



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MAY 5, 2010  
3:00 P.M.**

---

**MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN  
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN  
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN  
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR  
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. 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 WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**INVOCATION:**

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION

**DISCUSSION:**

**DRAFT 2010-2011 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET- ANDREW FULGHUM AND RONNIE MALPHRUS:**

MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET AND ASKED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT THE END OF THE MEETING TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT ISSUES RELATED TO THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE NEW BUDGET IS \$1,100,000.00 LESS THAN THE CURRENT BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY FIGURES

FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE STATE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY KNEW THE SCHOOL'S DEBT SERVICE WOULD INCREASE, BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW THE LEVEL OF THE INCREASE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES ARE \$21,987,174.00 AND THAT IS A DECREASE OF 5% FROM THE FY-2010 BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE NEW DEBT SERVICE MILLAGE OF 3.0 MILLS IS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FOR THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND THE COURTHOUSE PROJECT. MR. FULGHUM LISTED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FY-2011 BUDGET.:

- ORGANIZATION BREAKDOWN TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF DETAIL
  - HUMAN RESOURCES BROKEN OUT FROM FINANCE BUDGET
  - DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED FOR SATELLITE OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE
- FUND A NEW, HALF-TIME JANITORIAL PERSON FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE
- SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE FUNDING FOR TRAVEL AND TRAINING IN ALL DEPARTMENTS
- PROPOSE A REDUCTION OF TWO EMPLOYEES AND THE ELIMINATION OF THOSE POSITIONS
- DOES NOT FUND ONE VACANT POSITION (COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION)
- PROVIDES NO COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES
- PROVIDES \$957,054.00 IN AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS (DOWN 9% FROM \$1,056,896.00 IN FY-2010)
- FUNDS ALL FIRE CONTRACTS AT FY-2010 LEVEL
- DOES NOT FUND ANY NEW VEHICLES OR EQUIPMENT

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH A RESIDENT'S OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES FOR PROPERTY TAXES ON A \$150,000.00 HOME AND HOW MUCH THE OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES FOR PROPERTY TAXES HAVE INCREASED OR DECREASED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH WERE THEY PAYING DOWN THE DEBT SERVICE AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED ABOUT \$346,000.00 THAT WILL COME IN FROM THE 3 MILLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE INTEREST IS PAID WOULD GO TO PAYING DOWN THE DEBT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID \$300,000.00 IN INTEREST WAS ADDED IN LAST YEAR FOR THE INTEREST THAT WAS DUE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE INTEREST WILL DEPEND ON THE RATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THERE IS \$3,000,000.00 ON MISC. DEBT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IF THERE ARE ANY FUNDS LEFT OVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO USE IT TO PAY DOWN THE PRINCIPAL ON THAT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN WITH THE COURTHOUSE, NEXT YEAR THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO PERMANENT FINANCING. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHAT WAS DIFFERENT COMPARED TO THE CURRENT YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT HE FELT THAT THEY WILL COME IN UNDER THE 2010 BUDGET AND THE REVENUE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD AND IS ON TRACK. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE IS HOPING TO HAVE A SMALL SURPLUS IN THIS YEAR'S

BUDGET, BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT AN INCREASE IN REVENUE IN THE COMING YEAR.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE BREAKDOWN. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE GREATER THE DETAIL IN A BUDGET THE BETTER IT IS TO TRACK COSTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE HR BUDGET WAS INCLUDED IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND THIS YEAR IT IS BROKE OUT AND THE SATELLITE OFFICE IS BROKE OUT TO SHOW THE COST. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT A COST OF LIVING RAISE FOR THE EMPLOYEES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE ARE NO SALARY INCREASES FOR ANY EMPLOYEES IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY WERE IN ANY BETTER SHAPE THAN LAST YEAR AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THEY WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL THE AUDIT IS DONE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE UNDER ON EXPENDITURES, AND REVENUE WAS ON TRACK. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE HOPED TO MAKE UP THE \$115,000.00 THAT WAS USED FROM THE FUND BALANCE AND NOTHING HAS BEEN BUDGETED FROM THE FUND BALANCE THIS YEAR. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE \$5,000,000.00 THAT WAS BORROWED HAS BEEN PAID. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY WAS IN THE RESERVE FUND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID \$1, 176,000.00 AND NONE OF THAT MONEY IS BEING USED IN THE NEW BUDGET.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED FOR THE AMOUNTS OF REVENUES FROM EACH DEPARTMENT AND SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO WATCH THE OVERTIME. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNTY WILL NOT BE GETTING ANY OF THE 50 CENT INCREASE ON CIGARETTES FROM THE STATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO LET THE CITIZENS KNOW HOW MUCH OF THE COUNTY'S MONEY GOES TO THE STATE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH DOES THE COUNTY GET FROM THE STATE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ABOUT \$800,000.00 AND THE STATE SENDS THE MONEY AROUND THE END OF MAY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE HAS NOT HEARD OF ANYMORE CUTS FROM THE STATE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT BUSINESS LICENSE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ARE RENEWED IN MAY AND JUNE.

COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THEY ARE KEEPING TRACK OF THE GROWTH. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MR. FULGHUM GETS REPORTS FROM DIFFERENT AGENCIES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN ABOUT A 500 INCREASE IN THE COUNTY'S POPULATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT LCOG TRACKS THE GROWTH AND THE ADMINISTRATOR CAN REPORT THAT INFORMATION TO THE COUNCIL MONTHLY.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS DONE TO BRING MORE MONEY INTO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE MORE EMPLOYEES CUT LIKE LAST YEAR.

MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THE PROPOSED BUDGET ELIMINATES 2 POSITIONS AND 2 EMPLOYEES.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$39,000.00 FOR THE NEW LIFE CENTER. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNTY PROVIDES \$4,000.00 TO THE NEW LIFE CENTER AND THE BALANCE IS FROM MINI-

BOTTLE SALES AND THAT INCOME MUST GO FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

**JRYB- LEWIE DAVIS:**

MR. DAVIS SAID HE WAS THE TREASURER OF JRYB AND THAT HE HAS BEEN A PART OF THAT ORGANIZATION SINCE HE PLAYED T-BALL AS A CHILD. MR. DAVIS SAID BETWEEN 200-250 CHILDREN FROM 5-14 YEARS OLD ARE IN THE PROGRAM. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY HOLD THE GAMES AT VOLUNTEER PARK. MR. DAVIS EXPLAINED THAT THE BALLFIELD COMPLEX IS CALLED VOLUNTEER PARK BECAUSE ALL THE WORK DONE THERE IS DONE ON BY VOLUNTEERS. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY STILL HAVE THE EXPENSES OF UMPIRES, FIELD PREP AND INSURANCE. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY RAISE AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE. MR. DAVIS SAID EACH CHILD MUST SELL 5 DISCOUNT CARDS AND PAY \$45.00 TO PLAY. MR. DAVIS SAID IF A FAMILY CANNOT AFFORD FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO PLAY, THEY ARE NOT TURNED AWAY. MR. DAVIS SAID EVERY PARENT WHO HAS A CHILD PLAYING MUST SPEND AT LEAST ONE NIGHT WORKING THE CONCESSION STAND. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY ARE TRYING TO GET AN ALL STAR LEAGUE TO HAVE A TOURNAMENT AT THE PARK. MR. DAVIS SAID IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL NOT ONLY BRING REVENUE TO THE ASSOCIATION, IT WOULD BRING REVENUE TO THE BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY. MR. DAVIS SAID THEY COULD NOT DO WHAT THEY DO WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE COUNTY. MR. DAVIS REQUESTED \$8,000.00 WHICH IS THE SAME AMOUNT AS LAST YEAR. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT WOULD THE MONEY BE USED FOR AND MR. DAVIS SAID THAT HE COULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A COPY OF THEIR BUDGET IF THEY WANTED TO SEE IT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE – GENE HOOD:**

MR. HOOD DISCUSSED THE CASE LOAD IN JASPER COUNTY AND THAT THREE ATTORNEYS ARE NEEDED TO HANDLE IT. MR. HOOD SAID THEY HANDLE ABOUT 750 CASES IN JASPER COUNTY EACH YEAR. MR. HOOD SAID THAT ONE ATTORNEY LIVES IN JASPER COUNTY AND THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HAS PROVIDED AN OFFICE FOR THE ATTORNEY TO MEET WITH CLIENTS. MR. HOOD SAID HE WAS REQUESTING \$151,080.00 AND THAT WOULD COVER THE COST OF 2 ATTORNEYS AND 1/3 OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. MR. HOOD SAID THAT THE COUNTY CURRENTLY PAYS \$41,000.00 AND THE ACTUAL COST TO HANDLE THE CASES IN JASPER COUNTY IS \$163,414.43. MR. HOOD SAID THE STATE HAS ALREADY CUT HIS BUDGET 50% AND THEY PLAN TO CUT IT ANOTHER 10%. MR. HOOD SAID THAT THE TOTAL HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM THE JASPER COUNTY AND THE STATE IS \$53,000.00 AND THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE BECAUSE PREVIOUSLY THEY HAD INDIVIDUAL CORPORATIONS IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES. MR. HOOD SAID HIS CORPORATION WAS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY FOR 17 YEARS AND BEAUFORT COUNTY FUNDED HIS OFFICE 100% AND BEAUFORT COUNTY LET HIM KEEP THE STATE FUNDS. MR. HOOD SAID THOSE FUNDS BECAME HIS RAINY DAY

FUND AND HE PUT ALL THOSE FUNDS INTO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT AND THAT IS HOW HE AS BEEN ABLE HANDLE THINGS. MR. HOOD SAID THAT HIS RAINY DAY FUND ONLY HAS ENOUGH MONEY FOR ONE MORE YEAR. MR. HOOD SAID HE WAS REQUESTING THE \$151,080.00 SO THEY CAN SURVIVE AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MONEY THAT THE COUNCIL CAN GIVE TO HELP AND THE MONEY WILL BE PUT INTO THE FUND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED FOR A COPY OF HIS BUDGET. MR. HOOD SAID HE PROVIDED IT WHEN HE MADE HIS REQUEST.

**TCL - DR. LEITZEL AND MR. WISER:**

DR. LEITZEL INTRODUCED MR. WISER AND EXPLAINED THAT MR. WISER HANDLES THE BUDGET OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL. DR. LEITZEL SAID THE ENROLLMENT OF TCL HAS GROWN 65% OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND THEY HAVE 2,600 CREDIT STUDENTS ENROLLED. DR. LEITZEL REQUESTED \$300,000.00. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE 39% CUT HAS CAUSED THE SCHOOL TO CUT ANY PROGRAMS OR INCREASE TUITION. DR. LEITZEL SAID THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRESERVE ALL JOBS, AND EXPANDED THROUGH TEMPORARY CONTRACTS. DR. LEITZEL SAID DUE TO RECEIVING FUNDING AND THE INCREASED ENROLLMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCREASES IN TUITION. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATING STUDENTS THAT GET JOBS. DR. LEITZEL SAID THAT 90% OF THE STUDENTS GET JOBS OR GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND DR. LEITZEL SAID 8-10% GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION. DR. LEITZEL SAID THAT IS MEASURED AT 6 MONTHS, HOWEVER, A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION WHEN MEASURED AT 5-6 YEARS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE SCHOOL WAS RECEIVING ANY FUNDS FROM LCOG FOR QUICK JOBS. DR. LEITZEL SAID THAT THEY DID RECEIVE FUNDING FROM LCOG. DR. LEITZEL SAID THEY STARTED A WELDING PROGRAM AND AN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM WITH THE FUNDING FROM LCOG.

DR. LEITZEL DISCUSSED THE SUCCESS OF THE NURSING PROGRAM AT TCL. CHAIRMAN HOOD THANKED DR. LEITZEL FOR THIS PRESENTATION AND SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE BEST THAT THEY CAN.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MR. FULGHUM TO HAVE SOMEONE ATTEND THE I-95 CORRIDOR SUMMIT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS GOING TO ATTEND.

**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:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR A 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. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

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

CHAIRMAN HOOD REPORTED THAT THEY DISCUSSED PERSONNEL MATTERS THAT WILL IMPACT THE BUDGET.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL STILL HAS A LOT TO DO AND THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT STILL NEEDS TO BE SCHEDULED.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT OPERATION KELLY AND MR. FULGHUM SAID HE RECEIVED AN EMAIL ABOUT IT TODAY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE ALLIANCE AND IF IT CAN OVERCOME THE POLITICAL ISSUES WITH BEAUFORT COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO FUND THE ALLIANCE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ALLIANCE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO THE JOB LIKE THEY WANTED TO AND HE WAS MEETING WITH THE BEAUFORT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, GARY KUBIC AND THEY WILL TALK ABOUT IT.

**ADJOURN:**

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN

