



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
MAY 11, 2011  
10:00 A.M.**

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**MINUTES**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** CLERK TO COUNCIL-JUDITH FRANK, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - RONNIE MALPHRUS

**STAFF ABSENT:** ADMINISTRATOR-ANDREW FULGHUM

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.

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

**INVOCATION-** CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**DISCUSSION-** MR. MALPHRUS GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE DIRECTION THE BUDGET WAS HEADED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS CONCERNED AS THE TAX REVENUE WAS NOT COMING IN AS THEY WOULD LIKE IT TO AND THEY COULD BE SHORT ON REVENUE AGAIN THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE ROLL FORWARD NUMBERS WILL BE AFFECTED BECAUSE THEY ARE BASED ON THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF TAXES COLLECTED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE BEST PROJECTION WOULD BE THAT THE BUDGET NEEDED TO BE CUT \$700,000-\$800,000, FOR NO MILLAGE INCREASE, JUST TO BE WHERE THEY NEEDED TO BE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW MUCH A MILL WAS WORTH AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY MILL WAS WORTH \$97,000 AND THE SCHOOL MILL WAS WORTH \$72,500. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE VALUE OF THE COUNTY MILL MAY HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED TO \$92,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE VALUE

OF THE SCHOOL MILL WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF THEY GAVE THE SCHOOLS THE 4.26 MILLS INCREASE, THE INCREASE WOULD NOT APPLY TO OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL HE REQUESTED THE SCHOOL'S DEBT SERVICE, BUT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED IT. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THERE WAS A REASON FOR THE SLOW COLLECTIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE PEOPLE ARE WAITING UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PAY AND TAX APPEALS CAN BE DONE AT ANYTIME AND IF THE VALUE IS LESS, THE COUNTY MUST PAYS A REFUND. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY REMEMDY FOR THIS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY COULD ADJUST THE PROPERTY TAX NUMBERS DOWN TO MAKE UP FOR THE SLOW PAY AND THEY COULD ALSO ADJUST THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT THE INSTALLMENT TAX PAYMENTS. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT HAPPENED LAST YEAR, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP ON THE EXPENDITURE SIDE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ABOUT 200 PEOPLE SIGNED UP, BUT ONLY ABOUT 50 MADE PAYMENTS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE TREASURER SENT OUT LETTERS CORRECTING THE STATEMENT THAT WAS MADE REGARDING THE INSTALLMENT TAXES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE TALKED WITH THE TREASURER, BUT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY LETTER BEING SENT OUT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED MR. MALPHRUS IF HE NOTIFIED HER IN WRITING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE ONLY TALKED TO HER. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT MR. MALPHRUS NOTIFIY THE TREASURER IN WRITING THAT SHE WAS TO SEND OUT A LETTER CORRECTING THE STATEMENT REGARDING THE PAYMENTS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE STATEMENT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TREASURER'S LETTER MAY BE THE REASON THE PEOPLE WERE NOT MAKING THE PAYMENTS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE TAXES THAT WERE COLLECTED AT THE END OF THE YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WILL COUNT IN NEXT YEARS BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT THE INCREASE IN MILLS FOR DEBT SERVICE IS PAID BY EVERYONE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID EVERYONE PAYS FOR THE DEBT SERVICE OF THE COUNTY AND THE SCHOOLS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE CONTRACTS THE COUNTY HAS FOR MOWING GRASS AT THE FIRE STATIONS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THOSE CONTRACTS COST ABOUT \$7,000-\$8,000. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE FIREFIGHTERS SHOULD BE CUTTING THE GRASS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY PAY SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THE YARD MAINTENCE AT THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND THE COURTHOUSE SINCE PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE CREW WAS CUT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED MR. MALPHRUS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A LIST OF ALL THE CONTRACTS AND THE TRUE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT AND TO SEE WHICH ONES THE EMPLOYEES CAN HANDLE. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF BRIAN CHECKED THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS AND IF ANY COULD BE ELIMINATED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT BRIAN WOULD LIKE LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE FOR THIS YEAR UNTIL HE HAS TIME TO EVALUATE WHAT THE COUNTY NEEDS AND WHAT IT DOES NOT NEED. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF \$100,000 COULD BE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT SMITH DATA IS

DOWN AND IT LOST 2-3 WEEKS WORTH OF WORK THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RE-ENTERED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE TAX OFFICES AND THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WERE AFFECTED. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE FUNDS TO REPAIR DSS AND THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS ENOUGH MONEY LEFT TO COVER BOTH. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT \$800,000 NEEDED TO BE CUT FROM THE BUDGET AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNCIL COULD INCREASE THE MILLS OR FIND THE \$800,000 TO CUT.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPENSATION, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, OR RELEASE OF AN EMPLOYEE, A STUDENT, OR A PERSON REGULATED BY A PUBLIC BODY OR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO A PUBLIC BODY; HOWEVER, IF AN ADVERSARY HEARING INVOLVING AN EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT IS HELD, THE EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE HEARING BE CONDUCTED PUBLICLY NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ITEM SHALL PREVENT THE PUBLIC BODY, IN ITS DISCRETION, FROM DELETING THE NAMES OF OTHER EMPLOYEES OR CLIENTS WHOSE RECORDS ARE SUBMITTED FOR USE AT THE HEARING DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, THE RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE 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 -** COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPENSATION, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, OR RELEASE OF AN EMPLOYEE, A STUDENT, OR A PERSON REGULATED BY A PUBLIC BODY OR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO A PUBLIC BODY; HOWEVER, IF AN ADVERSARY HEARING INVOLVING AN EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT IS HELD, THE EMPLOYEE OR CLIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE HEARING BE CONDUCTED PUBLICLY NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS ITEM SHALL PREVENT THE PUBLIC BODY, IN ITS DISCRETION, FROM DELETING THE NAMES OF OTHER EMPLOYEES OR CLIENTS WHOSE RECORDS ARE SUBMITTED FOR USE AT THE HEARING DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, THE RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE 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. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**THE COUNCIL BROKE FOR LUNCH AT NOON AND RETURNED AT 1:00 P.M. TO RESUMED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR STATED NO ACTION WAS NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**ANDREW FULGHUM– 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF JASPER COUNTY TO BE TITLED “FEES” AND TO CREATE ARTICLE I TO BE TITLED JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FUND CONSISITING OF SEC. 27-1. JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FUND ESTABLISHED; USES; SEC. 27-2. JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE; AND SEC. 27-4. CIVIL PENALITIES –** CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED FOR A MOTION. **COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF JASPER COUNTY TO BE TITLED “FEES” AND TO CREATE ARTICLE I TO BE TITLED JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FUND CONSISITING OF SEC. 27-1. JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FUND ESTABLISHED; USES; SEC. 27-2. JASPER COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE; AND SEC. 27-4. CIVIL PENALITIES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SHARED AN INVITATION TO THE COURTHOUSE DEDICATION.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FUNERAL OF MS. WHITE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE NAMING OF THE TWO SCHOOL AUDITORIUMS HONOR GENERAL NEWTON (RIDGELAND) AND GENERAL SMART (HARDEEVILLE).

**ADJOURN – VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

THE MEETING ENDED AT 3:10 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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LEROY BLACKSHEAR  
CHAIRMAN

