

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 15, 2007
4:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SER.
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ECO. DEV.
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
STEVE SAGER, PROJECTS MANAGER
GLORIA LUCAS, HR DIRECTOR
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY
LISA LAMB, ZONING AND PLANNING
COORDINATOR

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.

COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY PRESENTATION:

MR. CONDREY OF CONDREY ASSOCIATES EXPLAINED THAT THE STAFF HAD REVIEWED THE PLANS AND MADE A FEW CHANGES. MR. CONDREY SAID EVERY JOB IS FACTORED BY THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING REQUIRED. MR. CONDREY SAID HE PREPARED TWO SCALES AND A REGULAR PLAN AND A MODIFIED PLAN AND HE BASED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS BY COLLECTING WAGE DATA, JOB ANALYSIS, AND JOB EVALUATION. MR. CONDREY SAID HE ALSO DEVELOPED JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR ALL THE POSITIONS IN THE COUNTY. MS. LUCAS SAID THE STAFF FROM CONDREY MET WITH THE CURRENT EMPLOYEES AND THEY DISCUSSED THEIR POSITIONS. MR. CONDREY STATED THAT THEY DISTRIBUTED POSITION QUESTIONAIRES, INTERVIEWED THE EMPLOYEES, CONDUCTED INTERNAL ANALYSIS (POINT FACTOR JOB EVALUATION) AND THEY CONDUCTED AN EXTERNAL ANALYSIS (SALARY SURVEY INCLUDING THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON, COLLECTON COUNTY, HAMPTON COUNTY, CITY OF HARDEEVILLE, TOWN OF HILTON HEAD, TOWN OF RIDGELAND, CHATHAM COUNTY, LIBERTY COUNTY AND CITY OF SAVANNAH). MR. CONDREY PRESENTED TWO DIFFERENT PROPOSED SALARY SCALES AND THE PROPOSED COST OF IMPLEMENTATION. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF ANY COUNTY EMPLOYEES WERE ONLY MAKING MINIMUM WAGE AND MS. LUCAS SAID THE LOWEST HOURLY WORKER MAKES \$6.59 PER HOUR AND THEY WORK 24 HOURS. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE RECYCLING PEOPLE AND MR. CONDREY SAID THEY ALL MAKE ABOVE MINIMUM WAGE IF THEY ARE NOT PART TIME. MS. LUCAS SAID ALL PART TIME WERE AT \$5.15 OR HIGHER AND SHE EXPLAINED THE RATES INCREASES SCHEDULED FOR MINIMUM WAGE. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED WHEN AN EMPLOYEE QUALIFIES FOR BENEFITS AND MS. LUCAS SAID AT 40 HOURS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE EMPLOYEE THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVED BENEFITS FOR WHO IS WORKING 39 HOURS. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF EVERYONE WAS GOING TO RECEIVE WHAT WAS POSTED ON THE PAPER HE RECEIVED AND HE SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE GETTING \$1,300.00 AND SOMEONE WAS GETTING \$18,000.00. MR. CONDREY SAID THE COUNTY HAD A SYSTEM THAT WAS NOT REALLY A SYSTEM AND SOME PEOPLE WERE BEING PAID MORE THAN THEY SHOULD BE PAID. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORKING MAN. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT WHENEVER A SALARY STUDY IS DONE NOT EVERYONE GETS A RAISE AND ARE THE EMPLOYEES ARE JUDGED ON CERTAIN FACTORS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID WHEN DOING A SALARY STUDY, A LABORER IS NOT FACTORED THE SAME AS OTHER POSITIONS REQUIRING MORE EDUCATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT TRAINING AND BACKGROUND BEING CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS. MR. CONDREY SAID THAT THE ENTRY RATE WILL GO UP, BUT NOT AT THE SAME RATE DUE TO

FACTORING. MR. CONDREY SAID THE LOWEST FULL TIME COUNTY EMPLOY WILL BE PAID OVER \$10.00 PER HOUR. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MUCH OF THE FACTORING HAD TO DO WITH EDUCATION. MR. CONDREY SAID THE JOB WAS EVALUATED ON KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR THE JOB AND HE DID NOT LOOK AT SOMEONES DEGREE. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE STUDY TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION WHAT THE SURROUNDING AREAS PAID IN BENEFITS. MR. CONDREY SAID THAT HE WOULD CHECK INTO THAT AND REPORT BACK. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE EMPLOYEES GOT A COST OF LIVING RAISE IN JULY AND RONNIE MALPHRUS SAID THEY DID NOT. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THIS WAS APPROVED WOULD IT BE EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVELY TO JULY AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WOULD BE UP TO THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE, BUT MR. FULGHUM SAID HE RECOMMENDED ADOPTING PLAN A. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF THERE WAS ENOUGH BUDGETED FOR THE INCREASES TO BE RETROACTIVE TO JULY AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE WANTED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE. MS. LUCAS COMMENTED THAT MR. CONDREY REVISED THE COPY OF THE NEW SALARY MATRIX PREPARED AND SHE GAVE SHE GAVE THE COUNCIL A COPY. MS. LUCAS SAID PLAN A WAS 100% OF MARKET AND PLAN B WAS AT 96% OF MARKET. MS. LUCAS SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO IMPLEMENT THE MODIFIED PLAN A. MR. CONDREY SAID THE MODIFIED PLAN ONLY MOVES THE EMPLOYEES WITH 10 YEARS OR LONGER UP TWO STEPS WHILE PLAN A MOVES THEM UP THREE STEPS. MR. FULGHUM RECOMMENDED THAT THE COUNCIL NOT CONSIDER THE MODIFIED PLANS BECAUSE THEY REDUCE THE EQUITY FOR LONG TIME EMPLOYEES. MR. CONDREY EXPLAINED THAT AN EMPLOYEE WITH 1-3 YEARS GOES UP ONE STEP, AN EMPLOYEE WITH 4-6 YEARS MOVES UP 2 STEPS AND AN EMPLOYEE WITH 7 YEARS OR MORE MOVES UP THREE STEPS. MR. CONDREY SAID THIS PLAN WOULD DO THE MOST FOR THE LONG TIME EMPLOYEES. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE MODIFIED PLANS DO NOT GIVE THE LONG TIME COUNTY EMPLOYEES AS MUCH OF AN INCREASE AS THE FULL PLAN. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE IS ENOUGH BUDGETED TO FUND EITHER PLAN A OR PLAN B. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THAT SOME EMPLOYEES WORK VERY HARD WHILE OTHERS JUST DO ENOUGH TO GET BY AND SHE ASKED HOW THAT WAS ADDRESSED IN THE STUDY. MR. CONDREY SAID THAT MERIT INCREASES AND EVALUATIONS WOULD HANDLE THAT. MR. CONDREY SAID THAT HE WILL PROVIDE TRAINING IN PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. MR. CONDREY SAID THIS STUDY PROVIDES FOR A ONE TIME ADJUSTMENT AND THE NEXT INCREASE WOULD BE BASED ON MERIT AND THE RANGES HAVE FLEXIBILITY. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT HE FELT EVALUATIONS WERE ALSO NECESSARY AND THAT IF A PERSON IS DOING A GOOD JOB THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD AND NOT HELD BACK.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN 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 JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO IN BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR WILL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DURING THE 7:00 P.M. MEETING

THE COUNCIL HAD A DINNER BREAK

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN TUTEN GAVE THE INVOCATION.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCT. 1, 2007 MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR..

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

T. BLAINE LYONS – DHEC SEPTIC TANK PERMIT DELAYS:

MR. LYONS EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF STAFF AND A COMPLETE TURNOVER IN STAFF, THE SEPTIC PERMITS HAVE BEEN DELAYED. MR. LYONS SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A VACANCY FOR TWO YEARS. MR. LYONS SAID THE WAITING TIMES ARE BEING MONITORED AND THEY HAVE ALSO HAD EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER COUNTIES COME AND HELP. MR. LYONS SAID SOME NEW POSITIONS HAVE BEEN FUNDED AND AN ACCELERATED TRAINING PROGRAM IS IN PLACE.

LINDA STANLEY – GRAYS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL – NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:

MS. STANLEY INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HER COMMITTEE HAS WORKED VERY HARD AND THEY WERE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GRAYS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. MS. STANLEY SAID THE NEXT STEP WAS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AN HISTORICAL MARKER. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED THE COMMITTEE FOR WORKING ON GETTING THIS DONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE JASPER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT:

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHES A FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE RURAL AREAS OF JASPER COUNTY AND IT EXCLUDED HARDEEVILLE, RIDGELAND, CHERRY POINT AND LEVY. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED WHY CHERRY POINT WAS INCLUDED AND LEVY WAS NOT INCLUDED. ATTORNEY JONES SAID THAT LEVY WAS INCLUDED. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING, THERE WERE NO COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE JASPER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE LEVY FIRE DISTRICT:

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THIS ORDINANCE WAS TO ESTABLISH THE LEVY FIRE DISTRICT AND THAT THE CHIEF SHALL BE THE FIRE MARSHALL. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING, THERE WERE NO COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE LEVY FIRE DISTRICT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION TO THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE FOR THE SUM OF \$250,000.00 UPON THE TERMS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT ON BEHALF OF JASPER COUNTY, AND TO AMEND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE:

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY HELD THE PUBLIC HEARING AND THAT THE CHANGES THEY REQUESTED HAVE BEEN MADE. THE ACCESS ISSUE, THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY AND A 10 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT FOR SCE&G HAS BEEN INCLUDED MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SCE&G WERE GOING TO REQUEST THE EASEMENT UNDER NEW BUSINESS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE 2 ACRE SURVEY IS ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SECTION DEALS WITH THE CREWS AND HOW THE CREWS ARE DISPATCHED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE SECTION REGARDING THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE BE USED FOR A FUTURE FIRESTATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AGREEMENT. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES

SAID THAT THERE WAS \$1,000.00 HAND MONEY AND THE BALANCE WAS TO BE PAID WHEN FUNDS FROM THE EAST ARGENT FIRE DISTRICT AND SHE FELT IT SHOULD BE DUE AT THE MARCH CLOSING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WAS INCLUDED TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF FUNDS AND IF HARDEEVILLE DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY IN MARCH THEN THERE WOULD BE NO CLOSING. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT HARDEEVILLE'S AGREEMENT WITH ARGENT EAST INCLUDED. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED WHY HARDEEVILLE'S ATTORNEY WAS THE ESCROW AGENT AND ATTORNEY JONES EXPLAINED THAT SINCE HE WILL NO LONGER BE IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, HE WILL NOT HAVE AN ESCROW ACCOUNT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE AGREEMENT SAID TWO ACRES MORE OR LESS AND ATTORNEY JONES CONFIRMED THAT THE SURVEY WAS FOR ONLY 2 ACRES. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGES HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD MAKE THEM, NOT THE ADMINISTRATOR. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE TRUCKS AND STAFF HAVE BEEN MOVED AND STEVEN MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THE MOVE WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE AGREEMENT IS FINALIZED AND HE WAS AWAITING DIRECTION FROM MR. FULGHUM. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE EQUIPMENT WAS GOING TO ROBERTVILLE AND PINELAND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT CURRENTLY ONE MAN HAS BEEN GOING TO GRAYS AND ALTERNATING IN PINELAND AND TILLMAN. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID THAT HE AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGREED THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL GO THERE AND THAT THERE WILL BE 24 HOUR COVERAGE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE FUTURE AND MR. FULGHUM SAID ALL THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COUNCIL WILL BE ADDRESSED. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF AN AMBULANCE CREW WAS HIRED FOR CHERRY POINT AND STEVEN MALPHRUS SAID THE ONES THAT WERE HIRED ARE GOING THROUGH ORIENTATION ACCORDING TO RONNIE MALPHRUS AND THE AMBULANCE THAT IS GOING THERE IS THE COUNTY'S RESERVE AMBULANCE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION TO THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE FOR THE SUM OF \$250,000.00 UPON THE TERMS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT ON BEHALF OF JASPER COUNTY, AND TO AMEND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENT OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE OPTION TO PURCHASE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND CAMPBELL ENTERPRISES DATED MARCH 5, 2007: MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE WAS TO EXTEND THE COMMENCEMENT OF PAYMENT TO MAY, 2008. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES QUESTIONED THE DATE 2007 AND MR. SAGER SAID IT WAS A TYPO AND HE WOULD HAVE IT CORRECTED TO 2008. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING, THERE WERE NO COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENT OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE OPTION TO PURCHASE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND CAMPBELL ENTERPRISES DATED MARCH 5, 2007. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF PROPERTY AT THE CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK (PROJECT CUCUMBER); MR. FULGHUM SAID THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS WAS PRO AIR AND SIDING AND IT WAS OWNED BY MR. ROBERTS AND THEY PLANNED TO BUILD A 6,000 SQ.FT. BUILDING THAT WOULD HAVE FOUR OFFICES IN THE FRONT. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT A LOCAL PERSON WAS PURCHASING PROPERTY IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE DID NOT LIKE THE PROJECTS TO HAVE NAMES LIKE PROJECT CUCUMBER AND PROJECT STICKY FINGERS AND IN THE FUTURE HE WANTED THE BUSINESS'S NAME TO BE LISTED. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES AGREED WITH COUNCILMAN TUTEN REGARDING THE NAMES OF THE PROJECTS. COUNCILMAN TUTEN MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF PROPERTY AT CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK (PROJECT CUCUMBER). THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

