

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
651 GRAYS HIGHWAY, RIDGELAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Monday, February 17, 2009, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
CELL PHONE POLICY**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

George Hood, Chairman
LeRoy Blackshear, Vice Chairman
Hubert Tyler, Councilman
Henry Etheridge, Councilman
Samuel Gregory, Councilman

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew P. Fulghum, County Administrator
Ronnie Malphrus, Deputy Administrator for Administrative Services
Dale Terry, Deputy Administrator for Engineering Services
Wilbur Daley, Deputy Administrator for Emergency Services
Steven Malphrus, Deputy Director for Emergency Services
Wendy Powers Kelly, Deputy Administrator for Development Services
Marvin Jones, County Attorney
Honey Johnson, Assistant to Andrew P. Fulghum

STAFF ABSENT:

Judith Frank, Clerk to Council
David Jirousek, Director of Planning
Lisa Lamb, Planning and Zoning 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.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6 p.m., Chairman Hood called the council workshop to order for the purpose of discussing Jasper County's cell phone policy.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Referencing the cell phone plans and types of equipment offered by Verizon and Alltel, Mr. Fulghum presented information relative to Jasper County's cell phone policy. He explained in detail the disposition of cell phones among county personnel, and noting the need for general authorization from Council and a rationale addressing which positions require such equipment, he mentioned Juno Beach, and Alachua County, Florida as being representative of municipal and county government settings where like phone systems are in place.

A general discussion among Council members and staff followed relative to expected improvement resulting from a possible merge of the Verizon and Alltel companies, past and current equipment (including "Smart" phones (12 in use in by county personnel) and typical "radio" phones) currently in use by county personnel, the arrangement by which they and Jasper County pay related charges for phone use, IRS rules governing cell phone use, whether or not affected county staff should pay any minutes used over and above the specified minutes provided by the county, as well as related allowances, types of work settings and situations requiring, for the purpose of quality control, certain personnel to use specific types of telephone equipment, having the county attorney design a policy for use/charges for cell phones, Alltel's reduced rates for calling "within the network," as well as, because of the downturn by the economy and the county's approaching budget activity for FY09-10, taking a hard look at the phones in use now.

Councilman Samuel Gregory joined the meeting in progress at approximately 6:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters, Employment Matters and Legal Matters. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Councilman Samuel Gregory excused himself from the meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to Regular Session. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

Chairman Hood announced that there were no motions as related to Items A and B of Executive Session, and, relative to Item C, he called for a Motion to accept the county attorney's recommendation.

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to accept the county attorney's recommendation on Item C of Executive Session. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
651 GRAYS HIGHWAY, RIDGELAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
Monday, February 17, 2009, 7 p.m.
MINUTES**

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

George Hood, Chairman
LeRoy Blackshear, Vice Chairman
Hubert Tyler, Councilman
Henry Etheridge, Councilman

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

Samuel Gregory, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew P. Fulghum, County Administrator
Ronnie Malphrus, Deputy Administrator for Administrative Services
Dale Terry, Deputy Administrator for Engineering Services
Wilbur Daley, Deputy Administrator for Emergency Services
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STAFF ABSENT:

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CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hood called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Vice Chairman Blackshear offered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Fulghum called the Council's attention to an error in the title for Wendy Powers Kelly on page 9 of the Minutes of Council's February 02, 2009 meeting. He asked that the title be corrected to read: Deputy Administrator for Development Services.

Citing the inclusion of the above-mentioned correction, Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 02, 2009 meeting. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

There were no Presentations or Proclamations for consideration by Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES:

RONNIE MALPHRUS – PUBLIC HEARING AND 3rd READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE FINANCING FOR THE NEW COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS.

Ronnie Malphrus addressed Council on the above-mentioned issue, noting that financing for the courthouse restoration and courthouse annex is not to exceed \$18 Million for the combined projects. He added that Council will appoint a 3-member non-profit public facilities corporation (the county administrator is required to be one of the three), the St. Peter Parish/Jasper County Public Facilities Corporation, and that its purpose is to act as a pass-through for the issuing of bonds on behalf of Jasper County and "in order to own the property until the debt is paid off." He was careful to remind Council that, barring unforeseen circumstances, it is not anticipated that the cost for the combined projects will reach \$18 million.

Meeting attendee Barbara Clark, addressing Ronnie Malphrus, requested the amount of the payment. Mr. Malphrus responded that he was drawing from an estimated schedule, and that the payment amount would approach \$250,000 the first year. After that payment, successive payments are anticipated to be in the \$600-700,000 range and should remain fairly constant until the end of the project (a 28' years' financing arrangement). He noted that the last few years of the debt would normally be a reduced figure from the initial \$600-700,000 payment figure. Chairman Hood noted that hopefully Jasper County would not have to use the entire \$18 million for the project.

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion that this be the public hearing and 3rd reading of the Ordinance to Approve the Financing for the New Courthouse Renovations. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT AND 2009 GOALS:

There was general discussion of the above resolution wherein Councilman Etheridge noted that the council goals had been discussed at the recent retreat at Clark's Inn at Santee, South Carolina, and Mr. Fulghum noted that Goal 12, to build a civic recreation center, and Goal 13, to host recognition for county employees needed to be added to the listing.

He further reviewed the Council's Mission Statement -- "To provide efficient government services and manage growth through land use controls, while protecting Jasper County's rich environmental heritage and quality of life."

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Tyler seconded the Motion to approve the Resolution for Council's Mission Statement and 2009 Goals. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3684 S. OKATIE HIGHWAY, HARDEEVILLE, SC 29927, TMS #038-00-09-005:

There was a general discussion of the above resolution among Chairman Hood, Councilmen Etheridge and Tyler, and Wilbur Daley as it related to the Levy Fire Station. Mentioned was the interest generated by the arrangement with Levy Fire Station by which Jasper County maintains a contract for the provision of fire protection services in the amount of \$330,000 (as compared to the Ridgeland and Hardeeville fire stations, operated by and independent of a contract with Jasper County at \$195,000 each), good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, reducing the County's ISO rating, the county's compliance with the study received on the Fire Tower Road project as well as the county's accountability to county taxpayers in considering purchase of the property located at 3684 S. Okatie Highway, Hardeeville and in light of the contractual arrangement with Levy Fire Station.

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Chairman Hood seconded the Motion to authorize the purchase of property located at 3684 S. Okatie Highway, Hardeeville, SC 29927, TMS #038-00-09-005. The Motion failed with Chairman Hood and Councilman Blackshear voting in favor and Councilmen Etheridge and Tyler voting against the Motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business for consideration by Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

RONNIE MALPHRUS – DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Citing the difficulties encountered with trying to function in the 21st Century with an outdated recording keeping system, Mr. Malphrus explained the pressing need for replacement of the engineering department's (early '70s) computer software. At a cost of \$53,655, he noted that the diverse capability of the "City Works" system would serve the department effectively. He added that the system supplier had offered to assist the county by accepting partial payment (\$5,000) during the present fiscal year with the remaining balance payable in FY09-10. General discussion followed Mr. Malphrus' presentation.

Councilman Etheridge motioned and Councilman Tyler seconded the Motion to approve Mr. Malphrus' recommendation to purchase the "City Works" software for the County's Engineering Department. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RONNIE MALPHRUS – APPROVAL OF BID FOR CRUSHED ROCK:

Mr. Malphrus explained that Able Contracting had tendered the low bid for providing the County with crushed rock and announced that monies in payment for such would be provided by the Jasper

County Transportation Committee. He added that the price had improved from the charge for the same material dating from two years ago. General discussion followed Mr. Malphrus' presentation.

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Tyler seconded the Motion to approve Able Contracting's bid for crushed rock. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RONNIE MALPHRUS – APPROVAL OF ETHERNET PROPOSAL FROM EMBARQ:

Mr. Malphrus explained the intricacies of Embarq's Ethernet proposal as well as the need for it, especially as he noted that "dark fiber" is no longer available from the company as before. General discussion followed during which it was noted that the monthly fee of \$2,450 for the connection includes Embarq's monitoring and maintenance of the system, thus "beefing-up" the upgrade required. General discussion followed Mr. Malphrus' presentation.

Councilman Etheridge motioned and Councilman Tyler seconded the Motion to approve the Ethernet proposal from Embarq. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

RONNIE MALPHRUS – APPROVAL OF ELA AGREEMENT FOR ARC/GIS SOFTWARE:

Mr. Malphrus defined the Enterprise License Agreement as a purchasing license to enable seven departments within Jasper County's operation to integrate the ARC-GIS software into their department operations for the performance of mapping and other functions, as well as permitting the use of the software just approved by Council for use by Engineering Services. He further noted that the 3-year proposal of costs amounts to \$25,000 per year with a \$4,800 credit toward the first year's payment, and that costs will be assigned departmentally (actually taken from the budget of each department using the system). General discussion followed Mr. Malphrus' presentation.

Vice Chairman Blackshear motioned and Councilman Etheridge seconded the Motion to approve the ELA Agreement for ARC/GIS software. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports for consideration by Council.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

County Administrator Fulghum reported that "State House Day" festivities had been changed to March 3rd, posing a conflict for those affected personnel needing to leave early on March 2nd who might also be needed later that day for the regular meeting of Council. There was general discussion, and it was decided that Chairman Hood would take up the matter with Mr. Fulghum before making a decision. Chairman Hood noted that there could be a "called" meeting of Council as a replacement, but otherwise that if the March 2nd council meeting were to be cancelled, the next meeting of Council would be scheduled for the third Monday, March 16, 2009.

Mr. Fulghum announced that he would be traveling to Columbia on February 18th for a meeting with the State Infrastructure Board as related to the Exit 3 project, and for another meeting with members of the Legislature regarding the proposed maritime terminal. He added that he and Wendy Kelly

would be traveling to Charleston on February 18th to meet with the County's bonding attorneys and staff representing Jasper County Neighbors United (JCNU) in an effort to work out a financing agreement for JCNU's affordable housing project. Mr. Fulghum closed his remarks by adding that he would be part of a group work session in Beaufort with members of the Lowcountry Economic Network on Friday, February 20th.

FLOOR OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Meeting attendee Barbara Clark expressed concerns over what she described as the money being spent and put into the County's FY09-10 operating budget.

Addressing Mr. Fulghum, Ms. Clark questioned the difference in the content of the meeting agenda that had been prepared and offered to the public (for pick-up from the table at the entrance to council chambers) versus the agenda that had been overhead-projected onto the chambers wall. Mr. Fulghum noted that the Clerk to Council had gone home ill just hours before the meeting, and that he was unable to speak for her as to the content difference of the two agendas.

Addressing Council, Ms. Clark asked that the present set-up of the Levy Fire Station operation not be disturbed. She further requested that the County provide a fire station for Bellinger Hill.

Responding, Chairman Hood noted that staff is listening and would come up with a recommendation after taking actual need into consideration.

ADJOURN:

Councilman Etheridge motioned and Vice Chairman Blackshear seconded the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Honey Johnson
Assistant to Andrew P. Fulghum
Office of Administration

Dr. George Hood
Chairman