



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
APRIL 6, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: COUNCILMAN L. MARTIN SAULS IV.

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR-ANDREW FULGHUM, CLERK TO COUNCIL-JUDITH FRANK, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - RONNIE MALPHRUS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

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 BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

AMEND THE AGENDA- CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR AMENDED THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR **DISCUSSION OF MATTERS** RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY

[MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PROJECT ROSE](#)

AND

DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY

SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM
FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND

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

INVOCATION- COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION

DISCUSSION

3:00 P.M. – MARGARET BOSTICK- MS. BOSTICK EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL THAT SHE PLANNED TO ASK THE COUNCIL TO REINSTATE TWO ITEMS THAT SHE REQUESTED THAT WERE CUT FROM THE BUDGET. MS. BOSTICK SAID THE ISSUE WAS RESOLVED BY THE BRIAN, THE NEW IT EMPLOYEE, WHO INFORMED HER THAT HE HAD THE NECESSARY SCANNER AND COMPUTER SHE NEEDED. MS. BOSTICK SAID THE NEW IT PERSON IS DOING A GREAT JOB AND IT SAVED THE COUNTY MONEY SINCE HE COULD PROVIDE HER WITH EXISTING EQUIPMENT. MS. BOSTICK SAID SHE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO HER BEST TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL.

3:15 - BOB MORRIS – JARM – MR. MORRIS THE PRESIDENT OF JARM DISCUSSED THE BUGET REQUEST. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY ARE VERY PROUD OF THE JOB THEY ARE DOING FOR JASPER COUNTY. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT CAROL ADAMS WOULD ASSIST HIM WITH THE PRESENTATION AND HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT MANY OF THE VOLUNTEERS, WORKERS AND BOARD MEMBER WERE PRESENT. MR. MORRIS EXPLAINED THEY ARE NOT AN ORDINARY ANIMAL SHELTER AND THE COUNTY IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A CONTRACT WITH JARM. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT JARM CAN QUALIFY FOR GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDING TO HELP SUPPORT THE SHELTER. MR. MORRIS SAID THE JASPER COUNTY ONLY PROVIDES 50% OF THE SHELTER'S OPERATING EXPENSES. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY FOCUS ON HUMANE CARE OF THE ANIMALS AND THEY TRY TO PLACE AS MANY OF THE ANIMALS AS POSSIBLE. MR. MORRIS LISTED THAT VARIOUS WAYS THEY TRY TO FIND HOMES FOR THE ANIMALS. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY HAVE NO TIME LIMIT AS TO HOW LONG THEY KEEP AN ANIMAL. MR. MORRIS SAID THE COUNTY BUILT THE SHELTER TO HANDLE ABOUT 1,000 ANIMALS A YEAR AND CURRENTLY JARM HANDLES ABOUT 2,600 ANIMALS AND THEY NEED MORE SPACE. SCOTT HOLLOWAY, SHELTER DIRECTOR, SAID THEY RECEIVE ANIMALS FROM RIDGELAND, HARDEEVILLE AND THE COUNTY. MR. HOLLOWAY SAID THE PEOPLE MUST PROVIDE PROOF THEY ARE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY IF THEY DROP ANIMALS OFF AT THE SHELTER. CAROL ADAMS DISCUSSED THE FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE SHELTER INCLUDING THE DONATIONS OF MONEY, FOOD AND TIME. MS. ADAMS SAID THE COST IS INCREASING DUE TO THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS, THE AGING EQUIPMENT, FUEL COSTS AND INFLATION. BOB MORRIS SAID THEY ALL WORK VERY HARD. MR. MORRIS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE AND MR. HOLLOWAY MADE A PRESENTATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY GIVE JARM THE OLD DETENTION CENTER FACILITY AND THE LAND AROUND IT TO EXPAND THE SHELTER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE MUNICIPALITIES PROVIDE ANY SUPPORT. MR. MORRIS SAID HARDEEVILLE COUNCIL PROVIDED DONATIONS PERSONALLY AND JARM AND RIDGELAND GIVES THEM A BREAK ON THEIR WATTER BILL. MR. MORRIS SAID HE HOPED THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT SHORTCHANGE THE ORGANIZATION AND TURN IT BACK INTO A REGULAR COUNTY SHELTER. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY WERE NOT ASKING FOR AN INCREASE, BUT THAT THEIR APPROPRIATION BE REINSTATED TO WHAT IT WAS 3 YEARS AGO. MR. MORRIS SAID JARM WAS REQUESTING \$183,000 AND THE OLD DETENTION CENTER PROPERTY. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HE HAS BEEN LISTENING AND HE DID NOT THINK MS. ADAMS ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL PROPERLY. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT JARM HAS EXPERIENCE A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL AND HE APOLOGIZED IF THE COUNCIL WAS OFFENDED. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HE DID NOT FEEL "HI EVERYONE" WAS A PROPER WAY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL. MR. MORRIS INVITED THE COUNCIL TO VISIT THE SHELTER.

3:30 - TEDD MOYD - JASPER COUNTY NEIGHBORS UNITED - MR. MOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JCNU, TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED THE \$90,000 THE COUNTY HAS PROVIDED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. MR. MOYD SAID JCNU SERVES LOW TO MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES IN THE COUNTY. MR. MOYD LISTED THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AND HOME REPAIRS DONE THROUGH JCNU. MR. MOYD REQUESTED \$50,000 AND EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASE WAS TO COVER OPERATING EXPENSES. MR. MOYD ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL MAKE JCNU AN ANNUAL LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET SINCE THEY ARE THE ONLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGENCY IN THE COUNTY. MR. MOYD ALSO ASKED THAT THE COUNTY MAKE JCNU THE COUNTY'S HOUSING AUTHORITY. MR. MOYD SAID THAT JCNU WAS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH BLUFFTON TO BECOME THEIR HOUSING AUTHORITY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF JCNU HAD ANY PROJECTS IN THE COUNTY. MR. MOYD SAID THAT MOST OF THE REHAB JOBS HAVE BEEN IN THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED FOR A FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JCNU AND MR. MOYD SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE ONE FOR THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED HOW MUCH JCNU RECEIVED LAST YEAR. MR. MOYD SAID \$30,000. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THEY DID ANY WORK IN WAGON BRANCH. MR. MOYD SAID THEY OWN A FEW HOUSES WITH VERY AFFORDABLE RENT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHERE GARR LANE WAS LOCATED AND MR. MOYD SAID IT IS BY THE POST OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE. MR. MOYD SAID THEY ARE DOING GREAT THINGS AND THEY NEED THE COUNTY'S HELP TO MAKE THEM A REALITY.

3:45 - COUNCIL DISCUSSION - MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED THE REASSESSMENT VALUES WHICH ARE DOWN. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL AT THAT MR. MALPHRUS PREPARED A REPORT; HOWEVER THEY DO NOT HAVE THE NEW GROWTH VALUES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MR. JONES WAS ALSO WORKING ON SOME ISSUES AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

FEES. MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A MEMO AS TO WHERE THE COUNTY STOOD VALUE WISE AND SAID THE VALUE DECREASED ABOUT 11% AND HE WAS CHECKING IF THE MILLAGE COULD BE ROLLED FORWARD. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RULING IS ROLLING THE MILLAGE FORWARD IS NOT ALLOWED THEN THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE UP THE \$1,400,000. MR. FULGHUM COMMENTED THAT ONLY DORCHESTER COUNTY HAD MORE GROWTH THAN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT DEBT SERVICE MILLS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WOULD INCREASE BY 3 MILLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MR. JONES IS WORKING ON A DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE FEES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT PERMANENT FINANCING FOR THE BANS WILL START IN JULY AND THE BOND ATTORNEY RECOMMENDED PAYING DOWN THE LOAD PRIOR TO BONDING OUT SO THAT THE COUNTY WILL GETS A BETTER RATE. MR. MALPHRUS ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND IT WAS SUGGESTED TO USE PART OF THE REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE CAMPUS PROJECT TO MAKE THE REPAIRS TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT USING SOME OF THE FUNDS TO REPAIR THE DSS BUILDING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COULD BE DONE, BUT THE BONDING HAS TO BE DONE BY JULY 1. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID TO LOOK INTO IT IMMEDIATELY AND SEE WHAT THE COSTS WOULD BE SINCE THERE ARE TIME CONSTRAINTS. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE THE COST OF THE REPAIRS NEEDED AT THE DSS BUILDING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE FELT HE WOULD HAVE THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET READY TO PRESENT AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR PRESENTED AT LETTER FROM THE RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL INVITING THE COUNCIL TO BREAKFAST WITH THE PRINCIPAL ON APRIL 13, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE, MR. FULGHUM AND MS. FRANK AGREED TO ATTEND.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY - [MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PROJECT ROSE](#); AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM -[FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF](#)

HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL RECEIVED INFORMATION ON PROJECT ROSE AND THE FIRE CONTRACTS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING FOR APRIL 7, 2011 TO DISCUSS THE FIRE CONTRACTS AND THE MOU FOR PROJECT ROSE.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
CHAIRMAN