3RD READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF PROPERTY AT THE CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK (PROJECT STICKY):

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THAT SHE ASKED FOR A BUSINESS PLAN FOR THIS PROJECT AND WHAT SHE RECEIVED WAS NOT A BUSINESS PLAN. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID SHE WANTED TO KNOW WHY THEY NEEDED SIX ACRES OF LAND. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED A MORE DETAILED BUSINESS PLAN. THIS ITEM WAS TABLED UNTIL A FUTURE MEETING.

3RD READING OF THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE:

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THIS WAS A STATE ORDINANCE THAT THE COUNTY ALSO HAD TO PASS IN ORDER FOR THE CITIZENS TO QUALIFY FOR FLOOD INSURANCE. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3RD READING OF THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND BEAUFORT COUNTY:

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT MOST COUNTIES HAVE THIS TYPE OF ALLIANCE AND IT ALLOWS THEM TO APPLY FOR SPECIAL FUNDING. MS. STATLER WOULD BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BEAUFORT COUNTY WAS GOING TO PASS THIS SAME TYPE OF ORDINANCE. MR. FULGHUM SAID IN THE PAST THE COUNTY WORKED WITH LCOG ON AN ALLIANCE AND IT NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE AREA WILL LOOK AND BE STRONGER BY WORKING TOGETHER. MR. JERRY STEWART OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL WAS PRESENT AND STATED THAT HE SUPPORTED THIS ALLIANCE. COUNCILMAN TYLER MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND BEAUFORT COUNTY. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON AIRCRAFT TAXES:

MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A REPORT AND SAID THAT CURRENTLY JASPER COUNTY CHARGES 10.5% TAXES ON AIRCRAFT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT 20 COUNTIES HAVE REDUCED THEIR TAXES TO BETWEEN 4% AND 6%. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE FELT IF THE TAXES WERE REDUCED IT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE INDIVIDUALS TO PAY THEIR TAXES AND KEEP THEIR PLANES IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 56 AIRCRAFTS AT THE AIRPORT AND CURRENTLY ONLY 19 WERE PAYING TAX IN JASPER COUNTY AND THE TOTAL REVENUE FROM THE AIRPORT LAST YEAR WAS \$13,713.46 WHICH INCLUDED TAXES AND RENTAL FEES. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF MR. DEAN WAS CONTACTED ABOUT THIS AND SHE ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTACT MR. DEAN AND DISCUSS THIS CHANGE WITH HIM TO SEE IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PAY THEIR TAXES IN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED WHY WOULD THE COUNTY CUT IT SO LOW AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THE REDUCTION IN TAXES WOULD MAKE THE COUNTY MORE COMPETITIVE WITH THE OTHER COUNTIES. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF PLANES AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT CURRENTLY THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MR. FULGHUM TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

APPROVAL OF COURTHOUSE RENOVATION CONTRACT:

MR. FULGHUM PRESENTED THE CONTRACT FROM WATSON AND TATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$290,000.00. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF THE ADMINISTRATOR WAS SURE THAT THE PLANS WOULD BE OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND MR. FULGHUM ASKED MR. SAGER IF THAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT AND MR. SAGER RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS THE ANNEX BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THAT ANY CHANGES MUST COME BACK TO COUNCIL. MR. SAGER SAID THE SCHEMATICS WERE COMPLETE AND THERE WERE VARIOUS DESIGN PHASES AND THERE WAS THE PROPECT OF SOME CHANGE ORDERS, BUT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO BRING THEM BACK TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID SHE THOUGHT THAT TATE WOULD BE THE PROJECT MANAGER AND SHE ASKED ABOUT HAVING MR. PINCKNEY FOLLOW UP ON THE WORK. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE BUILDING INSPECTORS WOULD INSPECT THE CONSTRUCTION AND MR. TATE WOULD PROVIDE THE PROJECT MANAGER.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED FOR A TIMELINE ON THE PROJECT AS THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS OVER THREE YEARS AND IT HAS BEEN OVER ONE YEAR SINCE THE PLANS WERE REVISED. MR. SAGER SAID THAT HE WILL PROVIDE A TIMELINE. MR. SAGER SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS TO OBTAIN OWNERSHIP ON ONE BLOCK OF JASPER STREET AND THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED WITH THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID SHE THOUGHT THE CONTRACT FOR THE COURTHOUSE WAS ALREADY APPROVED AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE ENTIRE CONTRACT WAS APPROVED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO RESEARCH AND SITUATION AND BRING THE ANSWERS BACK TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF THE LEVY FIRE CONTRACT:

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FIRE COMMITTEE AND NEGOTIATED THE FIRE CONTRACT WITH CHIEF GRAHAM. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED CHIEF GRAHAM IF HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE CONTRACT AND CHIEF GRAHAM SAID THAT HE WORKED ON IT FOR FOUR WEEKS AND HE FELT THIS WAS THE BEST THAT HE COULD DO. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LEVY FIRE CONTRACT. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

MR. SAGER ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE ADMINSTRATOR TO SIGN THE COURTHOUSE CONTRACT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED THE TIMELINE ON THE COURTHOUSE AND THE ANNEX. MR. FULGHUM RECOMMENDED APPROVING THE CONTRACT. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT APPROVE THE CONTRACT UNTIL THEY HAD ALL THE FACTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR TO DO THE RESEARCH AND TO REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL.

BILL OLENDORF REQUEST FOR LOCAL A-TAX MONEY:

MR. OLENDORF REQUESTED \$39,143.82 OF LOCAL A-TAX MONEY FOR BILLBOARDS. MR. OLENDORF SAID THIS WAS THE SAME AMOUNT AS LAST YEAR. AND HE ALSO ASKED FOR \$32,940.00 FOR A 6 HOUR NIGHTLY PATROL OF THE AREA AT POINT SOUTH. MR. OLENDORF REPORTED THAT THE EXTRA COVERAGE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR IN CUTTING DOWN CRIME IN THE AREA. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF CALLS AND DET. HIPPI SAID THAT IN THE PAST THERE WERE OVER 200 CALLS, BUT WITH THE NEW PATROL THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN 59 CALLS. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS, THE TYPES OF CRIMES AND THE NOISE ISSUES. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTION AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$39,143.82 FOR BILLBOARDS AND \$32,940.00 FOR EXTRA NIGHTLY PATROL OF THE AREA. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT OF WAY FOR SCE&G:

MR. FULGHUM EXPAINED THAT SCE&G WAS REQUESTING AN EASEMENT THAT RAN THE FULL LENGTH OF THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION PARCEL. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED IF A ROAD COULD STILL BE BUILT TO ACCESS THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. RUSTY COPELAND, OF SCE&G, EXPLAINED THAT THE EASEMENT IS ADJACENT TO THE SCDOT RIGHT OF WAY AND IT WOULD NOT LANDLOCKED THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR SCE&G ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION PROPERTY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VICE CHAIRMAN JONES REQUESTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR RESPOND THE CONCERNS VOICED IN A LETTER TO HER. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID SHE PROVIDED THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH COPIES OF THE LETTER. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE REVIEWED THE LETTER WITH STAFF AND THE ISSUE REGARDING THE HEPATITUS SHOTS WAS ADDRESSED AND MS. LUCAS WAS WORKING ON CORRECTING THE SITUATION, BUT HE WAS NOT GOING TO RESPOND TO THE OTHER ALLEGATIONS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS WISE TO GO OUT ON WITCH HUNTS WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT SIGN THEIR NAME TO A DOCUMENT OR LETTER. CHAIRMAN

