



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
APRIL 7, 2010
3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT: DR. GEORGE HOOD - CHAIRMAN, LEROY BLACKSHEAR – VICE CHAIRMAN, REV. SAMUEL GREGORY – COUNCILMAN

OFFICIALS ABSENT: HENRY ETHERIDGE – COUNCILMAN, HUBERT TYLER – COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT: ANDREW FULGHUM - ADMINISTRATOR, RONNIE MALPHRUS - DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATIVE 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 3:05 P.M.

INVOCATION: VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

ANN WALKER – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB: MS. WALKER SAID THAT SHE WAS REQUESTING \$10,000.00 AND THAT SHE BROUGHT MEMBERS OF HER STAFF TO EXPLAIN WHAT THEY DO AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. MS. WALKER LISTED VARIOUS CELEBRITIES THAT ARE ALUMNI OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS. MS. WALKER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT SINCE THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OPENED IN 2001 THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FROM JASPER COUNTY HAVE ATTENDED. MS. WALKER SAID IT COST \$20.00 PER YEAR, PER STUDENT TO BELONG AND THAT THERE ARE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE \$20.00. MS. WALKER SAID NO CHILD HAS EVER BEEN TURNED AWAY FROM THE CLUB BECAUSE THEY

COULD NOT AFFORD THE MEMBERSHIP. MS. WALKER SAID THAT LAST YEAR THEY ALMOST HAD TO CLOSE THE CLUB FOR LACK OF FUNDING; HOWEVER, THEY RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE MILBANK FAMILY AND THE UNITED WAY THAT ALLOWED THE CLUB TO STAY OPEN. MS. WALKER EXPLAINED THAT THEY ARE NOT BABYSITTERS, THEY ARE YOUTH DEVELOPERS. MS. WALKER REVIEWED THE ACTIVITIES AT THE CLUB. ANDREA RIVERS, CLIFTON SMITH, CORY DAVIS AND MR. SEYMOUR DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER AND BRANDON FAZION, A MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND PRESIDENT OF THE PASSPORT TO MANHOOD PROGRAM, RELATED THE IMPORTANT PART THE CLUB HAS PLAYED IN HIS LIFE. THE CLUB PROVIDES HELP WITH HOMEWORK, AS WELL AS OFFERING CLASSES IN DANCE, ART, GAMES, SPORTS AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES. MS. DAVIS STATED THAT THROUGH POWER HOUR WHEN THE CHILDREN WORK ON HOMEWORK OR SCHOOL RELATED MATERIALS HAS INCREASED THE STUDENTS MATH GRADES BY 44%, ENGLISH GRADES BY 60% AND SCIENCE GRADES BY 55%. MR. SEYMOUR SAID THEY COULD REALLY USE A GYM FOR THE CHILDREN, BUT THE GYM AT THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN CONDEMNED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THEY SPOKE WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD TO FIX THE GYM. MS. WALKER SAID THEY HAVE NOT. MS. WALKER SAID THE ABOUT 120 CHILDREN ATTEND THE CLUB EACH DAY. MS. WALKER SAID THAT THEY ARE STILL UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE LOWCOUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, BUT THEY HAVE TO FUND THEMSELVES OR THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY OPEN. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MS. WALKER TO PRESENT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES AT A COUNCIL MEETING SO THAT THE PUBLIC IS AWARE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE CLUB.

CARL ROACHE – COUNCIL ON AGING: MR. ROACHE EXPLAINED THAT THEY OPERATE CENTERS LOCATED IN HARDEEVILLE, RIDGELAND AND ROBERTVILLE AND DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS THROUGH OUT THE COUNTY. MR. ROACHE SAID THE COUNCIL ON AGING OFFERS VARIOUS CLASSES FOR THE ELDERLY, AS WELL AS DAY TRIPS. MR. ROACHE EXPLAINED THAT ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF 60 IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART IN ANY OF THE PROGRAMS OFFERED. MR. ROACHE REQUESTED \$100,000.00 WHICH IS EXACTLY THE SAME AMOUNT THAT THEY WERE FUNDED LAST YEAR.

BILL STANLEY – HARDEEVILLE MARINE RESCUE: MR. STANLEY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE HARDEEVILLE MARINE RESCUE HAS 37 VOLUNTEERS WHO SPENT 171 HOURS RUNNING 13 MISSION. MR. STANLEY SAID THAT THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE ANY EQUIPMENT FOR MARINE RESCUE AND THE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION USE THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT OR EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN DONATED TO THEM. MR. STANLEY EXPLAINED THAT THEIR BUDGET BEING CUT TO \$1,000.00 LAST YEAR CREATED A HARDSHIP FOR THEM AND THEY HAD TO USE THEIR RESERVE FUND TO KEEP THE ELECTRIC TURNED ON. MR. STANLEY SAID THEY CUT THE PHONES OFF AND HAVE BEEN USING THEIR OWN GAS. MR. STANLEY ASKED THAT THEIR BUDGET BE REINSTATED TO \$3,000.00

PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THEM. MR. STANLEY SAID THE VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE A GREAT SERVICE TO THE COUNTY AND IT WOULD COST THE COUNTY A LOT MORE THAN \$3,000.00 TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE THEMSELVES.

