



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 12, 2009
3:30 P.M. WORKSHOP**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS AND STAFF PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
GLORIA LUCAS, HR DIRECTOR

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:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:30 P.M.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY GAVE INVOCATION.

BUDGET CONTINGENCY PLANNING SESSION – INTRODUCTION:

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NINE SESSIONS THAT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE END OF JANUARY, 2010. MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE VARIOUS TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ONCE THESE SESSIONS ARE COMPLETE, THEY SHOULD BE

BETTER PREPARED WHEN DOING THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOPICS WILL ALSO COVER MANDATED SERVICES, AND SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL, HE WILL COVER THE AREAS UNDER HIS JURISDICTION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDER THIS METHOD WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AFTER THE SESSIONS, EVERYONE WILL HAVE THE SAME ANSWERS TO PROVIDE TO THE CITIZENS WHEN THEY ARE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COUNTY.

MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE FINANCE SESSION WHICH WILL INCLUDE EXPENDITURES, REVENUE AND THE BUDGET DOCUMENT. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WILL ALSO EXAMINE ACCOUNT BALANCES, ITEMS IN THE BUDGET, THE COUNTY DEBT, AND BOND RATING.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE MAJOR DIVISIONS WILL BE COVERED IN THE FUTURE SESSIONS. MR. FULGHUM ADDED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WILL INCLUDE WHAT THE DIVISIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR, AND THE REVEUNE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENTS.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE LAST MEETING WILL BE TO PLAN FOR THE REGULAR BUDGET WORKSHOPS.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WHEN COUNCIL IS REVIEWING THE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS LISTED ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART, HE WILL PROVIDE LIST THE INDIVIDUALS IN EACH DEPARTMEN, WHAT IT COSTS TO OPERATE EACH DEPARTMENT, AND WHAT REVENUE EACH DEPARTMENT BRINGS IN TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE UPDATE WILL BE COMPLETE FOR EACH DEPARTMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WILL COVER THAT AND HOW MUCH IT COSTS EACH CITIZEN TO PAY FOR THAT DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE FIGURES WOULD BE DISCUSSED AS THEY WENT ALONG. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE FIGURES WOULD BE DISCUSSED FOR EACH DIVISION.

MR. FULGHUM PRESENTED STATISTICS FROM THE 2000 CENSUS. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THERE WERE 46 COUNTIES IN THE STATE AND IN THE FY 2009, 27 COUNTIES HAD A SMALLER BUDGET THAN JASPER COUNTY AND 18 HAD A LARGER BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM STATED THAT IN THE FY 2009 JASPER COUNTY HAD THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA GENERAL FUND BUDGET IN THE STATE AND THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY RANKED 39TH OUT OF 46 IN POPULATION AND THERE WERE 24 COUNTIES WITH MORE EMPLOYEES AND LARGER PAYROLLS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WERE 29 COUNTIES WITH HIGHER PER CAPITA INCOME LEVELS, 14 COUNTIES WITH A HIGHER MILLAGE RATE AND 26 COUNTIES WITH A HIGHER MILLAGE VALUE. MR. FULGHUM INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THERE WERE 20 COUNTIES WITH LARGER LAND AREA AND 43 COUNTIES WITH A GREATER NUMBER OF PERSONS PER SQ. MILE. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT 26 COUNTIES HAVE LARGER ASSESSABLE BASES, 14 COUNTIES COLLECT MORE A-TAX REVENUE AND THAT JASPER COUNTY HAD THE SAME BONDING RATING AS DORCHESTER, OCONEE, PICKENS AND YORK. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY RANKS MAINLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTIES ON MOST OF THE COMPARED CRITERIA.

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO BREAK THE BUDGET DOWN SO THAT THE COUNCIL CAN UNDERSTAND IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SOME DEPARTMENTS CANNOT LAY OFF ANY MORE WORKERS AND AN ACROSS THE BOARD CUT DOES NOT WORK. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AS OF THE END OF SEPTEMBER, EVERYTHING WAS RIGHT ON BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY COUNTIES THE SIZE OF JASPER COUNTY HAVE FULL-TIME FIREMEN IN EACH STATION INSTEAD OF VOLUNTEERS. MR. ETHERIDGE SAID THAT FIRE, EMS, AND SCHOOL DEBT ARE THE COUNTIES BIGGEST EXPENDITURES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE SCHOOLS COMPARED. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT OTHER FACTORS NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED WHEN COMPARING THE SCHOOLS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT YOU NEED TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET THE INFORMATION YOU WANT TO KNOW. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY HAS MORE EMPLOYEES PER RESIDENT AND IT IS MORE IN LINE WITH FAIRFIELD COUNTY BECAUSE EMPLOYEES ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES.

MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED 40 QUESTIONS THAT WOULD BE ANSWERED DURING THE BUDGET CONTINGENCY PLANNING SESSIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL DECIDE WHY COMPANIES THAT LOCATE HERE DECIDE TO LEAVE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COST OF HOUSING INMATES WILL BE COVERED, AS WELL AS, THE LENGTH OF STAY PER INMATE.

COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT THE SALARIES FOR TEACHERS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND JASPER COUNTY SHOULD BE COMPARED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY HAS MORE REVENUE, A GREATER POPULATION AND BEAUFORT COUNTY COLLECTS MORE TAX DOLLARS. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF EMPLOYEES' SALARIES SHOULD BE COMPARED TO COUNTIES OF THE SAME SIZE OR COMPARED TO SALARIES AS TO WHERE THE COUNTY IS LOCATED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE EMPLOYEES DO A LOT MORE THAN THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO IN ANOTHER COUNTY AND THE EMPLOYEE RATE IS STILL LOWER THAN OTHER COUNTIES.

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY WOULD BE DISCUSSED, AND HE WILL ALSO PROVIDE ANSWERS REGARDING THE PORT.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE NEXT SESSION WOULD COVER MAJOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES, HISTORICAL REVIEW, PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET DOCUMENT.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE GOOD TO RECEIVE AND THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BETTER BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE CITIZENS' QUESTIONS. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT IT IS HIS JOB TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION, SO THEY ARE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE AND EVERYONE WILL HAVE THE SAME INFORMATION. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID THAT YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, TO DO BETTER IF YOU WANT TO UPGRADE ANYTHING.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPENDS TIME AND RESOURCES AND CHASES THINGS DOWN AND IT IS WHAT YOU GET FOR WHAT YOU PAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL REVIEW WHAT THEY DO, HOW THEY DO IT AND IF THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO DO THINGS. MR.

FULGHUM STATED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO THIS PRIOR TO THE BUDGET AND THE NEXT MEETING THEY WILL REALLY GET INTO IT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE WANTED TO KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH MONEY THEY HAVE OR WHAT IS GOING TO BE SPENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT WANT ESTIMATES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT ONCE THEY GET THE INFORMATION TOGETHER, THE COUNCIL WILL BE UPDATED MONTHLY.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR THANKED MR. FULGHUM FOR THE PRESENTATION, BUT HE SAID THAT HE IS MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL AND FEELS THAT SOME THINGS CANNOT BE COMPARED BY COUNTY, BUT BY SITUATIONS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO LOOK AT BEAUFORT COUNTY AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR SOME THINGS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY HAS MORE TOURISTS, AND A GREATER MEANS OF SECURING REVENUE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW BOND RATINGS ARE DETERMINED.

ADJOURN:

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

THE WORKSHOP ENDED AT 4:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
VICE CHAIRMAN