



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MEETING/ BUDGET WORKSHOP
JUNE 3, 2009
2:30 P.M.
MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY

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 2:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

ANDREW FULGHUM- RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REDUCTION IN WORKFORCE:

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS PREPARED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND A LIST OF THE POSITIONS, EMPLOYEES, AND SALARIES WAS ATTACHED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HIS LETTER AND THE LIST OF EMPLOYEES, POSITIONS, AND SALARIES MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE RESOLUTION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE THE REVENUE TO CONTINUE FUNDING

THOSE POSITIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT HE HATED TO SEE PEOPLE LOSE THEIR POSITIONS, BUT THE COUNTY JUST DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY THEM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE GOES TO CHURCH WITH SOME OF THE PEOPLE AND SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES ARE HIS NEIGHBORS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS VERY SORRY THIS HAS TO BE DONE. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID HE AGREED WITH COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE AND THAT THIS IS HAPPENING EVERYWHERE AND HE HOPED THE PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND JOBS ELSEWHERE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ENCOURAGED ALL THE INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE PART OF THE REDUCTION IN THE WORKFORCE TO TRY AND FIND JOBS, BUT HE WANTED THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY COULD COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO TRY AND BRING NEW JOBS TO JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REDUCTION IN WORKFORCE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

ANDREW FULGHUM - APPOINTMENT OF 2 MEMBERS TO THE ST. PETERS PARISH/JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITES CORP.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE ATTORNEY GAVE THE COUNCIL A LETTER REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO POSSESS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A DIRECTOR. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO APPOINT TWO MEMBERS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT 1 POSITION IS FOR ONE YEAR AND THE OTHER POSITION IS FOR TWO YEARS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE NOMINATED DANNY HENDERSON AND CHAIRMAN HOOD NOMINATED CARL KILPATRICK. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTACT THE NOMINEES AND SEE IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT A CLOSING WAS SET FOR JUNE 11, 2009 AND THE CORPORATION NEEDED TO BE IN PLACE AT THAT TIME. **VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ARRIVES AT THIS TIME.** COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO NOMINATE DANNY HENDERSON AND CARL KILPATRICK TO SERVE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR ON THE ST. PETERS PARISH/JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES CORP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

ADJOURN:

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER.

JASPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS:

MR. WELLS SAID HE WAS REPRESENTING THE SOIL AND WATER COMMISSIONERS AND THEY HAD TOO MUCH INVESTED IN THE NATURE CENTER TO HAVE IT CLOSE. MR. WELLS SAID THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR EDUCATION LEADER SINCE KEEP JASPER BEAUTIFUL DEPARTMENT WAS NOT IN THE COUNTY'S BUDGET. MR. WELLS EXPLAINED THAT THE EDUCATION LEADER WORKED 85% FOR THE COUNTY AND 15% FOR THE SOIL AND WATER COMMISSION. MR. WELLS SAID THAT HE FELT THE CENTER WAS AN ASSET TO THE COUNTY AND IT WAS BUILT WITH DONATIONS. MR. WELLS SAID THEY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP THE COUNTY COULD GIVE THEM. MR. WELLS SAID THAT MANY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WERE HELD FOR THE CHILDREN. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY GET ANY MONEY THAT THEY COULD USE FOR THAT POSITION. MR. WELLS SAID THAT THEY GET \$7,600.00 FROM THE COUNTY AND \$15,000.00 FROM THE STATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT PERHAPS THEY COULD HIRE A PART-TIME PERSON FOR THE CENTER. MR. WELLS SAID THE CENTER MEANT A LOT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY MEANS FOR MAKING MONEY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. WELLS IF HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN AND MR. WELLS SAID THAT WAS HIS MAIN CONCERN. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED THAT IF THEY PARTNERED WITH THE COUNTY, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE SALARY COULD THEY PROVIDE, AND MR. WELLS SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET AND TALK ABOUT IT WITH THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE EDUCATION LEADER TRAVELED TO THE SCHOOLS AND MS. RUBINO RESPONDED THAT THEY DID PROGRAMS AT THE SCHOOLS AND AT THE CENTER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT VOLUNTEER HELP AND MR. WELLS SAID THAT THEY NEEDED SOMEONE TO HANDLE THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE BOOKS. TOMMY STANLEY SAID THAT MR. WELLS COVERED THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THEY WERE GOING TO TALK TO THE MUNICIPALITIES TO SEE IF THEY WOULD PARTNER WITH THEM TO TRY AND KEEP THE POSITION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SUGGESTED THAT THEY ALSO PARTNER WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. MS. RUBINO SAID SHE WORKED WITH KEEP JASPER BEAUTIFUL AS A VOLUNTEER AND SHE HIGHLIGHTED SOME OF THE AREAS THAT THEY HAVE DONE PLANTINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS. MS. RUBINO SAID THE D AND R REPRESENTATIVE (JENNIFER MALLORY) WORKED WITH THE STUDENTS AND IF THE FUNDS WERE SHORT, D &

R WOULD SEND SOMEONE TO JASPER COUNTY TO CONDUCT THE CLASSES. MS. RUBINO SAID THAT MS. MALLORY WAS TRANSFERRED TO GEORGETOWN, SC.

ADMINISTRATION – UPDATE:

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE MADE ALL THE CHANGES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND THEY DO HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS ADDED THAT \$700,000.00 FROM THE CASH CARRY FORWARD WAS INCLUDED AND THE MORE THE COUNCIL COULD DO TO REDUCE THAT FIGURE, THE BETTER OFF THEY WILL BE NEXT YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS REPORTED THAT HE RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOOLS FROM THE STATE AND HE HAS INCLUDED THOSE NUMBERS. MR. MALPHRUS COMMENTED THAT THE SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE BASICALLY WHAT THEY RECEIVED LAST YEAR, \$3,780,000.00. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED A WAY TO REDUCE THE CASH CARRY FORWARD BY INCREASING THE CAPITALIZED AMOUNT OF EXPENSES FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND THE COURTHOUSE. MR. FULGHUM ADDED THAT HE WAS GETTING AN ESTIMATE ON TIMBER AT THE SGT. JASPER PARK AND THE PROCEEDS COULD GO INTO THE BUDGET TO REDUCE THE CASH CARRY FORWARD. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE THOUGHT THE PAYMENT FOR THE BONDS WOULD BE DUE IN THE 2009-2010 BUDGET; HOWEVER, NO PAYMENT WILL BE DUE UNTIL THE 2010-2011 BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE AGREED THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO REMOVE THE TIMBER. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD MR. FULGHUM TO PROCEED AND GET A QUOTE ON THE VALUE OF THE TIMBER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS AGAINST USING BOND MONEY UNLESS IT WAS AN EXTREME EMERGENCY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHAT WAS THE INTEREST RATE THAT THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PAY. MR. MALPHRUS ANSWERED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE CURRENT RATE AND CURRENTLY \$200,000.00 OF THESE FUNDS WERE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM USING THE MONEY IF THE INTEREST RATE IS CHEAP AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THINGS WILL TURN AROUND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE \$4,800,000.00 CASH CARRY FORWARD IN THE CURRENT BUDGET AND HE DID NOT WANT TO USE ANYMORE, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE HOW THINGS WERE GOING TO TURN OUT UNTIL THE AUDIT IS DONE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE 2% RATE WAS GUARANTEED FOR 28 YEARS AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE RATE WILL BE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. MALPHRUS IF MORE MONEY MAY NEED TO COME OUT OF THE CASH CARRY FORWARD THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS CORRECT. MR. FULGHUM STATED THAT HE JUST WANTED THE

COUNCIL TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THIS OPTION AND IT IS AN ISSUE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WILL PRESENT THE TWO SCENARIOS AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP AND HE ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CAPITALIZATION ISSUE.

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS HAVE BEEN CUT BY \$413,000.00 AND HE ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED MR. FULGHUM IF HE WAS GOING TO GET MORE THAN ONE ESTIMATE ON THE TREES AND MR. FULGHUM ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD.

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE APPROPRIATION FOR CLEMSON EXTENSION AND HE SAID THAT HE HAS MET WITH CLEMSON AND MADE THEM AWARE OF THE CHANGE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE COUNCIL ON AGING AND ASKED IF MR. ROACH WAS AWARE OF THE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE HAS NOT TALKED TO MR. ROACH DIRECTLY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE CALLED MR. ROACH AND LEFT A MESSAGE AND MR. ROACH HAS NOT RETURNED THE CALL. CHAIRMAN HOOD ADDED THAT LCOG HAS VOTED TO CONTRACT OUT A LOT OF WHAT THE COUNCIL ON AGING IS DOING AND HE IS NOT SURE WHAT IMPACT THIS IS GOING TO HAVE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE APPROPRIATION TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE AND SAID HE FELT THIS APPROPRIATION SHOULD BE SHARED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SUGGESTED THAT THE APPROPRIATION TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GO UP TO \$7,500.00 AND THAT HARDEEVILLE RECREATION GET \$2,000.00 AND THESE FUNDS COULD BE DEDUCTED FROM THE LITTLE LEAGUE APPROPRIATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF THE COUNCIL COULD AGREE ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS, THE AMOUNTS CAN BE MOVED AROUND AT THE NEXT WORKSHOP.

MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED DOCUMENTATION REGARDING THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE AND HE DID NOT THINK THIS APPROPRIATION COULD BE CUT LOWER THAN WHAT HE RECEIVED LAST YEAR. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE PUBLIC DEFENDER AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER FELL UNDER THE SAME PERAMETERS. MR. JONES SAID THAT THE PUBLIC DEFENDER IS NOT THE SAME AS THE SOLICITOR AND THEY HAVE RAISED NO OBJECTIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE NATIONAL GUARD AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WHEN THE COUNTY GOT THE ARMORY FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD IT WAS A HANDSHAKE DEAL THAT THE COUNTY WOULD PAY THEM \$9,000.00 PER YEAR FOR 10 YEARS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE CUT THE PAYMENT TO \$5,000.00. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHAT THEY USED THE

MONEY FOR AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF IT WAS AN OUT RIGHT SALE, THE MONEY WOULD GO TO THE STATE AND THIS WAY IT CAN GO TO THE GUARD. MR. FULGHUM SAID THIS WAS A WAY FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD TO GET FUNDS.

COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED HOW THE COUNCIL DECIDES HOW MUCH MONEY THE AGENCIES GET. CHAIRMAN HOOD EXPLAINED THAT THE AGENCIES MAKE REQUESTS AND JUSTIFY THEIR REQUESTS AND BECAUSE THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF REVENUE THIS YEAR, THE COUNCIL CANNOT MEET ALL THE REQUESTS, BUT THEY WOULD TRY TO DO THE BEST THAT THEY COULD DO.

IT WAS THE CONCENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS WERE OKAY. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHO DID THE AMOUNTS HAVE TO BE JUSTIFIED TO AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY NEEDED TO BE JUSTIFIABLE TO THE COUNCIL.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT HE FELT THE DEPARTMENTS NEEDED TO BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND IF THEY ARE REQUESTING AN ADDITIONAL POSITION, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION TO GET IT APPROVED.

OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

MS. GABBARD REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT JARM IS AN AGENCY THAT IS DOING A COUNTY FUNCTION AND THEY ARE DEPENDENT UPON COUNTY FUNDING. MS. GABBARD SAID THAT THE SHELTER HAD IMPROVED AND THE COUNTY CAN BE VERY PROUD OF IT. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY REQUESTED THE SAME AMOUNT AS LAST YEAR AND IT WAS CUT. COUNCILMAN EHTERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR JARM AND MS. GABBARD SAID THE IT WAS A LITTLE OVER \$200,000.00 AND THEY HAVE SPENT \$193,800 THIS YEAR. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY HAD AN INCOME OF \$240,000.00 OF WHICH \$157,000.00 WAS FROM THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT GRANTS OR GIFTS. MS. GABBARD RESPONDED THAT THEY GET GIFTS ALL YEAR AND THEY RECEIVED \$90,000.00 FROM EDNA MORGAN'S ESTATE AND IT IS IN AN ENDOWMENT FUND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE MUNICIPALITIES BRING ANIMALS TO THE SHELTER AND MS. GABBARD SAID THAT THEY DO. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY SHARE IN THE EXPENSES AND MS. GABBARD STATED THAT THE COUNTY FUNDS JARM, BUT NOT THE MUNICIPALITIES. MS. GABBARD SAID SHE PLANNED TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THEM.

JOEY MALPRHUS, PROBATE JUDGE, SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COUNCIL CUT HIS BUDGET AND HE WILL HAVE TO GO FROM TWO EMPLOYEES TO ONE EMPLOYEYEE. JUDGE MALPHRUS ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER APPROVING ENOUGH FUNDS FOR

HIM TO HIRE A PART-TIME PERSON, 3 DAYS PER WEEK. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID IF HE IS REDUCED TO ONE EMPLOYEE, THEY WILL HAVE TO STOP DOING THE WEDDING CEREMONIES AND HE CAN JUSTIFY A PART-TIME PERSON.

DELORIS YOUNG SAID SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE JOB CUTS AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER WORKING THE PEOPLE PART-TIME IF THEY CAN'T WORK FULL -TIME. MS. YOUNG SUGGESTED CUTTING EVERYONE'S SALARY TO HELP SAVE SOME JOBS. MS. YOUNG ADDED THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE FUNDED UNLESS THEY ARE ACCOUNTABLE. **COUNCILMAN GREGORY ARRIVES AT THIS TIME.** MS. YOUNG SAID SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE JOBS AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO LOOK AT ALL THE OPTIONS.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE COUNCIL HAS WORKED VERY HARD ON THIS BUDGET AND THEY HAVE EXPLORED MANY OPTIONS AND THEY TAKE ALL THE PUBLIC'S COMMENTS INTO CONSIDERATION. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS:

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

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO PAY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE PART TIME MAGISTRATE, CATHY BADGETT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

ADJOURN:

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN