



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936
JUNE 23, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING**

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. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL, MARVIN JONES, COUNTY 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 WORKSHOP/MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION: VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

DISCUSSION: JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS – MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THE VALUE OF THE MILL AT \$115,500 AT THE BEGINNING OF TAX COLLECTIONS AND THAT THE TAXES ARE NOT COMING IN AS ANTICIPATED AND THAT THE MILL VALUE IS LOWER DUE TO THE TAX COLLECTIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE MILL VALUE WAS REDUCED TO \$111,500. MR. HUBBARD ASKED THAT THE SCHOOL TAX BE INCREASED TO THE LIMIT WHICH IS 2.5 MILLS AND A 7 MILLS INCREASE FOR DEBT SERVICE. MR. HUBBARD SAID THE DEBT SERVICE IS INDEPENDENT FROM THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE 12 MILLS HARDLY MADE THE PAYMENTS THAT WERE DUE AND THE SALES TAX IS NOT

ENOUGH SO THE 7 MILLS ARE NEEDED TO MEET THE AMOUNT THAT IS DUE. MR. HUBBARD SAID THAT THE DEBT SERVICE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 2031. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE BOND FOR ACE IS ALSO PART OF THE DEBT SERVICE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE AMOUNT IS THE SAME EVERY YEAR AND MR. HUBBARD SAID IT DEPENDED ON THE MATURITY DATE AND AS SOON AS IT STARTED THEY STARTED TO RETIRE THE DEBT. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WERE ALL THE FUNDS DEPLETED. MR. HUBBARD SAID THEY HAVE A FUND BALANCE, BUT HE DEBT SERVICE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OPERATING FUND. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE 19 MILLS WERE NOT APPROVED. MR. HUBBARD SAID THE LOAN IS IN THE COUNTY'S NAME AND IT WOULD BE HARDER TO PASS A REFERENDUM, IT WOULD REDUCE THE BONDING RATE AND IT WOULD BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE TO BORROW MONEY IF THEY DEFAULTED ON THE LOAN. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY IS OBLIGATED TO PAY THE LOAN SINCE IT WAS APPROVED BY THE CITIZENS WHEN THEY APPROVED THE REFERENDUM. MR. MALPHRUS ADDED THAT ONCE PERMANENT FINANCING IS DONE, THE PAYMENTS MUST BE MET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MR. JEFFCOAT, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BONDING ATTORNEY, SAID THAT THE 19 MILLS SHOULD BE THE CAP AND EVENTUALLY THE MILLAGE SHOULD COME DOWN IF THE SALES TAX INCREASES AND THE MILLS HOLD THEIR VALUE. THE COUNCIL DIS-CUSSED THE \$700,000.00 OF FUNDING CUT BY THE STATE TO THE SCHOOLS. MR. TIGNER PROVIDED AND SPREADSHEET AND SAID THE FINAL BUDGET IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE BY JUNE 29, 2010. THE SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSED EFA MONEY AND STIMULUS FUNDING, BUT THEY WERE NOT SURE IF THEY WOULD GET ANY FUNDS FROM THOSE SOURCES. MR. HUBBARD SAID THAT IF THEY DO NOT TAKE THE ALLOWABLE INCREASE EACH YEAR, IT WILL PUT THEM BEHIND IN THE FUTURE. MR. HUBBARD SAID THE INCREASE ONLY EFFECTS THE BUSINESS OWNERS AND OWNERS OF SECOND HOMES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED AND MR. HUBBARD SAID THAT THERE WERE 3,400 STUDENTS. MR. HUBBARD SAID THAT THEY EXPECTED AN INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT AND EACH TIME A TEACHER IS ADDED, \$100,000.00 MORE IS ADDED TO THE BUDGET. MR. HUBBARD SAID THE CLASS SIZE IS BEING INCREASED AND SOME TEACHERS ARE GOING TO BE LET GO. MR. HUBBARD SAID THAT FURLOUGHS ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED. MS. WALLS SAID THAT THEY WANT TO MAKE SURE THE CHILDREN RECEIVE A GOOD EDUCATION AND IF THEY DID NOT NEED THE FUNDS, THEY WOULD NOT ASK FOR THEM. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED THE SCHOOL'S REPRESENTATIVES FOR COMING AND SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE VERY BEST THAT THEY CAN. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE BELIEVED IN EDUCATING CHILDREN AND IF THE GRANT COMES THROUGH IT WILL BE A LOT OF HELP. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE BELIEVED IN PRAYER AND A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER WAS BEING SCHEDULED AND HE HOPED EVERYONE WOULD PARTICIPATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO WORK WITH THE MINISTRY AND HE PLEDGED HIS TIME TO VOLUNTEER. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING TO UPGRADE THE EDUCATION AND

