



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

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 4, 2012, 3:30 P.M.
MINUTES

3:30 P.M. – A-TAX REQUESTS

CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED FOR THE AGENCY REQUESTS FOR A-TAX FUNDS.

KENDALL MALPHRUS – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MS. MALPHRUS PROVIDED A BREAKDOWN FOR THE COST OF THE REQUIRED FOUR EVENTS. MS. MALPHRUS SAID ONLY 3 EVENTS WERE SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. MS. MALPHRUS SAID ONE CONCERT WAS PENDING AND THE FIRST TWO WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THEY GENERATED A PROFIT AND MS. MALPHRUS SAID THEY CREATED SOME PROFIT. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THEY BRING PEOPLE INTO THE TOWN AND ALLOWS THE CHAMBER TO RENT THE FACILITY AND TO WORK WITH THE FARMERS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY ADVERTISE THE FARMERS MARKET. MS. MALPHRUS SAID IT IS ADVERTISED IN ALL THE CHAMBERS NEWSLETTERS, ON THE WEBSITE AND MS. MALPHRUS SAID SHE WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER PLACES TO ADVERTISE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED HOW THEY SELECT THE PERFORMERS AND DID THEY CHOOSE ANY THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE YOUTH. MS. MALPHRUS SAID SHE WAS REQUESTING \$60,000 FOR THE CHAMBER AND SHE WAS ALSO REPRESENTING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND REQUESTED \$4,450 FOR UTILITIES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DOES ANYTHING TO RAISE FUNDS AND MS. MALPHRUS SAID THEY SELL BOOKS AND HAVE DUES. MS. MALPHRUS SAID THE REQUEST OF \$4,450 COVERS THE UTILITIES AND SECURITY FOR THE ENTIRE BUILDING.

BILL OLENDORF- POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS- MR. OLENDORF REQUESTED \$96,040 FOR SHERIFF SECURITY, BILLBOARDS, AND INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF LIGHTS AT EXIT 33. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE RATES FOR THE BILLBOARDS AND MR. OLENDORF SAID THEY WERE A LITTLE HIGHER. MR. OLENDORF EXPLAINED THAT THE MERCHANTS PAY AN OFF DUTY SHERIFF DEPUTY FOR COVERAGE 6 HOURS EVERY NIGHT. MR. OLENDORF SAID THEY PAY THE SALARY, BUT THEY DO USE THE SHERIFF'S CARS.

ROY PRYOR AND DEBBIE BECK – JASPER COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB – MR. PRYOR AND MS. BECK EXPLAINED THEY WERE REQUESTING FUNDS FOR THE TASTE OF JASPER AND SNOW AT BLUE HERON WHICH ARE BOTH FUND RAISING EVENTS. MS. BECK SAID THAT 300 CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. MS. BECK SAID THE CLUB BUILDS CHARACTER AND 100% OF THE STUDENTS WHO ATTEND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GRADUATE. MR. PRYOR AND MS. BECK DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS WITH THE FACILITY AND CHAIRMAN GREGORY TOLD THEM TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS. MR. PRYOR SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DOING A LOT ALREADY AND THEY DID NOT WANT TO PUT MORE ON THEM AND THEY WERE TRYING TO FIX THINGS THEMSELVES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SUGGESTED TALKING WITH DR. WASHINGTON. MR. PRYOR INVITED THE COUNCIL TO VISIT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.

LINDA DALEY – GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL – MS. DALEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL, SAID THAT IN CONJUNCTION OF JASPER COUNTY CELEBRATING IT 100TH BIRTHDAY, THE FESTIVAL WAS GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE OLDER TEACHERS AND THAT THE OLDEST TEACHER WOULD BE THE MARSHALL. MS. DALEY SAID THAT THEY HAD A CONTEST FOR THE LOGO FOR THE FESTIVAL TEE SHIRTS AND THE STUDENT WHO WON THE CONTEST WAS A RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT. MS. DALEY SAID THEY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FINANCIAL HELP THE COUNCIL COULD PROVIDE. JIMMY DALEY

EXPLAINED THE MANY EVENTS THAT ARE PLANNED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT THAT THEY WERE RECOGNIZING THE EDUCATORS.

DELIA CASKEY- BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER – REQUESTED FUNDS AND DISCUSSED THE MANY EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE CENTER.

LOW COUNTRY TOURISM – MR. WESTCOTT SAID THEY WERE PLANNING TO HOST A SPECIAL EVENT REGARDING THE REENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL WAR BATTLE OF POCOTALIGO AND HE WAS REQUESTING FUNDING FOR ADVERTISEMENT.

POINT SOUTH PARTNERS – REQUESTED FUNDING FOR THE POINT SOUTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

JAMES GARDNER- JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – REQUEST FOR SECURITY AT EVENTS – MR. GARDNER WAS NOT PRESENT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THIS WAS AN ALLOWABLE USE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE ATTORNEY WOULD NEED TO CHECK ON THIS.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY ADJOURNED THE A-TAX REQUEST SESSION AND THE COUNCIL TOOK A SHORT BREAK BEFORE THE MEETING.

MEETING MINUTES

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

OFFICIALS ABSENT: COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADM. GEORGE HOOD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES WILBUR DALEY, ATTORNEY MARVIN JONES, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, IT DIRECTOR EARL BOSTICK, JR., ACTING PLANNING DIRECTOR LISA LAMB, ROD PATSYE GREEN, BUSINESS LICENSE DIRECTOR RENTY KITTY, HR DIRECTOR GLORIA LUCAS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JOHNNY DAVIS, ASSESSOR SUSAN WAITE, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES DALE TERRY

STAFF ABSENT: DETENTION CENTER DIRECTOR ARTHUR BENJAMIN, DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR RHONDA MITCHELL, ROD PATSY GREEN

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 TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

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

INVOCATION – COUNCILMAN DRAYTON GAVE THE INVOCATION.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION- THERE WERE NO PROCLAMATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS.

ORDINANCES

ANDREW FULGHUM – PUBLIC HEARING AND 2ND READING OF THE 2012-2013 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE – MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE BUDGET BEING PRESENTED DID NOT INCLUDE A MILL INCREASE AND HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THE VALUE OF THE MILL HAS INCREASED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

ROBERT HOLBROOK SAID THAT HE HAS LIVED IN JASPER COUNTY FOR TWO YEARS AND HE HAS RESEARCHED THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND IN THE LAST 6 YEARS AND THE COUNTY HAS LOST OVER \$9,000,000. MR. HOLBROOK ASKED IF THE COUNTY EXPECTED A SURPLUS THIS YEAR OR A DEFICIT AS THE COUNTY CANNOT AFFORD MANY MORE LOSSES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 THERE WAS AN \$800,000 POSITIVE BALANCE AND THIS YEARS NUMBERS APPEAR TO BE RUNNING PRETTY CLOSE TO WHAT WAS BUDGETED AND HE HOPED TO HAVE A SMALL POSITIVE BALANCE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS GOING TO MEET WITH MR. HOLBROOK TOMORROW FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

DENISE DAVIDSON ASKED IF THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2012 WAS ON THIS BUDGET AND THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DID NOT HAVE A BUDGET YET AND THE SCHOOLS BUDGET IS HIRER THAN THE COUNTIES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL MUST COMPLETE THE BUDGET BY JUNE 30, 2012. MS. DAVIDSON ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WILL BE REVIEWING THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD REVIEW IT AND HE WANTED TO SEE IT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES THE SCHOOL BUDGET AND THE COUNCIL DOESN'T REVIEW THE ENTIRE BUDGET LINE BY LINE. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THE COUNCIL HAS THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW THE SCHOOL BUDGET AND THEY NEEDED TO PUT TIME INTO THE SCHOOL BUDGET. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID MS. DAVIDSON NEEDED TO GO TO THE SCHOOL BOARD IF SHE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET IS PART OF THE COUNTY'S BUDGET. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL LOOKS AT IT AND ASKS THE SCHOOL BOARD IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS FAIR TO ASK THE COUNCIL ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET SINCE THEY DO NOT HAVE IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY THE COUNCIL DID NOT REVIEW IT LINE BY LINE AND CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL HAS NEVER DONE THAT IN THE PAST. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HAS NOT VOTED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. MS. DAVIDSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT IN THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET THE SALARIES ARE OVERSTATED BY \$500,000 AND THE DISTRICT ACCOUNTS EXCEEDED THE ACTUAL AMOUNTS BY \$900,000. MS. DAVIDSON ASKED THE COUNCIL TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET.

MILTON WOODS SAID THAT THIS IS A FREE NATION AND THE CHAIRMAN TRIED TO CENSOR ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DID NOT HAVE TO ACT BRAND NEW, HE KNEW HOW THE SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET HAS BEEN DONE AND IT WAS NOT DONE BY LINE ITEM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID LOOK AT THE INCREASES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HOPED EVERYONE PAID ATTENTION TO THIS AND HE HAS NOT SEEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AND THE SCHOOL BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL, BUT THE COUNCIL SETS THE MILLAGE. MR. WOODS SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD GET QUARTERLY BREAKDOWNS OF THE BUDGET AND KNOW WHEN EXPENSES ARE INCURRED. MR. WOODS ASKED HOW THE COUNCIL CAN MAKE DECISIONS WHEN THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY STAND YEAR TO DATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL GETS A BREAKDOWN ABOUT SIX TIMES A YEAR. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE MR. WOODS A COPY OF THE BREAKDOWN. MR. WOODS SAID HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE PUBLIC UNDERSTOOD AND THAT THERE BE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT. MR. WOODS SAID THE PEOPLE ARE HERE TO HELP

THE COUNCIL NOT TO NICK PICK SO THE COUNCIL CAN DO THE JOB MORE EFFICIENTLY. MR. WOODS SAID THE COUNCIL REPRESENTS HIM AND THE REST OF THE CITIZENS.

MR. HOLBROOK SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS BEING MORE OPEN AND INVITING TALENTED CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY TO MEET WITH THEM. MR. HOLBROOK SAID THAT JASPER COUNTY BEING \$76,000,000 IN DEBT WITH A POPULATION OF 26,000 AND HAVING LOST \$9,600,000 IN THE PAST 6 YEARS. THEY NEEDED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES TO ATTRACT BUSINESSES TO THE AREA.

SANDRA MACHUFF AND DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY LIKED FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE INVOLVED AND NOT ONE INDIVIDUAL HAS OFFERED TO COME AND TALK WITH THEM DR. WASHINGTON SAID THE COUNTY DOES NOT GIVE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT \$27,000,000, THEY GIVE \$15,000,000. DR. WASHINGTON STATED THAT THE SCHOOL MILL IS WORTH \$75,000 AND NO ONE HAS ASKED TO COME AND ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR BUDGET. DR. WASHINGTON ADDRESSED THE STATE MANDATED INCREASES. DR. WASHINGTON DISCUSSED THE TURNOVER OF SUPERINTENDENTS. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY ARE LOOKING AT EVERYTHING TO BRING THE COSTS DOWN. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT 300 STUDENTS GOING TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHOULD BRING EXPENSES DOWN. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT IT REALLY DOESN'T BRING COSTS DOWN BECAUSE THEY STILL PROVIDED THE SERVICES FOR THE OTHER STUDENTS. ATTORNEY JONES SAID THAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS SEVERAL BILLS SITTING IN VARIOUS STAGES AND WHEN THEY FINALLY ADDRESS THEM AT THE END OF THE SESSION AND RIGHT NOW THE SCHOOL BOARD DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WILL BE RECEIVING FROM THE STATE OR WHAT THE STATE IS MANDATING. ATTORNEY JONES SAID THE COUNCIL HAS FISCAL AUTHORITY AND OVERSIGHT OVER THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET, AND MANY TIMES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR THEY DON'T GET THE MONEY FROM THE STATE AND END UP IN THE RED. MS. MACHUFF SAID THEY REQUESTED TO RECEIVE THE MAX FROM THE STATE DUE TO THE DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE MILL AND THEY HAVE TO IMPLEMENT THE 2% RAISES AND THE STEP INCREASES. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THE PEOPLE AT SUN CITY WERE SURPRISED AT THE PER STUDENT COSTS OF \$1,180 PER STUDENT IN JASPER COUNTY. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIND WAYS TO SERVE THE STUDENTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE STATE ALLOWS FOR A 4.5% INCREASE. MS. MACHUFF SAID THEY WERE JUST GETTING INFORMATION FROM THE STATE AND THIS IS A STATEWIDE ISSUE. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THEY HAD 6 BUDGET WORKSHOPS FOR THE BOARD AND THE MEETINGS WERE POSTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT OUT OF THE 100 WORST SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, 36 WERE FROM SOUTH CAROLINA BECAUSE OF THE WAY THEY ARE FUNDED. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT MR. HOLBROOK CAN TELL THE COUNCIL HOW MUCH MORE IS INVESTED IN THE STUDENTS ELSEWHERE. DR. WASHINGTON SAID THAT AT TIMES THE LEDGER WILL APPEAR THAT IT HAS BEEN OVERSPENT WHEN ACTUALLY THEY ARE WAITING OF FUNDS TO COME FROM THE STATE. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN GREGORY CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2ND READING OF THE 2012-2013 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES THE BUDGET IS LAID OUT PLAINLY AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS TRANSPARENT. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE PUBLIC HAS THE SAME BUDGET THE COUNCIL HAS AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE MEETING WITH MR. HOLBROOK. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THAT EVERYONE HAS THE SAME GOALS AND ALL THE COUNCIL BELIEVES IN TRANSPARENCY AND THEY WANT TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID ANY COUNCIL MEMBER CAN BE CONTACTED AND THE BUDGET WORKSHOPS ARE SCHEDULED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

MARVIN JONES – 2ND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH JASPER COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CHAPTER NUMBER 5096 OF THE ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS, INC. – ATTORNEY JONES TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THERE WAS A TIME CHANGE

IN ORDINANCE AS REQUESTED BY THE CLUB. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ORDINANCE AS WRITTEN INCLUDING THE TIME CHANGE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

MARVIN JONES – 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE CAMP LAKE SGT. JASPER RV PARK (BY TITLE ONLY) – ATTORNEY JONES REQUESTED THE 1ST READING BY TITLE ONLY AS THE PROPERTY OWNERS WERE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE CAMP LAKE SGT. JASPER RV PARK (BY TITLE ONLY). THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTIONS

MARVIN JONES – RESOLUTION RELATED TO ECONOMIC ALLIANCE AFFILIATION – MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZES THE STAFF TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE COUNTY JOINING THE SOUTH CAROLINA REGIONAL ALLIANCE AND AUTHORIZES THE CHAIRMAN TO SEND A LETTER TO BEAUFORT COUNTY REGARDING THE COUNTY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOW COUNTRY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE RESOLUTION RELATED TO ECONOMIC ALLIANCE AFFILIATION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS- NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE REPORTED THAT THE COUNTY IS IN THE SAME SITUATION AS THE SCHOOLS IN THAT THE STATE MANDATES CHANGES AND INCREASES AND THE STATE DOES NOT PROVIDE THE FUNDS TO COVER THE MANDATES.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – MR. FULGHUM SAID HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT SINCE THE COUNCIL MET THE WEEK BEFORE, HE DID PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A WRITTEN PROGRESS REPORT.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC – PER ORDINANCE 08-17 ANY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY MAY SIGN TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO COUNTY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. (TOTAL PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 MINUTES) – NO COMMENTS.

CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS GOING TO AGREE AND HE FELT THE COUNTY COUNCIL WAS DOING A FINE JOB AND DOING THE BEST THAT THEY CAN AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE FUNDED BECAUSE THEY ARE MANDATED BY THE STATE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES FOR SIX YEARS AND THE STAFF HAS BEEN CUT AND THE REMAINING STAFF IS DOING ALL THEY CAN DO. CHAIRMAN GREGORY THANKED THE EMPLOYEES FOR WHAT THEY DO. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE CITIZENS SHOULD TALK WITH THE COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL IS TRYING MAKE FAIR DECISIONS THAT WILL BE BEST FOR ALL THE CITIZENS AND HE WANTED THE CITIZENS TO KNOW THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL IS NOT PROMOTING HIGHER TAXES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE 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 COUNTY LEASE AGREEMENTS, PROPERTY IN TOWN OF RIDGELAND AND PROPERTY AT SGT. JASPER PARK – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE 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 COUNTY LEASE AGREEMENTS, PROPERTY IN TOWN OF RIDGELAND AND PROPERTY AT SGT. JASPER PARK. 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.

NO ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 6:10 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

APPROVED BY:

REV. SAMUEL GREGORY
CHAIRMAN