HOOD SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE EMPLOYEES SHOULD FEAR FOR THEIR JOBS AND HE WANTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CARRY OUT THE POLICIES SET BY COUNCIL WHEN THEY GET UNSIGNED LETTERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE CLERK TO CONTACT THE OTHER CLERKS TO SEE HOW THE OTHER COUNTIES HANDLE VARIOUS COMPLAINTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT WOULD TAKE HOURS RESEARCHING THE COMPLAINTS LISTED IN THE LETTER. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE FELT THE LETTER SHOULD BE THROWN IN THE TRASH AND THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT SIGN HIS LETTER IS NOT MUCH OF A PERSON AND THE LETTER SHOULD BE THROWN IN THE TRASH. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGREED THAT THE EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT FEAR FOR THEIR JOBS AND HE SAID THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD GO TO THEIR SUPERVISOR OR TO A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THEIR JOBS SHOULD NOT BE JEOPARDIZED IF THEY SIGN A LETTER OF COMPLAINT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT ACCORDING TO STATE LAW THE EMPLOYEES MUST COME TO HIM AND NOT COUNTY COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT IS HARD TO FIND QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES AND THERE ARE OTHER COMMUNITY ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT IS HARD TO HIRE PEOPLE FOR THE DETENTION CENTER BECAUSE THEY DO NOT PASS THE DRUG TEST. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT HE WOULD LISTEN TO THE EMPLOYEES AND HE WOULD DO IT IN CONFIDENCE AND HE COULD DO AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION IF NECESSARY.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE COUNCIL COULD CREATE A DRESS CODE FOR THE CITIZENS SO THAT THEY DON'T WEAR THEIR PANTS DOWN AROUND THE IR KNEES. ATTORNEY JONES SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN TOLD HIM TO CONTACT THE MAYOR OF ATLANTA.

COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID THAT THE ETHICS COMMITTEE DECISION WAS THAT HE DID NOT KNOWINGLY VIOLATE THE COUNTY'S POLICY AND THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD. RONNIE MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE CURRENT BUDGET FUNDED A TRUCK FOR PARKS AND RECREATION AND THAT CURRENTLY THERE ARE TWO TRUCKS AT THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND HE TOLD THE COUNCIL HE WAS GOING TO TRANSFER THAT TRUCK TO PARKS AND RECREATION AND PURCHASE A SUV FOR THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. THE COUNCIL DID NOT OBJECT AND MR. MALPHRUS WAS TOLD TO PROCEED WITH HIS PLAN.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MR. CONDREY PRESENTED THE NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND WAGE STUDY. MR. FULGHUM RECOMMENDED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE PLAN 1 SUBJECT TO THE MINOR REVISIONS SUGGESTED BY COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TUTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONDREY COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY SUBJECT TO THE COUNCIL'S CHANGES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

MR. BROWN ASKED IF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR CHECKED INTO WHAT COULD BE DONE REGARDING THE JUNK CARS. MR. SAGER SAID THAT HAL WALL WAS HANDLING THE CASE AND IT WAS SCHEDULED TO GO BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE AT 11:00 A.M. ON OCTOBER 17, 2007.

GLENN STORCK ASKED THE COUNCIL TO MAKE WASTE MANAGEMENT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE TERRIBLE ODOR AT THE LANDFILL. MR. STORCK SAID THE STENCH WAS TERRIBLE AND DHEC WAS NOT SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS AND THEY NEEDED TO HAVE WASTE MANAGEMENT CORRECT THE PROBLEM. THE CHAIRMAN INSTRUCTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTACT WASTE MANAGEMENT ABOUT THIS COMPLAINT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE WOULD AND HE WOULD ALSO INVITE WASTE MANAGEMENT TO ATTEND THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE SPOKE WITH RUSS HIGHTOWER, OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND MR. HIGHTOWER WAS FORMULATING A CITIZENS COMMITTEE AND THEY ARE WORKING ON HOW THEY CAN CONTROL THE ODOR AND HOW THEY CAN KEEP THE WASTE FROM SEEPING INTO THE GROUND.

MS. FRAZIER THANKED THE STAFF FOR MEETING WITH THE BUSINESSES IN HER AREA REGARDING HER SITUATION. MS. FRAZIER SAID WASTE MANAGEMENT ALSO CONTACTED HER AND THEY ARE TO TEST THE WATER. BEING NOT FUTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

ADJOURN:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR 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 8:35 P.M
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN