR \$195,000.00. MS. CLARK SAID THAT THE EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE COUNTY FOR A LONG TIME ARE NOT CONSIDERED FOR THE TOP POSITIONS. MS. CLARK ADDED THAT SHE SAW NO NEED FOR THE EMPLOYEES TO HAVE BLACKBERRYS. SHE SUGGESTED THAT THEY GO TO A COMPUTER IF THEY NEED TO SEND AN EMAIL. MS. CLARK TOLD THE COUNCIL TO STOP WHILE THEY WERE AHEAD REGARDING FIRE DISTRICTS. MS. CLARK SAID THERE ARE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE CUT FROM THE BUDGET.

EVANGELIST JACKSON SAID SHE WAS ASKING FOR FUNDING FOR THE ANNIE MAE SIMMONS FOUNDATION. EVANGELIST JACKSON SAID THE FUNDS WOULD HELP THEM GET GRANTS TO CONTINUE HER WORK. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THAT SHE PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE PAPERWORK FOR THE GRANT.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR 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:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT A LOT OF THINGS NEEDED TO BE DONE INCLUDING A REDUCTION IN WORKFORCE AND HE ASKED THE

ADMINISTRATOR AND THE ATTORNEY TO MAKE SURE THE DIRECTIVES THEY WERE GIVEN ARE LEGAL.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WILL MEET ON MONDAY AT 4:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY WILL MEET UNTIL 6:00 P.M. AND IF THEY HAVE NOT COMPLETED THEIR DISCUSSION, THEY WILL MEET AGAIN ON TUESDAY.

ADJOURN:

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

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ENDED AT 5:50 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN

