



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BLDG.
3RD FLOOR TRAINING ROOM
JUNE 4, 2015
9:45 A.M.**

Officials Present: Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman Henry Etheridge

Officials Absent: Vice Chairman L. Martin Sauls, IV

Staff Present: Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Judith Frank, 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 – Chairwoman Clark called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Invocation- Councilman Etheridge gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion of Budget – Mr. Malphrus reviewed each of the revenue lines. Councilman Etheridge asked if the company that was on a retainer to check on businesses licenses was still working with that department. Mr. Malphrus said that Mr. Kitty was following up on the information they provided. Councilman Johnson asked about reducing the fees and Mr. Fulghum responded that he was working on having Business Licenses centralized and he discussed with the municipalities and the municipalities were in favor of it, however, the municipalities need to resolve a situation with the Treasurer regarding reports that she is not providing from the tax sales. The Council asked Mr. Fulghum to set up a meeting with the Treasurer and the municipalities. Councilman Etheridge asked if EMS was charging for responding to the accidents on I-95 since the automobile insurance should cover it. Mr. Fulghum said he would get a report for the Council. Chairwoman Clark asked about the reimbursement for the SRO officers and Mr. Malphrus said the \$72,000 was for two officers and the amount is capped at \$35,000 per officer. Councilman Etheridge asked how much money was in the economic development fund and Mr. Malphrus said about \$125,000. Chairwoman Clark asked for an explanation of the Misc. Fund. Chairwoman Clark asked Mr. Fulghum to check with the sheriff regarding the grant for new vehicles. Mr. Malphrus said the County's portion of Retirement is going up about \$50,000 and that needed to be added to the budget. Mr. Malphrus provided information about the reduction in Workers Compensation. The Council discussed the IT department and Chairwoman Clark commented that a part-time person needed to be added. Mr. Malphrus discussed Dept. 62 and informed the Council that

adjustments to the pay plan were listed in this department rather than in each department. Mr. Fulghum explained that a 1% cost of living raise would be given and anyone with 1 year of less would get the 1% cost of living raise, anyone with 1-6 years would get the 1% plus 1 step increase and 7 or more years would get 1% plus 2 steps. Mr. Malphrus said this would take care of all the issues including pay position descriptions. Mr. Malphrus said the magistrates and the probate judges would be getting the 2% mandated by the state, not the new increases for the County. Chairwoman Clark said the elected officials and appointed positions should also only get what was mandated. Councilman Johnson asked about raises for dept. heads and middle management. Mr. Fulghum said that they were budgeted for and he recommended treating everyone the same, otherwise you are placing a value on the person, not the position. Chairwoman Clark asked Mr. Fulghum to check with the attorney regarding different amounts being given. Councilman Johnson said that to check into the dept. heads, executive directors, appointed and elected officials and report back to Council. Councilman Johnson said to budget for the increase and it could go into effect in July for the other employees, but the Council could make their decision of the positions listed above at a later date.

The following were discussed and approved by the Council:

Council on Aging increases to \$125,000 and reduce 1st Steps \$5,000

Increase Palmetto Breeze to \$18,500

Reduce Ridgeland Youth Baseball to \$4,000

Jasper/Ridgeland Football \$2,000

Hardeeville Youth Football \$2,000

Jasper Hungry Free Zone \$500

Helping Hands \$500

JC Human Relations Council \$2,500

Bft./Jasper Comp. Health cut \$5,000

Vol. in Medicine \$5,000

Sheriff cut \$5,000 from Gas and Oil

Cut 10% across the board for office supplies

Add Elections costs

Rec. Dept. add a part-time person

IT add a part-time person

Councilman Johnson suggested creating another way to allocate funds for agency appropriations and Mr. Fulghum said he would work on creating criteria for appropriation funding.

Adjourn – Councilman Etheridge moved and Councilman Drayton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Judith M. Frank, ccc
Clerk to Council

Barbara B. Clark
Chairman

