



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
MAY 18, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: CHAIRMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN MARTY SAULS

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR-ANDREW FULGHUM, CLERK TO COUNCIL-JUDITH FRANK, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - 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- VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

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

INVOCATION- COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

DISCUSSION

NATASHA TINGMAN – RIDGELAND LITTLE LEAGUE JAGUAR FOOTBALL – MS. TINGMAN WAS NOT PRESENT AT THIS TIME AND MADE HER PRESENTATION LATER IN THE MEETING.

LOCAL A-TAX REQUESTS – THE COUNCIL RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM THE JASPER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR \$70,000 FOR THE OPERATIONS AND EVENTS AT THE FARMERS MARKET. THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTED \$4,020 FOR UTILITIES AND

SECURITY AT THE PERRY HOUSE. PT. SOUTH MERCHANTS REQUESTED \$45,307 FOR ADVERTISING AND SHERIFF PATROL OF POINT SOUTH FOR EXTRA SECURITY. JASPER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB REQUESTED \$19,000 FOR ADVERTISING FOR TWO FUNDRAISING EVENTS. GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL REQUESTED \$10,000 FOR THE FESTIVAL. BLUE HERNON NATURE CENTER REQUESTED \$7,000 FOR ADVERTISING. MS. DIANE LELONE, FROM THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE DISCUSSED THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OFFERED IN THE COUNTY AND SHE SAID SHE WORKED WITH THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. MS. LELONE WAS NOT PRESENT TO ASK FOR FUNDING. LOWCOUNTRY TOURISM REQUESTED \$6,000 TO KEEP EXIT 33 MOWED SINCE THE STATE ONLY DOES IT QUARTERLY. MR. WESTCOTT SAID VISITORS FOR ALL 50 STATES AND 50 FOREIGN COUNTRIES VISIT THAT AREA AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION. ANTIOCH EDUCATION CENTER REQUESTED \$5,000 FOR MARKETING OF TWO EVENTS. SOUTHEAST PYROTECHNICS \$2,000 FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY. , JCBDSN RESOURCE FOUNDATION REQUESTED \$3,000 FOR ADVERTISING FOR TWO FUNDRAISING EVENTS. THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND REQUESTED \$50,000 FOR A LIGHT AT EXIT 21. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT EACH YEAR A PAYMENT FOR THE BUTTERFLY KINGDOM ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$142,000 AND A PAYMENT FOR LIGHTING AT EXIT 33 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000 ARE PAID FROM THIS FUND. THE REQUESTS TOTALED \$375,327.00 AND THE PROJECTED AMOUNT OF THE A-TAX AND H-TAX IS \$260,000. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY THANKED THE ORGANIZATIONS AND SAID THEY WOULD BE NOTIFYING THEM REGARDING THEIR REQUESTS.

NATASHA TINGMAN – RIDGELAND LITTLE LEAGUE JAGUAR FOOTBALL – MR. ORR EXPLAINED THAT THE RIDGELAND LITTLE LEAGUE JAGUAR FOOTBALL IS A NEW PROGRAM STARTING IT'S SECOND YEAR. MR. ORR SAID LAST YEAR OVER 100 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED AND THEY HAD TO TURN 25 CHILDREN AWAY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FOR UNIFORMS. MR. ORR SAID THE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES MENTORING AND SCHOLASTIC IMPROVEMENT. MR. ORR SAID THE ORGANIZATION HOLDS MANY FUNDRAISER AND THEY REQUESTED WHATEVER AMOUNT THE COUNTY COULD PROVIDE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY WAS NEEDED FOR THE 25 ADDITIONAL PLAYERS. MR. ORR SAID THEY NEEDED \$2,300. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT THE CONTROVERSY LAST YEAR AND IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROGRAM. MR. ORR SAID THERE WAS THE TIGERS PROGRAM AND THE LLJF PROGRAM. MR. ORR SAID THAT THE PARENTS CHOSE LLJF BECAUSE OF THE PROGRAM OFFERED.

THE COUNCIL TOOK A FIVE MINUTE BREAK AND RETURNED.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS – MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOND FINANCING OPTIONS. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT AFTER INCORPORATING THE CHANGES THEY NEED TO FIND A WAY TO CUT \$866,000 FROM THE BUDGET.

MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY INCREASED THE VEHICLE FEE TO \$25 PER VEHICLE AND PROPOSED A 5 MILL INCREASE. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL HE REVIEWED THE MILL VALUE AND THE TAX COLLECTION RATE AND NOW THE MILLS ARE VALUED AT 94,000 AND WITH THESE CHANGES THE BUDGET IS BALANCED. MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE COLLECTION RATE, THE VALUE OF THE MILL AND THE ROLL FORWARD. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ADDED THE CONTAINER, THE GARBAGE TRUCK, THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, \$80,000 FOR USCB AND \$25,000 FOR TCL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH THE POSITION CUT CHANGED THE BUDGET. THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO ADD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE PERSONNEL CHANGES. MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS FINANCING OPTIONS AND SHORT TERM FINANCING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT OPTION THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY RECOMMENDED ADDING IT INTO THE REGULAR FINANCING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIRS TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE DSS BUILDING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS ABOUT \$250,000 LEFT FROM THE COURTHOUSE THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED USING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THEY LOOKED AT THE DSS BUILDING AND DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING A SECOND FLOOR. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL PRESENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR TO GET AN ESTIMATE FOR THE SECOND FLOOR ADDITION AND AN ESTIMATE FOR REPAIRS ONLY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO MAKE A DECISION BY JUNE 30, 2011 BECAUSE THE NOTES WERE DUE JULY 1, 2011. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE KNEW DSS NEEDED MORE SPACE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH WAS LEFT IN THE COURTHOUSE FUND AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID ABOUT \$750,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED FOR AN ESTIMATE OF THE TAX INCREASE OF A HOME COSTING \$150,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID UNDER SCENARIO 7 IT WOULD BE \$376, SCENARIO 8 WOULD BE \$442, AND SCENARIO 9 WOULD BE \$433. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT THE INCREASE WOULD BE WITH THE INCREASE FOR THE SCHOOLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID SCENARIO 7 WOULD BE \$401, SCENARIO 8 WOULD BE \$467, AND SCENARIO 9 WOULD BE \$458 BASED ON A VALUE OF \$150,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT THE INCREASE WOULD BE BASED ON SCENARIO 9 FOR SECOND HOMES, RENTAL PROPERTY AND BUSINESSES VALUED AT \$150,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE INCREASE WOULD BE \$612. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WOULD HAVE THE FIGURES READY FOR THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY TOLD MR. MALPHRUS TO INCLUDE THE INCREASE FOR THE SCHOOLS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS 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. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

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

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY STATED THAT NO ACTION WAS NEEDED.

ADJOURN – COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 6:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

REV. SAMUEL GREGORY
VICE CHAIRMAN