BETH MCNEER - AHJ LIBRARIES:

MS. MCNEER REQUESTED THAT THE COUNTY RESTORE FUNDING TO THE AHJ LIBRARIES TO \$142,700.00. MS. MCNEER SAID THAT IF NO STATE AID IS RECEIVED, THE JASPER COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO OPERATE PART-TIME. GLENNIS WATTS ASKED WHERE THE CHILDREN WILL BE IN 10-15 YEARS, WHERE IN THE COMMUNITY CAN THEY GO BESIDE SCHOOL, IF THE LIBRARY IS NOT OPEN. RANDY BEELER, A TEACHER IN THE RIDGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT MOST OF THE CHILDREN'S FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET AND THEY USE THE ONES AT THE LIBRARY. MR. BEELER SAID THAT IF THE LIBRARY IS ONLY OPEN PART-TIME, IT WILL REALLY HURT THE STUDENTS. KATHLEEN WILSON SAID THE COUNTY CAN PAY NOW OR PAY LATER. OLIVIA RIVERS, A SENIOR AT RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL, SAID THE SCHEDULE AT THE LIBRARY AT THE SCHOOL IS VERY TIGHT AND SHE UTILITIZES THE COMPUTERS AT PRATT LIBRARY FOR RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE. MS. WILSON SAID THE LIBRARIES HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER SCHOOL AND IF THE FUNDING IS NOT RESTORED, THE HOURS WILL HAVE TO BE CUT. MS. WILSON SAID THE COUNCIL CAN PAY FOR THINGS TO INCREASE EDUCATION OR PAY FOR JAILS. J.W. BADGER SAID THE HARDEEVILLE LIBRARY IS CRITICAL TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEY NEED MORE COMPUTERS AND THEY NEED TO BE OPEN LONGER HOURS TO BENEFIT THE SENIORS AND THE CHILDREN. MS. BADGER SAID BETTER SECURITY IS ALSO NEEDED AS THE HARDEEVILLE LIBRARY WAS BROKEN INTO AND ROBBED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MS. MCNEER TO CONTACT CHRISTY HERMAN, AT THE COUNTY, OR MICHELLE KNIGHT, AT LCOG REGARDING CDBG FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY APPLIED FOR A GRANT FOR THE HARDEEVILLE LIBRARY, BUT DID NOT GET IT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THERE WAS NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE. SUE COULTER TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WILL LOOSE THE \$60,000.00 FROM THE STATE IF THEY ARE NOT FUNDED THE \$142,700.00. MS. COULTER SAID THE \$60,000.00 THEY RECEIVE FROM THE STATE IS USED FOR NEW BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS.

BOB MORRIS AND MARY ELISE GABBARD - JARM: MR. MORRIS REVIEWED THE JARM MISSION STATEMENT, AND TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SHELTER IS OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY HAVE A DIRECTOR, FIVE FULL-TIME AND 3 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND MANY VOLUNTEERS. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY PROVIDES 52% OF THE FUNDS NEEDED TO OPERATE. MR. MORRIS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THEY HAVE INCOME FROM ADOPTIONS, AND VARIOUS SOURCES, BUT THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE A \$20,000.00 SHORTFALL THIS YEAR. MR. MORRIS SAID THEY HAVE PROJECTED \$276,600.00 TO OPERATE JARM. MR. MORRIS DISCUSSED VARIOUS WAYS THEY HAVE TRIED TO CUT COSTS AND FUND

RAISING EVENTS. MR. MORRIS LISTED SOME OF THE UPGRADES THEY HAVE MADE TO THE SHELTER. MR. MORRIS REQUESTED \$181,560.00. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT RESTRICTED FUNDS AND HOW THEY CAN BE SPENT. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT GRANTS MUST BE USED FOR THE SPECIFIC REASON THEY WERE AWARDED. MR. MORRIS SAID THE ENDOWMENTS HAVE NOT MADE MUCH MONEY THIS YEAR AND ONLY THE INCOME FROM THE ENDOWMENT CAN BE USED AS STIPUTLATED BY THE DONOR. MS. GABBARD SAID SHE WAS VERY PROUD OF WHAT JARM HAS BECOME AND THEY HAVE THE BEST STAFF OF DEDICATED WORKERS. MS. GABBARD SAID JARM HAS A VERY GOOD REPUTATION AND PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER TO AOPT THE ANIMALS. MS GABBARD INVITED THE COUNCIL TO VISIT THE SHELTER. MS. GABBARD SAID THEY RECEIVED A GRANT FOR SPAY AND NEUTERING THE ANIMALS AND THAT HAS HELPED A LOT AND JARM CAN HELP PEOPLE WITH FUNDING TO HAVE THEIR ANIMALS SPAYED OR NEUTERED. MS. GLADYS BOSTICK WILLIAMS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF JARM AND ANIMAL CONTROL. SHE SAID THEY WERE DOING A GREAT JOB AND HAVE HELPED IN THE AREA OF THE COUNTY WHERE SHE LIVED.

CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED THE PEOPLE AND SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE TO DO THE BEST THAT THEY CAN. CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED THE CUTS FROM THE STATE AND ASKED THE CITIZENS TO CONTACT THE GOVERNOR, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND ASK THEM NOT TO CUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY SAID THE ONLY NEW REVENUE THEY ARE DISCUSSING IN COLUMBIA IS A TAX ON CIGARETTES.

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

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ENDED AT 4:55 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN