



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

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**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 16, 2012, 3:30 P.M.  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
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, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES DALE TERRY

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 3:35 P.M.

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

**INVOCATION** - COUNCILMAN DRAYTON GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**AMEND THE AGENDA** – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADD THE RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE THE AUTHORITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE JASPER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE REPRESENTING JASPER COUNTY TO CONTINUE THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINDING UP THE AFFAIRS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST TO THE SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE TO ACCEPT JASPER COUNTY FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - SHERIFF JENKINS-** SHERIFF JENKINS REQUESTED, NEW PERSONNEL, NEW CARS, NEW UNIFORMS AND AN INCREASE FOR TRAVEL AND TRAINING AND OVERTIME. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT THE UNIFORMS NEED REPLACED, AND THEY HAVE CARS HAVE 150,000- 200,000 MILES ON THEM. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY HAVE TO USE THEIR OWN PERSONAL CARS AT TIMES BECAUSE OF OTHERS NEED REPAIRED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED HOW MANY VEHICLES NEEDED REPLACED. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT 15 CARS HAVE VERY HIGH MILEAGE. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HIS DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY NEW VEHICLES SINCE 2008. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID 15 NEW CARS WOULD COST \$450,000 AND HE ASKED WHY THE SHERIFF WAITED UNTIL THE CARS WERE IN THIS CONDITION

TO REQUEST NEW ONES. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE REQUESTED VEHICLES BEFORE, BUT THEY WERE CUT FROM THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF A VEHICLE IS TOTALED DOES THE MONEY FROM INSURANCE GO INTO THE GENERAL FUND AND HOW MUCH MONEY WAS PUT IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR TOTALED CARS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ABOUT \$7,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT OTHER CLAIMS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THOSE FUNDS ARE USED TO PAY FOR THE REPAIRS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY CARS WERE IN SERVICE AND SHERIFF JENKINS RESPONDED 35-38 AND HALF OF THEM ARE WORN OUT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT NEW EMPLOYEES AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE HAS NOT HAD NEW POSITIONS SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT SALARIES AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE DID NOT ASK FOR AN INCREASE IN SALARIES, BUT HE DID ASK FOR THE OVERTIME LINE TO BE INCREASED FROM \$10,000 TO \$15,000 AT THE LEAST. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT \$6,500 IS NOT ENOUGH; SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY ALL NEED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WHILE SOME TRAINING IS FREE, THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING LINE NEEDS TO BE INCREASED TO \$13,500. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT GRANTS AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY RECEIVED GRANTS FOR VARIOUS ITEMS AND THE COUNCIL HAS TO APPROVE ALL GRANTS SINCE THERE IS A MATCH. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE SRO OFFICERS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY ARE FUNDED FOR ONE MORE YEAR AND THEN THE SCHOOL HAS AGREED TO PICK UP THE COST. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE SCHOOL AGREED TO THIS WHEN THE GRANT WAS ISSUED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE COUNTY SHOULD NOT HAVE PURCHASED 20 CARS AT ONE TIME, THE PURCHASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN STAGGERED SO THEY DID NOT ALL WEAR OUT AT THE SAME TIME. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY ARE DRIVING CARS FROM 2003. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHAT THE \$150,000 FOR NEW PERSONNEL COVERED AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID SALARY, BENEFITS, UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR 3 EMPLOYEES. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID IF THEY COULD PURCHASE DODGE VEHICLES, THEY COULD TRANSFER AND USE THE OLD EQUIPMENT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OLD CARS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ARE SOLD ON GOV. DEALS AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY LIKE TO KEEP 3 FOR SPARES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID I-95 IS LIKE A PIPELINE AND THE MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN MAKING A LOT OF BUSTS WHICH HELPS COVER EXPENSES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE SHERIFF HAS A GROUP TO WORK I – 95. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY WORK THE ENTIRE COUNTY. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID IF HE HAD 3 MORE EMPLOYEES THEY COULD CONCENTRATE ON TRAFFIC AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THEY HAVE 2 OFFICERS AND 2 TRAFFIC DOGS, BUT NOT A SPECIFIC TEAM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE FINES AND FEES GENERATED BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FUNDS COME THROUGH THE MAGISTRATES OFFICE AND 60% GOES TO THE STATE AND 40% TO THE COUNTY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE AMOUNT GENERATED BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COULD BE SEPARATED OUT FROM THE OTHER MAGISTRATE FUNDS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WOULD CHECK AND SEE IF THE MAGISTRATES CAN WORK THAT OUT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT WRITING MORE TICKETS COULD HELP PAY FOR THE VEHICLES AND MANPOWER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE 40% THAT COMES TO THE COUNTY GOES INTO THE GENERAL FUND. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE MONEY FROM DRUGS. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT MONEY IS PUT BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY FOR VEHICLES, WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID IT CANNOT BE USED FOR PERSONNEL. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE MONEY FROM DRUGS GOES INTO THE DRUG FUND AND THAT IS CONTROLLED BY THE SHERIFF. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT MONEY IS BEING USED FOR OVERTIME WHEN THEY GO OVER \$10,000, BUT IF THE COUNTY FUNDED THE OVERTIME IN HIS BUDGET, HE COULD USE THAT MONEY FOR NEW VEHICLES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER SESSION WITH THE SHERIFF TO EXPAND ON HIS REQUESTS.

**TREASURER –VERNA GARVIN** – MS. GARVIN SAID THAT SHE NEEDED NEW COMPUTERS, PRINTERS AND A TAX REFUND SYSTEM FROM SMITH DATA. MS. GARVIN SAID THAT CURRENTLY SHE IS HAND WRITING

THE REFUND CHECKS. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED MS. GARVIN TO CHECK AND SEE IF IT WAS CHEAPER TO LEASE THE EQUIPMENT. MS. GARVIN SAID SHE ALSO REQUESTED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. MS. GARVIN SAID HER DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO START ISSUING DECALS AND THEY WILL COLLECT \$1.00 FOR EACH DECAL. MS. GARVIN SAID THAT CURRENTLY THE DMV ISSUES ABOUT 23,000 DECALS A YEAR AND HER DEPARTMENT WOULD BE TAKING THAT OVER FROM THE STATE. MS. GARVIN SAID 80 CENTS OF EACH DOLLAR COLLECT FOR DECALS WILL GO TO THE COUNTY AND 20 CENTS WILL GO TO SMITH DATA TO COVER THE PROCESSING AND MAINTENANCE SINCE THIS IS A NEW PROCESS. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT SMITH DATA WOULD BUILD A FILE FOR THE SYSTEM TO WORK OFF OF. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF MS. GARVIN WOULD STILL NEED THE CONTRACT LABOR. MS. GARVIN SAID THE CONTRACT LABOR WORKS FROM OCTOBER TO MARCH. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHY SHE DID NOT HIRE NEW PERSONNEL INSTEAD OF CONTRACT LABOR. MS. GARVIN RESPONDED THAT SHE HAS BEEN REQUESTING NEW PERSONNEL FOR THREE YEARS AND IF THE COUNCIL WOULD APPROVE NEW PERSONNEL, SHE WOULD NOT NEED THE CONTRACT LABOR AND SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND SOMEONE TO HARDEEVILLE TWICE A WEEK. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT 30% FRINGE BENEFITS WOULD ALSO NEED TO BE ADDED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE NEW PERSONNEL AND THE PRINTER WOULD BE ABOUT \$36,000. MS. GARVIN SAID THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE OFFSET BY THE INCOME FOR THE DECALS AND THE \$7,500 FOR THE CONTRACT LABOR.

**HEALTH DEPT. - KIM MALPHRUS AND MARY EDMONDS** – MS. EDMONDS SAID THAT CURRENTLY \$6,000 IS APPROPRIATED TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SINCE THEY ARE DISPLACED FROM THE RIDGELAND FACILITY, THEY WERE REQUESTING \$3,000 WITH THE RESERVATION THAT WHEN THEY RETURN TO RIDGELAND IT WOULD GO BACK UP TO THE \$6,000. MS. EDMONDS SAID THEY ALSO SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL REGARDING THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING. DR. HOOD ASKED SHOULD THEY MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PLANS FOR THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDINGS SINCE THE GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE WAS IN SEPT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD DISCUSS THIS AND GIVE THE STAFF DIRECTION.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT – DR. WASHINGTON, DR. HOLMES AND MS. MACKHUFF** - MS. MACKHUFF TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY WERE REQUESTING FUNDS TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE PROGRAMS. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THE SCHOOLS DEPEND ON THE STATE AND THE COUNTY FOR THEIR FUNDING TO OPERATE THE SCHOOLS. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT NO PRIVATE OR CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM CAN EDUCATE ALL THE CHILDREN AND THEY WANT TO MAINTAIN THE PROGRESS SEEN IN JASPER COUNTY AT THE STATE LEVEL. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY WANT TO OPERATE AT THE OPTIMUM LEVEL AND GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHOICE. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THEY NEEDED \$1,300,000 TO COVER NONE BUDGET ITEMS. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THE ENROLLMENT HAS REMAINED STEADY, BUT WITH 274 STUDENTS GOING TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL, IT WILL CREATE A LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY \$330,000 IN INCOME TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THE STATE FUNDS PER STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL GOES TO CHARTER SCHOOL, BUT THE COUNTY FUNDS DO NOT. MS. MACKHUFF PROVIDED THE PROJECTED GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND THE CUTS IN OTHER AREAS AND WHERE THE MONEY GOES. MS. MACKHUFF SAID 67% GOES INTO INSTRUCTION. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CLASSROOM AND IT WOULD BE A TIGHT FIT HERE AND THEY LIKE TO HAVE SMALLER CLASSES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE TEACHERS HAD AIDES AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID ONLY KINDERGARTEN. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THEY HAVE A CAP OF 4.12 AND THEY WERE REQUESTING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT THE 4.12 MILLAGE INCREASE IF FROM LAST YEAR TO THIS YEAR, BUT IT CAN BE REDUCED. MS. MACKHUFF SAID THAT THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE MILL CAN CHANGE. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT INCREASE FROM THE STATE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF IT COULD DECREASE AND MS. MACKHUFF SAID THEY DO NOT HAVE THE VALUE OF THE MILL YET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE 4.12 CAP WOULD BE

ADDED TO THE 165.25 EQUALING 6.8 MILLS WHICH WOULD BRING THE SCHOOLS TO 172 MILLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS WAITING ON THE NUMBERS FROM THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CUT COSTS. DR. WASHINGTON SAID CONSOLIDATION OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND THE HIGH SCHOOLS IS BEING DISCUSSED. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT WE HAVE A SMALL SYSTEM AND IT IS NOT CHEAP TO OPERATE. DR. WASHINGTON SAID IF THEY COMBINED THE MIDDLE SCHOOL THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 650 STUDENTS AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER MORE FOR LESS THAN THEY CAN CURRENTLY PROVIDE WITH 560 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RIDGELAND AND 190 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN HARDEEVILLE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD BE SAVED IF THE SCHOOLS WERE CONSOLIDATED AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID ABOUT \$1,500,000 IS THE ESTIMATE, BUT THAT IS NOT WRITTEN IN STONE, BUT THERE WILL BE A SAVINGS AND IT WOULD SYMBOLICALLY BRING THE COUNTY TOGETHER. DR. WASHINGTON SAID SHE HAS RESEARCHED IT AND THERE ARE MONEY SAVINGS AND THE SERVICES CAN BE A LOT BETTER. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE DECISION WOULD BE SOON AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT SHE HOPED TO HAVE A DECISION SOON AND THERE WAS A LOT AT STAKE NOT TO CONSIDER IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE HIGH SCHOOL WOULD BE IN ONE CAMPUS AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE OTHER. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THE CONSOLIDATION WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND WOULD BALANCE THE CLASSES. DR. HOLMES ADDED THAT THE STATE MAINTAINS THE BUSES AND THE FUEL WOULD NOT INCREASE THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS THE TOTAL REVENUE AND DR. WASHINGTON RESPONDED \$23,900,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT 12% GOES TO SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT PERCENTAGE OF MONEY WILL NOT CHANGE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE ELEMENTARY GRADES WOULD STAY WHERE THEY ARE NOW AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY WOULD. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THERE WERE 1,100 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN RIDGELAND AND 890 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN HARDEEVILLE. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE SCHOOLS WILL CREATE GRADUAL SAVINGS THAT WILL INCREASE ANNUALLY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF ANY OF THE STUDENTS GOING TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL COME BACK TO THE PUBLIC SYSTEM, WILL THE MONEY PER STUDENT ALSO COME BACK. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY WOULD NOT GET ANYTHING BACK AND THE NUMBERS WOULD CHANGE IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. CHAIRMAN GREGORY DISCUSSED THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING BACK TO JASPER SCHOOL THAT WERE ATTENDING SCHOOL IN BEAUFORT COUNTY. DR. WASHINGTON THEY WOULD ONLY GET THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. DR. WASHINGTON THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY THANKED THEM FOR THEIR PRESENTATION.

**RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE THE AUTHORITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE JASPER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE REPRESENTING JASPER COUNTY TO CONTINUE THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINDING UP THE AFFAIRS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST TO THE SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE TO ACCEPT JASPER COUNTY FOR MEMBERSHIP –**

MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH NEWSPAPER ARTICLES CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CASINO PROJECT AND A LETTER FROM THE NEW RIVER AUTO MALL . VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT THE NEW RIVER AUTO MALL HAS 5-6 DEALERSHIPS AND THE LETTER FROM MR. BEAR IS IN REGARDS THE NON SUPPORT RULE OF BEAUFORT COUNTY AND THAT MR. BEAR WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY WAS NOT SUPPORTING JASPER COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT MR. BEAR SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN JASPER COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE COUNTY HAS BEEN WEIGHING OPTIONS REGARDING THE ALLIANCE AND THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL ALLIANCE AND BEAUFORT COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS DISCUSSED THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY HAS BEEN PLAYING A NON

SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN JASPER COUNTY AND IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT EVENTS AND THE PRESENTATION FROM SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE THERE IS NO COMPARISON. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT THE SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE IS 5 COUNTIES STRONG AND HAVE THE I-95 CORRIDOR PROGRAM WRAPPED UP. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE THE AUTHORITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE JASPER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE REPRESENTING JASPER COUNTY TO CONTINUE THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINDING UP THE AFFAIRS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST TO THE SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE TO ACCEPT JASPER COUNTY FOR MEMBERSHIP. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY IS UNITED WITH THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND AND THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE TO BETTER THEMSELVES THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS, COUNCILMAN DRAYTON AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ABSTAINED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY WILL REMAIN THE BEST NEIGHBOR POSSIBLE WITH BEAUFORT COUNTY AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WAS NOT ANTI- BEAUFORT COUNTY, BUT THEY WERE PRO- JASPER COUNTY AND THEY WANTED TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH AN ALLIANCE THAT WILL BE BETTER FOR JASPER COUNTY.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION** - MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ENOUGH PROPERTY AND FUNDING TO ACCOMMODATE RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE DSS AND THE NEW LIFE CENTER FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WERE REQUESTING TO APPLY FOR A GRANT TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT SPENDING ANY COUNTY MONEY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY STATED THAT IF THERE WAS NO GRANT THE PROJECT WOULD NOT MOVE FORWARD. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE COUNTY NEEDED TO GET MORE GRANTS. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS GOING TO MOVE INTO THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WOULD MOVE INTO THE NEW EDITION TO THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED ABOUT SPECIFIC DRAWINGS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET THOSE AND ESTIMATES TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT. MR. TERRY SAID THE EDITION WOULD BE ABOUT 2,700 FEET. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY NEEDED TO TALK TO THE NEW CONGRESSMAN TO SEE IF HE CAN GET ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE BUILDING. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID NO COUNTY MONEY WAS TO BE SPENT, ONLY GRANT MONEY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO SPEND MONEY TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT, BUT THEY WOULD GET THE MONEY BACK IF THE GRANT IS APPROVED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE NEEDED CLARIFICATION AND A DRAWING. MR. TERRY EXPLAINED THE SIZE, LOCATION, AND EXISTING BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBER PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE PRESENTED THE COUNCIL WITH A BALANCED BUDGET TO WORK FROM AND THAT SOME OF THE NUMBERS WERE NOT CERTAIN. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS WAITING ON FINAL APPROVAL REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FROM THE STATE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE BUDGET INCLUDED ONE -TIME REVENUE FROM TITLE VI FUNDING FROM THE CLERK OF COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE REVENUES THAT WERE DOWN AND THE INCREASES TO THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE REQUESTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS WERE OVER 9% AND THE VALUE OF THE MILL INCREASE \$1,000. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE CUTS TO USCB AND TCL AND THAT THE \$30,000 FOR JCNU WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET HE PRESENTED. MR. FULGHUM ADDED THAT THE 3 CARS FOR THE SHERIFF WERE NOT

INCLUDED, BUT COULD BE ADDED IF THERE WAS ADDED REVENUE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE UPGRADES AND EMPLOYEE FOR I-T WERE ALSO NOT INCLUDED. MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A SCHEDULE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED A COUNCIL ONLY WORKSHOP TO WORK ON THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE GENERAL REVENUE INCREASE OF \$360,000 IS LISTED, BUT NOT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND. MR. FULGHUM SAID \$950,000 IS PUT IN, BUT IT IS PURPOSED TO GO TO \$980,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY ARE AT THE POINT OF LEVELING SERVICES, BUT IF THEY DON'T GET NEW REVENUE, THEY CANNOT PROVIDE IT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THINGS ARE NOT A LOT BETTER, BUT THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SIX ITEMS HAVE GONE UP OVER \$300,000 AND THE COUNTY HAS NO CONTROL OVER IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE STATE REQUESTED A 3% INCREASE TO SOME EMPLOYEES SALARIES AND THE OTHERS WOULD NOT GET AN INCREASE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME THINGS CANNOT CHANGE BECAUSE THEY ARE MANDATED BY THE STATE, NO MATTER WHO IS IN OFFICE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE COUNCIL IS NOT TRYING TO RAISE TAXES, BUT THE EMPLOYEES NEED THINGS TO OPERATE THEIR OFFICES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING WHILE HE IS IN OFFICE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT THE 3 VEHICLES FOR THE SHERIFF AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT CURRENTLY THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THE SHERIFF SAID HE NEEDED 15 VEHICLES NOT 3 VEHICLES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT TYPE OF NEW REVENUE WERE THEY WORKING ON. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY RECEIVED REVENUE FROM THE CLERK OF COURT THAT THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE IS POTENTIAL REVENUE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHY THE COUNTY WAS NOT SELLING THE DECALS BEFORE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WAS OPTIONAL AND ANOTHER PERSON WAS NEEDED AND IT WOULD NOT MAKE THE COUNTY ANY MONEY. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING IT BEFORE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY WERE SELLING BOATS, PLANES ETC. AT THE TAX SALE IF THE TAX HAS NOT BEEN PAID. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY HAVE TO FIND A PLACE TO PUT THEM AND GET THEM SOLD OR DISPOSE OF THEM. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IT IS THE RIGHT OF COUNCIL TO PURSUE THIS AND THEY NEED TO GENERATE MONEY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY DOES THIS EVERY YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID BOATS ARE LIKE A VEHICLE AND THEY CAN'T DRIVE IT IF IT DOES NOT HAVE STICKERS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED ON THE DECREASE IN REVENUE FROM THE BUILDING LICENSE FEES AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY DON'T EXPECT THEM TO GET HIGHER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT EMS WILL BE UNDER ON COLLECTIONS AGAIN THIS YEAR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT FEE IN LIEU AGREEMENTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ARE WITH SCANA AND THE HOSPITAL.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYMENT MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPOINT JUDY FRANK AS CLERK TO COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS, AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR; COUNCILMEN BLACKSHEAR AND DRAYTON VOTED AGAINST.**

**ADJOURN- COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

THE MEETING ENDED AT 6:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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REV. SAMUEL GREGORY  
CHAIRMAN