FOR BETTER EVERYTHING IN JASPER COUNTY NEEDS TO BE PRIOR TO THE START OF SCHOOL AND IT IS GOING TO BE COUNTYWIDE.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPEN-SATION, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, OR RELEASE OF AN EMPLOYEE, A STUDENT, OR A PERSON REGULATED BY A PUBLIC BODY OR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO A PUBLIC BODY; HOWEVER, IF AN ADVERSARY HEARING INVOLVING AN EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT IS HELD, THE EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE HEARING BE CONDUCTED PUBLICLY NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ITEM SHALL PREVENT THE PUBLIC BODY, IN ITS DISCRETION, FROM DELETING THE NAMES OF OTHER EMPLOYEES OR CLIENTS WHOSE RECORDS ARE SUBMITTED FOR USE AT THE HEARING; DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY; DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM: COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPEN-SATION, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, OR RELEASE OF AN EMPLOYEE, A STUDENT, OR A PERSON REGULATED BY A PUBLIC BODY OR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO A PUBLIC BODY; HOWEVER, IF AN ADVERSARY HEARING INVOLVING AN EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT IS HELD, THE EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE HEARING BE CONDUCTED PUBLICLY NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ITEM SHALL PREVENT THE PUBLIC BODY, IN ITS DISCRETION, FROM DELETING THE NAMES OF OTHER EMPLOYEES OR CLIENTS WHOSE RECORDS ARE SUBMITTED FOR USE AT THE HEARING; DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY; DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

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

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED EMPLOYMENT MATTERS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE A 7 MILLS INCREASE FOR THE SCHOOL'S DEBT SERVICE AND A 2.5 MILLS INCREASE FOR THE SCHOOL'S OPERATING BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE AGREED WITH THE 7 MILL INCREASE FOR THE SCHOOL'S DEBT SERVICE, HOWEVER, HE FELT THE SCHOOL BOARD SHOULD TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS LIKE THE COUNCIL. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COUNCILMEN GREGORY AND TYLER AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTING FOR; CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED AGAINST; CHAIRMAN HOOD DID NOT VOTE.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO NOT DECREASE THE SALARY BY 3% OF THE THREE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS AND THAT THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS ARE NOW TO BE CALLED DIVISION DIRECTORS AND NOT TO FORLOUGH THE DIVISION DIRECTORS FOR ONE DAY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COUNCILMEN ETHEIRDGE, TYLER AND GREGORY VOTING FOR; VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTED AGAINST; CHAIRMAN HOOD DID NOT VOTE.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED IN CONFLICT AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT MR. MALPHRUS DID NOT WORK FOR HIM.

TABLED ITEMS FROM THE 06/21/2010 BUDGET WORKSHOP/ MEETING:

2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2010-2011 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET: COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2ND READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2010-2011 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

DATE OF JULY COUNCIL MEETING – NO DATE WAS SET.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CHECK WITH THE ATTORNEY ON THE MOTION REGARDING THE DEPUTY DIRECTORS THAT COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED ON AND HE ASKED THAT THE MOTION NOT BE WRITTEN IN THE MINUTES UNTIL THEY GET A RULING FROM THE ATTORNEY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE CAN GET A RULING FROM THE ATTORNY; HOWEVER, THE MOTION COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MINUTES.

**ADJOURN: COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN
ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

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