

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
APRIL 22, 2009  
2:30 P.M.**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN  
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN  
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR  
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES  
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. 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 BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 2:30 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:**

**JEANINE BOSTICK, REV. DONALD SHEFTALL – VOTER'S REGISTRATION:**

REV. SHEFTALL PRESENTED HIS REQUEST REGARDING AN INCREASE IN SALARY FOR THE DIRECTOR. REV. SHEFTALL SAID THAT THE BOARD RECOMMENDED INCREASING THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY TO \$50,000.00. REV. SHEFTALL INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE DIRECTOR PERFORMS

MULTIPLE JOBS AND SHE IS DOING A GOOD JOB. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY AND REV. SHEFTALL SAID THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY WAS \$42,000.00 AND THEY WERE REQUESTING AN \$8,000.00 INCREASE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE \$110,000.00 REQUEST. REV. SHEFTALL SAID THAT THE ONLY INCREASE THEY WERE REQUESTING WAS AN INCREASE IN THE DIRECTOR'S SALARY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT MAINTENANCE. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT COVERED MAINTENANCE ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$15,000.00 FOR TRAVEL AND TRAINING. REV. SHEFTALL SAID ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION MUST BE CERTIFIED OR THEY CANNOT SERVE ON THE BOARD.

**HAZEL HOLMES – AUDITOR:**

MS. HOLMES SAID THAT SHE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE OFFICIALS IN HARDEEVILLE REGARDING OPENING A SATELLITE OFFICE THERE. MS. HOLMES SAID THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE WILL PROVIDE SPACE IN THE OLD HARGRAY BUILDING AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR COMPUTERS. MS. HOLMES SAID THE OPTIC LINE IS ALMOST COMPLETE. MS. HOLMES REQUESTED THAT THE SALARIES FOR THE INVESTIGATORS REMAIN IN THE SALARY LINE AND SHE CAN USE THEM IN THE OFFICE SO THAT SHE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SATELLITE OFFICE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE INVESTIGATORS' SALARIES WERE ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE SALARY LINE AND MS. HOLMES RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE INVESTIGATORS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN THE FIELD. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS SHE WOULD HAVE LIKED THEM TO BE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW MANY HOURS THE FIELD INVESTIGATORS WILL BE WORKING. MS. HOLMES SAID THEY ARE PART TIME AND WORK 40 HOURS PER PAY PERIOD AND SHE WOULD USE THEM IN THE OFFICE WHEN ONE OF THE GIRLS IS WORKING IN HARDEEVILLE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF SHE WOULD NEED TO HIRE ANYONE AND MS. HOLMES SAID THAT SHE WILL USE THE EMPLOYEES SHE HAS NOW. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$22,000.00 FOR NEW COMPUTERS AND THE NEW VEHICLE REQUESTED. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF HER REQUEST. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW MANY DAYS A WEEK WOULD THE SATELLITE OFFICE BE OPEN. MS. HOLMES SAID IT WOULD BE OPEN 5 DAYS PER WEEK. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHEN SHE PLANNED ON OPENING THE SATELLITE OFFICE AND MS. HOLMES RESPONDED AS SOON AS HARDEEVILLE LETS HER KNOW THEIR DECISION.

**JANE UPSHAW – USCB:**

DR. UPSHAW DISCUSSED THE PROGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE NEW PROGRAMS BEING OFFERED, THEIR WORK WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND

THE CUTS IN FUNDING. DR. UPSHAW REVIEWED THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM JASPER COUNTY AND THE NUMBER OF JASPER COUNTY CITIZENS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE. DR. UPSHAW SAID THEY HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR STIMULUS FUNDING AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO FUND USCB THE \$300,000.00.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

MR MALPHRUS INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM THE STATE REGARDING ANY ADDITIONAL CUTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ANY MATTERS FOR COUNCIL, AND MR. JONES WAS WORKING ON THE FIRE DISTRICT OPTION.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYWAY TO FUND THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUEST OF JCNU. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE ATTENDED A MEETING WITH MR. FULGHUM AT LCOG AND THEY WERE GOING TO INCREASE THE FUNDING TO JCNU TO \$150,000.00 FROM THE \$112,000.00 ORIGINALLY APPROVED. SISTER LUPE SAID THOSE FUNDS WERE TO BE USED FOR RENOVATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF SISTER LUPE HAD ANY FUNDS IN RENOVATION THAT COULD BE TRANSFERRED. SISTER LUPE SAID THE COUNTY HAS TO MEET THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THE COUNTY MUST HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE AGREED WITH THE PROJECT, HOWEVER, THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO GIVE THEM. MR. MOYD SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS TO HAVE AFFORDABLE RENTALS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THEY COULD GET AN EXTENSION ON THEIR LOAN. SISTER LUPE ASKED IF HE MEANT A SECOND MORTGAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WAS NOT AN OPTION. SISTER LUPE SAID THE OWNER WAS WILLING TO COVER THE DIFFERENCE, AND THEY WOULD NOT NEED THE MONEY IMMEDIATELY, AND THE COUNCIL COULD ADD IT TO NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THIS COULD BE DONE. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE ALREADY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CUT THE BUDGET. MR. MOYD ASKED ABOUT THE \$185,000.00 THAT WAS RECOMMENDED TO BE USED TO PURCHASE A HOUSE IN LEVY FOR A LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MONEY WAS FROM THE SALE OF A UTILITY EASEMENT AND THAT MONEY IS BEING USED TO COVER THE SHORTFALL. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE MONEY FOR THE NEW FIRE STATION. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THOSE FUNDS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE DONOR TO BE USED FOR THE FIRE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY AND HE HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE'S ADMINISTRATOR AND THEY DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY EITHER. MR. MOYD SAID HE FELT THAT JCNU WAS TO BE A LINE ITEM IN THIS YEAR'S COUNTY BUDGET. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY WOULD NOT HAVE A PROBLEM IF THE ECONOMY WAS BETTER. SISTER LUPE SAID ON A LINE ITEM OVER TWO YEARS, AS A LOAN THAT WOULD BE PAID WITH LOW INTEREST. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF IT COULD BE PUT IN THE BUDGET AND JUST PROVIDE A LETTER

OF SUPPORT TO JCNU. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE WAS NO LINE ITEM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF JCNU HAS RECEIVED A COMMITMENT FROM HARDEEVILLE FOR THE OTHER \$90,000.00. MR. MOYD SAID THAT HARDEEVILLE COUNCIL WAS MEETING TONIGHT AND WHILE HE DID NOT HAVE A COMMITMENT FROM HARDEEVILLE, HE HOPED THEY WOULD GET APPROVED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY HOPED TO HAVE LINE ITEM AND THE COUNTY DID FUND THE STUDY THAT WAS DONE. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF THEY COULD DO A 3-5 YEAR LOAN AT A CERTAIN INTEREST RATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE BUDGET WAS TIGHT, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DO IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THAT \$30,000.00 A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS COULD BE PLACED IN THE BUDGET AND IT WOULD BE A FORGIVABLE LOAN. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. FULGHUM WHERE WOULD HE GET THE MONEY AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE DEEPER CUTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY NEEDED THE MONEY AND THE LETTER AT THE SAME TIME. SISTER LUPE SAID THAT THE OWNER WILL CARRY A SECOND MORTGAGE IF THEY HAD A CONFIRMATION REGARDING THE FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE COUNTY WOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE \$90,000.00 AND CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY WOULD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HAS NOT SEEN ANY CUTS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY CUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HAS NEVER SPENT MONEY HE DID NOT HAVE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY DOESN'T THE COUNTY HAVE THE MONEY AND HE ASKED WHERE HAS THE MONEY GONE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT QUESTION WAS ANSWERED LAST WEEK AND THE ENTIRE STATE IN IS THE SAME CONDITION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE DID NOT WANT IT PUT OUT THAT GEORGE HOOD WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE AND DID NOT MAKE GOOD DECISIONS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID WHEN THE COUNTY HAS MONEY, THINGS WILL GET BETTER. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THERE IS \$2,500, 000.00 IN THE RESERVE FUND AND HE DID NOT WANT TO DEplete IT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT GOOD DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS \$7,200,000.00 IN THE RESERVE FUND AND NOW THERE WAS ONLY \$2,500,000.00 AND HE FELT IT WAS BACK TO WHERE IT WAS BEFORE MR. MOSS CAME. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT WAS HIS OPINION. CHAIRMAN HOOD RESPONDED THAT COUNCILMAN GREGORY'S OPINION WAS WRONG. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HOW WILL JCNU HANDLE THIS IF HARDEEVILLE DOES NOT FUND IT. SISTER LUPE SAID SHE DID NOT THINK IT WAS FAIR TO MAKE IF CONTINGENT UPON HARDEEVILLE FUNDING THE PROJECT, SISTER LUPE SAID THE \$180,000.00 IS NEEDED AND THEY HAVE NEVER GONE TO HARDEEVILLE FOR FUNDING. MR. MOYD SAID THAT JCNU IS THE ONLY AFFORDABLE HOUSE ENTITY IN FOUR COUNTIES. MR. FULGHUM SAID

THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AS \$370,000.00 HAS BEEN SPENT IN JASPER COUNTY AND THIS YEAR ANOTHER \$700,000.00 WILL BE SPENT. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR TO FUND JCNU \$30,000.00 PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AS A FORGIVABLE LOAN WITH A FIXED INTEREST RATE. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD BE BEFORE THE COUNCIL RECEIVED THE BUDGET REFLECTING THE NEW NUMBERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNCIL HAD ALL THE NUMBERS AND THE OPTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RECOMMENDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE BUDGET SHOULD BE READY FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW THEY CAME UP WITH THE THREE FIRE DISTRICTS AND HOW MUCH PROPERTY TAX IS COLLECTED FROM THOSE AREAS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY PAY THE SAME TAX RATE AS EVERYONE PAYS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF AN AMOUNT OF THEIR TAXES GOES TO FIRE PROTECTION. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE VALUES ON THE DISTRICTS, HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL SOME ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE WORKED OUT.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE AMOUNT OF TAX THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICTS PAY FOR FIRE PROTECTION BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TAXES IF THEY ARE GOING TO BE TAXED AS A SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WILL BE PAYING THE SAME PERCENTAGE AS EVERYONE ELSE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY WOULD BE PAYING MORE THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WOULD BE PAYING FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF FIRE SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE IS A LEGAL PROCESS THAT NEEDS TO BE FOLLOWED TO CREATE FIRE DISTRICTS AND A SPECIAL MEETING MAY BE NEEDED. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DID NOT HAVE THE FIRE CONTRACTS.

**ADJOURN:**

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 3:55 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN

