



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936

ZENIE INGRAM CONFERENCE ROOM

APRIL 25, 2012, 3:30 P.M.
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN SAMUEL GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN MARTIN SAULS IV, COUNCILMAN HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN THEODUS L. DRAYTON

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADM. GEORGE HOOD, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS

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 GREGORY CALLED THE MEETING/WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - CHAIRMAN GREGORY LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS GAVE THE INVOCATION.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

CORONER - MARTIN SAULS - MR. SAULS THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HE SAID HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR AN INCREASE, BUT FOR HIS BUDGET TO STAY THE SAME AS IT HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. MR. SAULS SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZES THE HARD ECONOMIC TIMES AND HE IS HOLDING THE LINE ON HIS BUDGET.

COUNCIL ON AGING- KARL ROACHE – MR. ROACHE PROVIDED A SLIDE PRESENTATION OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE SENIOR CENTERS. MR. ROACHE DISCUSSED THE MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM. MR. ROACHE REQUESTED THE SAME LEVEL OF FUNDING AS LAST YEAR EVEN THOUGH HE WAS EXPECTING A 10% CUT IN FUNDS FROM LCOG. MR. ROACHE SAID THAT SOME OF THE OTHER COUNTIES HAVE A HARD TIME ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO THEIR PROGRAM; HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET THEIR SURPLUS AND HAVE IT SENT TO RIDGELAND. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF HE WAS REQUESTING THE SAME FUNDING AS LAST YEAR AND DID HE HAVE VOLUNTEERS WHO DELIVERED THE MEALS ON WHEELS. MR. ROACHE SAID WAS CORRECT AND THIS YEAR THEY ARE PRESENTING THE METHODIST CHURCH WITH A PLAQUE FOR THEIR 8 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PROGRAM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE MEAL PROGRAM WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE LOSS OF REVENUE. MR. ROACHE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THAT OPEN AND COME BACK FOR EMERGENCY FUNDING IF NEEDED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WANTED TO DO WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD DO ALL THAT THEY CAN AND WILL TRY NOT TO CUT ANYTHING IN THE COUNCIL ON AGING BUDGET LINE.

JCNU- TEDD MOYD- MR. MOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JCNU, LISTED THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OFFERED BY JCNU. MR. MOYD SAID THEY HANDLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE COUNTY AND WOULD LIKE TO BECOME THE OFFICIAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR JASPER COUNTY BECAUSE THE CITIZENS HAVE TO TRAVEL TO BARNWELL. MR. MOYD DISCUSSED A CONTRACT FOR 25 TAX CREDIT PROPERTIES BEING BUILT OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED THE AMOUNT HE WAS REQUESTING AND MR. MOYD SAID \$30,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS EXPLORING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONCEPT WITH ATTORNEYS HOWELL, LINKOUS AND TERRY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IN 2006 A STUDY WAS DONE AND IT RECOMMENDED THAT JCNU BE THE COUNTY'S HOUSING AUTHORITY. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL PACKAGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT AN AUDIT AND A FINANCIAL STATEMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE THOUGHT THE COUNCIL REQUIRED AN AUDIT OR FINANCIAL REPORT FROM EVERYONE WHO IS REQUESTING FUNDING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IN THE PAST JCNU WAS NOT FUNDED UNDER AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME. MR. MOYD SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR COUNCIL. MR. MOYD SAID THEY FILE A 990 EVERY YEAR, BUT THEY WILL BE HAVING AN AUDIT DONE THIS YEAR. MR. MOYD SAID THAT JCNU GOES AFTER ALL TYPES OF FUNDING AND THEY ARE THE #1 PLAYER FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONEY THAT COMES INTO THIS AREA. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHY THEY ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING IN RIDGELAND AND MR. MOYD RESPONDED THAT IT IS KIND OF HARD TO GET PARTICIPATION IN RIDGELAND AND HE ASKED THE COUNCIL TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD OF WHAT JCNU HAS TO OFFER. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT MOBILE HOME REPAIR AND MR. MOYD SAID IT WAS LIMITED TO \$6,000 AND THE MOBILE HOME MUST BE LESS THAN 28 YEARS OLD.

DUE TO THE LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE PRESENT TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY'S REQUEST, CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOVED THE MEETING TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

AHJ – BETH MCNEER – MS. MCNEER SAID THAT THERE WERE 24,777 PEOPLE IN JASPER COUNTY AND THE LIBRARIES HAD 24,664 VISITS LAST YEAR. MS. MCNEER SAID SHE WAS REQUESTING \$6.90 PER CAPITA (\$179,961.30) FOR NEXT YEARS BUDGET. MS. MCNEER SAID A LOT OF THE CITIZENS AND CHILDREN DEPEND ON THE COMPUTERS AT THE LIBRARY. ANDREA BRAXTON, MARGARET BOSTICK, MARY VAN STEINBERG, SHAMIKA BLOODWORTH, LESLIE HART, DEBBIE CILA, KATHLEEN WILSON, CHRIS JONNER, ALVONIA BETTERSON, CATRINA STANLEY AND GLENNIS WATTS ALL DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LIBRARY AND THE KNOWLEDGE AND ENJOYMENT IT PROVIDES. GLENNIS WATTS SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND TO THE BACK OF THE PRATT BUILDING, BUT DUE TO THEIR BUDGET THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY IMPROVEMENTS. MS. WATTS DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS WAYS THEY HAVE TRIED TO CUT EXPENSES AND SHE ALSO DISCUSSED THEIR FUND RAISING EFFORTS. MS. WATTS SAID THAT TWO COMPUTERS ARE ABOUT TO GO AND THEY WERE REQUESTING AN INCREASE NOT FOR RAISES, BUT FOR OPERATING EXPENSES. MS. WATTS SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE HOURS EXTENDED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE LIBRARY INCREASED ITS SUMMER PROGRAM. MS. MCNEER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT TCL GAVE THE LIBRARY TWO LAPTOPS AND A DESKTOP COMPUTER TO BOTH LIBRARIES. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY HAVE CUT EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE CUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HOURS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY HOURS WERE CUT. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REINSTATE ALL THE HOURS BUT TWO. CHAIRMAN GREGORY THANKED EVERYONE FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND HE SAID HE KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THE LIBRARIES ARE TO THE SCHOOLS AND THE CHILDREN. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ADDED THAT THE LIBRARIES ARE NEEDED AND THE COUNCIL IS GOING TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

TO PROMOTE THE LIBRARIES. MR. FULGHUM COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS A REQUEST FOR A LIBRARY AD HOC MEETING AND THAT THE STAFF CAN WORK ON SOME OF THE REPAIR ISSUES.

RONNIE MALPHRUS – BUDGET OVERVIEW – DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS THIS ITEM WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP.

ALLIANCE – MR. FULGHUM ASKED TO HAVE THE LOW COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ADDED TO THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP AGENDA. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY NEEDED MORE SUPPORT FOR THE CASINO AND THE PORT AND HE HOPED THE GOVERNOR WOULD RECONSIDER BECAUSE THIS IS ABOUT JOBS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT THE PORT AND THE CASINO. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE HOPED THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS AUTHORITY WOULD GET BEHIND BOTH PROJECTS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO WRITE TO THE GOVERNOR AND INVITE HER TO COME TO JASPER COUNTY TO TALK ABOUT THE CASINO AND THE PORT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD WRITE A FOLLOW-UP LETTER.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SENATOR CLYBURN WAS IN JASPER COUNTY AND HIS VISIT RECEIVED NO COVERAGE FROM THE NEWSPAPER OR THE NEW STATIONS.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT MR. NANNI AND TED FELDER HAVE BOTH BEEN MAKING PRESENTATIONS ON THE CASINO'S BEHALF.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT THE GOVERNOR TURNED DOWN THE INDIANS IN YORK COUNTY AND THEY OWN THE RESERVATION.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THERE IS A BILL BEFORE THE SENATE TO CONSIDER ABOUT WASTE AND TAKING WASTE OUT OF THE COUNTY LINES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY BOTH HAD CALLS INTO SENATOR PINCKNEY.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TOUR THE SCHOOLS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL CHECK THEIR CALENDARS AND CONTACT THE CLERK TO COUNCIL FOR DATES TO TOUR THE COUNTY BUILDINGS AND KNOWLES ISLAND.

MR. FULGHUM INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THERE WILL BE A JOINT MEETING OF COUNCILS ON MAY 3, 2012.

ADJOURN- CHAIRMAN GREGORY ADJOURNED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING AT 5:25 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

REV. SAMUEL GREGORY
CHAIRMAN