

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 25, 2008
9:00 A.M.
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN
GLADYS JONES, COUNCILWOMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADMINISTRATIVE 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 MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:15 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILWOMAN JONES GAVE THE INVOCATION.

REVISE THE AGENDA:

CHAIRMAN HOOD REVISED THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE A REQUEST FROM THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB:

MS. RHODES EXPLAINED THAT SHE IS AN EVENT PLANNER AND SHE HAS BEEN HIRED BY THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB TO COORDINATE THE "TASTE OF JASPER AUCTION". MS. RHODES INTRODUCED MS. WALKER, DIRECTOR OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB, AND MS. HENDERSON AND MR. AUSTIN WHO ARE BOARD MEMBERS. MS. RHODES EXPLAINED THAT THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE FARMERS' MARKET AND SINCE THE COUNTY IS THE OWNER OF THE FARMERS' MARKET , SHE WAS

REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE COUNCIL TO APPLY FOR A LIQUOR LICENSE TO SELL ALCOHOL FOR A THREE HOUR PERIOD. MS. RHODES EXPLAINED THAT THE EVENT WILL BE A HIGH END ALL ADULT FUNCTION. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHERE THE PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WOULD GO AND MS. RHODES SAID THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHO COULD BE MEMBERS OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB. MS. WALKER EXPLAINED THAT ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 18. MS. WALKER SAID THAT THEY HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SCHOOLS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUSES BRING THE STUDENTS TO THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB AFTER SCHOOL. MS. WALKER SAID THAT CURRENTLY THERE ARE 46 STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13-18 PARTICIPATING IN ADDITION TO THE YOUNGER STUDENTS. MS. WALKER SAID THEY HAVE MANY ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN AND THEY ALSO DO THEIR HOMEWORK. COUNCILWOMAN JONES COMMENDED THE ORGANIZATION FOR THEIR FUND RAISING EVENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT WHATEVER AGREEMENT IS MADE, THE COUNTY NEEDS TO BE RELEASED FROM ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY. COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND COUNCILWOMAN JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB TO HAVE PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE AUGUST 9TH, 2008 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. EVENT TO BE HELD AT THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB AND THE COUNTY IS TO BE RELEASED FROM ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH COUNCILMAN TYLER, COUNCILWOMAN JONES AND CHAIRMAN HOOD VOTING FOR. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ABSTAINED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT:

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE MET WITH MR. BENJAMIN AND THEY AGREED ON THE OPTION THAT PROVIDED A NURSE 16 HOURS PER DAY, 7 DAYS PER WEEK. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THIS OPTION IS FOR 130 INMATES AND THE OFFICERS WILL GIVE THE MORNING INSULIN. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF MR. BENJAMIN HAD THE OPTION TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE DID NOT ASK HIM TO BE PRESENT AND MR. BENJAMIN DID NOT FEEL HE NEEDED TO BE PRESENT. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE OFFICERS WERE QUALIFIED TO GIVE THE INSULIN AND WAS THE COUNTY RELIEVED OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE OFFICERS DO IT NOW. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT IF THE OFFICERS ARE DOING IT, WHY PAY SOMEONE \$215,000.00. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTRACT COVERS OTHER MEDICAL TREATMENTS AND HOSPITAL BILLS UP TO A CERTAIN LIMIT. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MUCH WAS CHARGED IF THE INMATE POPULATION WAS OVER 130 AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THE FEE WOULD BE \$1.30 PER DAY PER INMATE OVER THE 130. COUNCILWOMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO

APPROVE THE THE HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$215,000.00. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

LEVY FIRE CONTRACT:

DOUG GRAHAM SAID THAT WHEN HE MADE HIS REQUEST IT INCLUDED 3 PAID FIREMEN. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT LAST NIGHT SOMEONE CALLED HIM AND SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD PASS THE \$195,000.00 FOR THE CONTRACT. MR. GRAHAM SAID THE IF THE \$195,000.00 IS APPROVED, LEVY WILL BE THE ONLY STATION IN THE COUNTY THAT DOES NOT HAVE 24/7 PROTECTION. MR. GRAHAM SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF HE COULD OPERATE THE STATION FOR \$195,000.00. MR. GRAHAM SAID IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY \$214,000.00 FOR THREE EMPLOYEES AND THAT DID NOT INCLUDE ANY FUNDING FOR THE OPERATIONS SO HOW COULD HE OPERATE ON \$195,000.00. MR. GRAHAM SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR TOLD HIM TO HAVE FUND RAISERS TO RAISE THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. MR. GRAHAM SAID HE MET WITH THE ADMINISTRATION FOR OVER 2 HOURS AND THERE WAS NO CHANGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WENT THROUGH THE LINE ITEMS AND THERE WAS A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN WHAT IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY TO OPERATE THE FIRE SERVICE IN LEVY AND WHAT IT WOULD COST TO HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY \$330,000.00 TO OPERATE THE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ISSUE IS DOES THE COUNTY WANT TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE OR HAVE A CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM RECOMMENDED BUDGETING \$195,000.00 FOR THE LEVY CONTRACT AND TO BUDGET \$135,000.00 FOR THE LEVY LINE IN THE COUNTY'S BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY TO USE IF THEY TAKE OVER THE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED DOING THE CONTRACT FOR 6 MONTHS AND THAT WOULD GIVE THE COUNCIL TIME TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THAT IF YOU GIVE HIM \$325,000.00 THIS WEEK, HE WILL WANT MORE ADDED TO THAT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE OTHER CONTRACTS SAVE THE COUNTY MONEY, BUT THIS CONTRACT WOULD BE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE RUN IT FOR THE SAME AMOUNT THAT THE COUNTY CAN RUN IT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED HOW SOMEONE COULD CALL MR. GRAHAM AND TELL HIM THE COUNCIL WOULD APPROVE THE \$195,000.00 FOR THE CONTRACT. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED WHY NOT APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR AND THEN DECIDE. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED HOW MR. GRAHAM COULD HIRE SOMEONE FOR 6 MONTHS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ISSUE WAS DOES THE COUNCIL WANT SOMEONE ELSE OPERATING THE LEVY STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE MONEY WILL BE IN THE BUDGET AND THIS WILL GIVE THE COUNCIL TIME TO DECIDE IF THE CONTRACT WILL WORK. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF HE COULD OPERATE THE STATION FOR SIX MONTHS FOR \$195,000.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOTAL AMOUNT BUDGETED WOULD BE \$330,000.00 AND THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FACTS TO DO A CONTRACT FOR

THAT AMOUNT TODAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID TO PUT \$195,000.00 FOR THE CONTRACT AND HAVE \$135,000.00 TO PROVIDE A SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE STATION FOR ONE YEAR. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED MR. GRAHAM IF HE COULD OPERATE THE STATION FOR ONE YEAR FOR \$330,000.00 AND MR. GRAHAM SAID HE WORKED WITH THE NUMBERS IF THE COUNTY DID THE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE FOR \$2,000.00 AND FUND THE FIREMEN'S FUND, THE FIREMEN'S PHYSICALS AND PAID FOR THE VOLUNTEERS' WORKERS' COMPENSATION HE COULD DO A CONTRACT FOR \$250,000.00 AND ADD \$50,000.00 OVERTIME FOR TWO EMPLOYEES, HE COULD DO IT FOR \$320,000.00, MR. GRAHAM SAID HE COULD DO IT FOR \$330,000.00.

MR FULGHUM SUGGESTED TO DO THE 6 MONTHS CONTRACT AND MEET AGAIN IN JULY. MR. GRAHAM ASKED HOW HE COULD HIRE SOMEONE FOR 6 MONTHS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF THE COUNCIL PUT THE \$130,000.00 IN THE BUDGET FOR THE LEVY FIRE STATION, IT WILL GIVE THE COUNCIL THE OPTION TO RE-EVALUATE THE SITUATION IN 6 MONTHS AND IF THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION OF THE STATION, THE COUNTY WOULD RETAIN THE EMPLOYEE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND TO BUDGET AN ADDITIONAL \$135,000.00 FOR LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTY'S BUDGET AND TO REVISIT THE CONTRACT IN JULY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT \$330,000.00 WOULD BE THE AMOUNT THE COUNTY WOULD NEED TO OPERATE THE LEVY FIRE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CONTRACT WITH LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR \$195,000.00 WOULD BE THE ANNUALIZED AMOUNT, BUT THE CONTRACT WOULD ONLY BE FOR 6 MONTHS AND THE COUNTY WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE \$135,000.00 IN THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT LINE OF THE COUNTY BUDGET. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF LEVY WOULD GET THE \$195,000.00 FOR THE 6 MONTHS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE \$195,000.00 WOULD BE THE ANNUALIZED AMOUNT. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTING FOR. COUNCILWOMAN JONES AND COUNCILMAN TYLER VOTED AGAINST.

RECEPTIONIST:

COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THE RECEPTIONIST NEEDED TO BE CUT TO \$17,500.00 SINCE THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT TWO PART TIME SENIOR EMPLOYEES WOULD HANDLE THE POSITION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT SOME FUNDS WOULD BE LEFT OVER IF IT REMAINED AS BUDGETED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID SHE FELT THE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED TO QUALIFY WHAT THE OTHER POSITION WOULD DO WHEN A RECEPTIONIST IS HIRED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE HAD A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THAT POSITION. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION WON'T BE

NEEDED UNTIL THE ANNEX BUILDING OPENS. MR FULGHUM SAID HE HAS PLENTY OF WORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO DO.

3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2008-2009 JASPER COUNTY CAPITAL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGET:

COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED WHAT ITEMS WERE CUT FROM THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE NEW POSITION FOR THE HR DEPARTMENT WAS CUT, THE SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER'S POSITION WAS CUT FROM THE BUDGET AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART. MR FULGHUM SAID THAT THE RETIREE'S INSURANCE WAS CUT FROM THE BUDGET, BUT \$686,00.00 WAS ADDED TO COVER THE GASB-45 REQUIREMENT FOR THE RETIREE'S INSURANCE PREMIUM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT \$57,100.00 WAS ADDED FOR JARM AND \$155,000.00 WAS ADDED FOR LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT \$2,700.00 WAS ADDED TO INCREASE THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS STIPEND TO \$100.00 PER MONTH. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT CURRENT BUDGET IS AT 233 MILS AND THE NEW BUDGET WILL BE 249 MILS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION IS IN THE BUDGET FOR \$33,000.00 INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS AND THIS SHOULD BE CUT BY \$15,500.00 SINCE THE COUNCIL ONLY APPROVED A PART-TIME POSITION. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT THE COUNCIL PAID A FULL TIME PARALEGAL AND THAT \$1,500.00 FOR A PARALEGAL IN THE DELINQUENT TAX DEPT. SHOULD BE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE CHECKED WITH ATTORNEY JONES AND HE REQUESTED THAT IT NOT BE CUT THIS YEAR UNTIL HE SEES IF HIS PARALEGAL WILL HAVE THE TIME TO DO THE TITLE SEARCHES. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES WORKSHOP THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED A 10% ACROSS THE BOARD CUT OF ALL TRAVEL, OFFICE SUPPLIES, PHONE AND OVERTIME. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID IF THE COUNCIL APPROVED THOSE CUTS, THE SAVINGS WOULD COVER SOME OF THE EXPENSES ADDED TO THE BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT ADMINISTRATOR'S TRAVEL LINE WAS \$16,000.00 AND HE FELT IT COULD BE CUT TO \$7,500.00 OR \$9,000.00 AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO DECIDE WHAT TO CUT AND WATCH THE BOTTOM LINE. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MUCH THE MIL WAS WORTH AND MR MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS WORTH \$113,000.00 AND THE BUDGET LAST YEAR WAS \$36,263,607.00 AND THIS YEAR THE BUDGET IS \$42,972,637.00 WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF \$6,709,000.00. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2008-2009 JASPER COUNTY CAPITAL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,972,637.00. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID ONE DISCUSSION WAS TO HOLD EACH DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT THEY SPEND AND \$500,000.00 COULD BE CUT FROM THE BUDGET AND WHY HAVE LINE ITEMS IF THEY ARE NOT HELD TO IT AND THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO HAVE BETTER CONTROLS AND TIGHTEN THEIR BELT AND MAKE PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE. CHAIRMAN

HOOD SAID HE HAS CONCERNS WITH BLANKET STATEMENTS AND THE COUNCIL HAS NO CONTROL OVER THE SHERIFF AND THERE HAVE BEEN THREE DIFFERENT SHERIFFS IN THIS BUDGET YEAR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL CANNOT HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE IF THEY HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THEM. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE COUNCIL CONTROLS THE PURSE STRINGS AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO OVERSPEND UNTIL THE COUNCIL MAKES THEM ACCOUNTABLE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD AND COUNCILMEN BLACKSHEAR AND TYLER VOTING FOR. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN AND COUNCILWOMAN JONES VOTED AGAINST.

ADJOURN:

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10:40 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN