



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
JUNE 8, 2011, 3:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

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

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES DALE TERRY, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, TREASURER VERNA GARVIN

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.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

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

INVOCATION – CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

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

BUDGET

VERNA GARVIN – TREASURER OFFICE - MS. GARVIN ASKED THE COUNCIL TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$7,500 TO HER BUDGET SO SHE CAN HAVE A PART-TIME PERSON TO MAN THE OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE ONE DAY PER WEEK. MS. GARVIN TOLD THE COUNCIL THE PART-TIME PERSON WOULD WORK THE REMAINDER OF THE TIME IN THE RIDGELAND OFFICE. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE FOR ONE PERSON FOR ONE YEAR. MS. GARVIN SAID THAT IT WOULD. COUNCILMAN

ETHERIDGE ASKED IF MS. GARVIN TRIED WORKING IN HARDEEVILLE ONE DAY. MS. GARVIN SAID THAT NOT KNOWING WHAT EACH DAY ENTAILS SHE CANNOT SEND SOMEONE OUT OF THE OFFICE SINCE SHE CURRENTLY DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH STAFF TO GO TO HARDEEVILLE. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY WOULD TAKE HER REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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 SAULS MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE 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 SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR REQUESTED A MOTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO DELETE THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION FROM THE BUDGET AND TO INCLUDE HIRING A SECURITY OFFICER FROM A SECURITY FIRM FOR THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

MR. TERRY REQUESTED THAT \$2,900 FOR GEOTECHNICAL TESTING BE ADDED TO THE CONTRACT FOR KNOWLES ISLAND TRESTLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHERE THE FUNDS WOULD COME FROM AND MR. TERRY

SAID FROM THE MONEY FROM THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$2,900 FOR THE GEOTECHNICAL TESTING AND THAT IT BE PAID FOR WITH C-FUND. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE SCHOOL DID NOT GET ALL THE MONEY THEY REQUESTED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SMITH DATA LIKES TO DEAL WITH HALVES, BUT HE WILL SUBMIT THE 4.26 MILLS TO THEM.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THAT THE COUNTY AUDITOR, HAZEL HOLMES, RETURN TO THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP TO MEET WITH THE COUNCIL AND STAFF.

MR. MALPHRUS INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE STATE WILL NO LONGER BE REIMBURSING THE COUNTY FOR THE STIPENDS FOR THE ELECTION COMMISSION AND IF THE STIPENDS WERE TO CONTINUE, THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO PAY THEM. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL COULD DELETE THEM FROM THE BUDGET OR HE COULD FIND THE MONEY TO PAY THEM. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED HOW OFTEN THEY MET AND WHAT THEY WERE PAID. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY MEET QUARTERLY AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY RECEIVE \$375 PER QUARTER. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO PAY THE ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS \$100 PER QUARTER. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET AT LEAST \$125. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE INCREASE OF ROUGHLY \$50,000 OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET OVER LAST YEARS BUDGET NOT COUNTING THE DEBT SERVICE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHERE THE AUTO FEES WERE LISTED IN THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE LISTED ON PAGE 3 OF 4 IN THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY SHOWED \$450,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AUDITORS WILL RECOMMEND HOW TO SHOW IT AS REVENUE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID SMITH DATA WILL PROGRAM IT ON THE TAX BILL AND THEY MEET WITH THEM IN EARLY JULY.

COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE SITUATION OF THE COUNTY OWING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT \$11,000,000 HAS BEEN RESOLVED. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S INFORMATION MATCHES THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY CREDITED THE DELINQUENT TAXES AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS GOING TO RESEARCH IT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNTY DOES NOT OWE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANY MONEY THAT THE COUNTY COLLECTED.

ADJOURN - VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 4:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

LEROY BLACKSHEAR
CHAIRMAN