



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

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**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**MAY 30, 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, IT DIRECTOR EARL BOSTICK, JR., AUDITOR HAZEL HOLMES, BUDGET ANALYST DENISE SMITH

**STAFF ABSENT:** DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES 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:** CHAIRMAN GREGORY CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/ MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

**DISCUSSION OF I-T PROPOSAL –** MR. BOSTICK INTRODUCED HIS NEW ASSISTANT ALEXIS LYNNAH. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE PAK NET PROPOSAL. MR. BOSTICK SAID HE RECOMMENDED THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT COST LESS AND ALLOWED HIM TO DO SOME OF THE WORK. MR. BOSTICK SAID THAT IT WOULD COST \$15,000 FOR LICENSING VALIDATION FROM MICROSOFT AND THE LICENSE ALLOWS FOR THE USERS TO RECEIVE EMAIL. MR. BOSTICK SAID THE FEE WAS HIGH BECAUSE THE LICENSES HAVE NOT BEEN RENEWED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE EXTRA WORKLOAD. MR. BOSTICK SAID THE RENEWALS ARE DONE BY EMAIL AND THE WHEN HE GETS THE BILLS, HE SENDS THEM TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TO BE PAID. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT FUNDING AND MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD BE PAID FOR OUT OF THE GRANT LINE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THEY HAD TO HAVE THIS DONE AND MR. BOSTICK SAID THE COUNTY HAS TO HAVE IT. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM PAK NET AND LICENSING WITH MICROSOFT UP TO \$25,000 AND THAT IT BE FUNDED FROM THE GRANT LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF MR. BOSTICK LOOKED INTO ALL THE EQUIPMENT STORED AT EMS. MR. BOSTICK SAID HE HAS NOT TAKEN INVENTORY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TOLD NOT TO MOVE IT UNTIL HE INVENTORIES IT AND THEN HE NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF STORING IT.

**PRESENTATIONS - BUDGET PRESENTATION - HAZEL HOLMES –** MS. HOLMES DISCUSSED THE TRAVEL AND TRAINING LINE BEING INSUFFICIENT SINCE SHE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY ALLOCATED FOR

HER TO ATTEND THE NECESSARY AND REQUIRED MEETINGS. MS. HOLMES SAID AT TIMES A STAFF MEMBER NEEDS TO ATTEND THE TRAINING WITH HER. MS. HOLMES ASKED THAT THE AMOUNT BE \$6,500 AS REQUESTED. MS. HOLMES SAID THAT 8 COMPUTERS NEED REPLACED AND SHE WAS REQUESTING IMAGING SOFTWARE FOR HER OFFICE, THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE. SHE SAID ONCE EVERYTHING IS SCANNED ALL THREE DEPARTMENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME INFORMATION. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE \$45,000 WAS JUST FOR THE SOFTWARE AND MS. HOLMES SAID THAT IT WAS FOR THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$20,000 INCREASE IN THE SALARY LINE. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE WAS REQUESTING A \$5,000 RISE FOR EACH OF HER EMPLOYEES. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE WAS ONLY GIVEN \$14,000 IN LAST YEARS BUDGET TO OPERATE HER OFFICE AND THEY RAN OUT OF SUPPLIES AND COULD NOT ATTEND ALL THE TRAINING CLASSES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHEN SHE RAN OUT OF TRAVEL AND TRAINING FUNDS AND MS. HOLMES SAID IN MAY. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE SENT A LETTER TO COUNCIL REQUESTING FUNDS SO THAT SHE COULD ATTEND A CONFERENCE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID SHE WAS REQUESTING \$105,000 MORE THAN LAST YEAR. MS. HOLMES SAID SHE REMOVED THE \$1,200 FOR CELL PHONES. MR. FULGHUM SAID SOME OF THE FEES LIKE WORKERS COMPENSATION ARE HIGHER IN EVERY DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF MS. HOLMES KNEW THE SALARIES OF HER EMPLOYEES THAT SHE REQUESTED THE \$5,000 RAISE AND MS. HOLMES SAID SHE HAD THOSE FIGURES IN HER OFFICE. MS. HOLMES ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SCANNING PROCESS DEMONSTRATED AND THE COUNCIL SCHEDULED IT FOR 3:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP.

**COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION** – MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THERE MAY BE A REDUCTION TO THE WORKERS COMPENSATION FEES THAT COULD BE AS MUCH AS \$150,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE INCREASE TO RETIREMENT AND MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WILL GO UP ABOUT ½ % EACH YEAR UNTIL IT IS AT 3%. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE INCREASE TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WENT UP \$87,300. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TRUST MADE A ONE TIME REDUCTION LAST YEAR AND THE TRUST VOTED TO TRY TO DISCOUNT AGAIN THIS YEAR. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED FOR THE AMOUNT LAST YEAR AND MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WAS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET DETAIL AND THAT HE WOULD DO A SHEET AS THE COUNCIL REQUESTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THE 3% INCREASES MANDATED BY THE STATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS TO GIVE A 3% INCREASE TO THE TEACHERS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED THE COUNCIL CANNOT GIVE A 3% INCREASE TO SOME EMPLOYEES AND NOT TO ALL THE EMPLOYEES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE COUNTY IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE STATE FORMULA. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE STATE MANDATED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE STATE DID NOT ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE RAISES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED FOR A LIST OF THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES THAT WOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE STATE MANDATED RAISES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE IS NOT SURE HOW THAT WOULD BE HANDLED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT RECEIVED AND INCREASE IN 7 YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE BUDGET STILL HAS SOME UNKNOWN AMOUNTS AND CHAIRMAN GREGORY TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR TO FREE UP SOME FUNDS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AS THEY WORKED THROUGH THE BUDGET PERHAPS SOME ITEMS COULD BE FREED UP TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE CITIZENS ARE REQUESTING TO REDUCE THE \$25 PER VEHICLE TAX AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT TAX WAS ADDED TO RECOUP SOME OF THE MONEY THE COUNTY IS NOT RECEIVING FROM PROPERTY TAXERS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT A PENNY SALES TAX AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THOSE FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED ON CAPITAL PROJECTS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LOOKED AT TO LOWER THE TAXES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY SERVICES THAT CAN BE CUT THAT ARE REQUIRED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND COUNTY COUNCIL HAS LITTLE CONTROL OVER WHAT IS MANDATED. MR.

FULGHUM SAID THERE IS A LOT OF CONFUSION ABOUT THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE AND THAT THE TAX REVENUE FLUCTUATES AND THE BASE ON THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE PEOPLE THINK THAT EVERYONE'S TAXES WENT UP AND THE STAFF NEEDS TO LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE COUNTY HAS TO PAY FOR UNFUNDED MANDATES FROM THE STATE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE MILLAGE WENT UP, BUT THE REVENUE THE COUNTY NETTED REMAINED THE SAME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE CITIZENS RECEIVED AN INCREASE IN TAXES AND WHAT PERCENTAGE RECEIVED A DECREASE IN TAXES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE COULD NOT PRODUCE THAT TYPE OF REPORT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE THAT OUT AND THE I-T PERSON NEEDS TO FIGURE OUT A WAY FOR THE SOFTWARE TO DO IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT PER CAPITA, JASPER COUNTY CITIZENS ARE PAYING MORE MONEY THAN ANY OTHER COUNTY IN THE STATE. MR. FULGHUM COMMENTED THAT IF THEY ARE PAYING MORE THEN THE COUNTY IS RECEIVING MORE MONEY TO PAY IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT IS WHY THE TAXES WENT UP. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE VALUE OF HIS HOME WENT DOWN \$33,000 AND HIS TAXES WENT UP \$200. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID A LOT OF COUNTIES DON'T HAVE HIGH TAXES DUE TO INDUSTRIES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TAXES DEPEND ON THE BASE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE STAFF NEEDED TO START BUILDING THE BASE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT HE FELT THE COUNCIL WAS WORKING ON TRYING TO GROW THE TAX BASE WITH INDUSTRIAL PARK CERTIFICATIONS, AND JOINING THE NEW ALLIANCE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID MORE POLICE PROTECTION WAS NEEDED AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL HAS TO LOOK A THE MUNICIPALITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE AND THE COUNTY'S LEVEL OF SERVICE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO KEEP THINGS AT A RURAL LEVEL OF SERVICE IN THE COUNTY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE CITIZENS FEEL THAT THEY ARE PAYING FOR SERVICE AND NOT GETTING ANY. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE MAJORITY OF WHAT THE CITIZENS ARE PAYING FOR IS THIS BUILDING WE ARE MEETING IN. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL INHERITED THE COST OF BUILDING AND THEY REALLY CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE COUNTY WAS LOSING MONEY IN THE BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE CITY OF RIDGELAND COLLECTED OVER \$700,000 AND PERHAPS THE COUNTY NEEDS TO RESTRUCTURE THEIR PROCESS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDS TO FIX IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID MR. KITTY WILL HAVE A PRESENTATION REGARDING BUSINESS LICENSES READY FOR THE JUNE 18, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING. MR. FULGHUM SAID A NEW MODEL OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE COUNCIL CAN TALK ABOUT WHAT IS WRONG, BUT THERE WERE PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT THIS BUILDING AND THE MONEY HAS TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE AND THE COUNCIL HAS TO DO WHAT IT HAS TO DO. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO THINK SMARTER. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED HOW MUCH THE BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE COUNTY BRINGS IN AND MR. FULGHUM SAID ABOUT \$340,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT EVERYDAY THEY WAIT THEY ARE LOSING MONEY. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HOPED THEY WOULD DISCUSS THIS ON JUNE 18, 2012. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE FORMULA TO GENERATE IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE KEY WAS THE KIND OF LIKE THE A-TAX THEY RECEIVE FROM THE STATE AND THEY NEEDED TO SEE HOW THE FUNDS GO TO THE MUNICIPALITIES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE LARGE COMPANIES HAVE PERFORMA OF WHAT THEY EXPECT TO MAKE AND THOSE NUMBERS SHOULD BE USED IN CALCULATING THE BUSINESS LICENSE FEES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT WAL-MART'S GROSS SALES AND MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD HAVE THAT INFORMATION ON JUNE 18, 2012. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO DISCUSS THIS AND CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO DISCUSS THIS, HE WANTS IT FIXED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT COLLETON COUNTY DID A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION REGARDING THE MANDATED EXPENSES FROM THE STATE AND THE PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW THAT THE COUNTY IS PAYING FOR THINGS MANDATED BY THE STATE AND THE STATE GIVES THE COUNTY NO MONEY TO PAY FOR THEM. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE PUBLIC APPRECIATED THE LAST

MEETING THE COUNCIL HAD ON TAXES AND NOT ALL OF IT GOES TO THE SCHOOLS, BUT A LOT OF THE TAXES GO TO PAY FOR THIS BUILDING. MR. FULGHUM SAID 12 MILS WERE ADDED TO COVER THE COST OF THE BUILDING AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PROJECTS GOING ON AND THE COUNTY IS STRETCHED OUT AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME ON THIS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND IS NOT FULLY FUNDED, THE COUNTY CAN DECREASE THE AGENCIES BY THE SAME PERCENTAGE THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND IS FUNDED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE STATE CAN SAY WHAT POSITION IS NEEDED, THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE ANY SAY SO IN WHO IS HIRE, BUT THE COUNTY HAS TO PAY THE SALARY FOR THAT PERSON AND NO ONE ASKS THE COUNTY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PUBLIC DOES NOT SEE THAT AND HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP THE COUNTY SEE IT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID IT SEEMS THAT THINGS ARE NOT PRIORITIZED AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO PICK 5 OR 6 ITEMS AND CONCENTRATE ON FIXING THEM AND THEN MOVE ON TO FIX SOMETHING ELSE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHERE THE COUNTY IS AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO WORK ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION.

**ADJOURN-** CHAIRMAN GREGORY ADJOURNED THE MEETING/WORKSHOP AT 4:45 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