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**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
AUGUST 15, 2011, 7:00 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 EMERGENCY SERVICES WILBUR DALEY, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION DALE TERRY, ATTORNEY MARVIN JONES, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, PLANNING DIRECTOR DAVID JIROUSEK, ASSESSOR SUSAN WAITE, 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 4:00 P.M.

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

**INVOCATION-** COUNCILMAN SAULS GAVE THE INVOCATION.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE 08/08/2011 MINUTES** – COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION - COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED THAT THE MINUTES BE AMENDED AND TO REMOVE THE PORTION STATING COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE TO SHOW HIM WHERE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERSON WAS DISCUSSED. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HE DID NOT SAY THAT. COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PRESENTATION TO MARTIN SAUL, III** – MR. ED ALLEN, BEAUFORT COUNTY CORONER PRESENTED MARTIN SAULS, III. WITH THE CORONER'S ASSOCIATION LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY. MR. SAULS THANKED THE VOTING PUBLIC WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE FOR OVER 40 YEARS. MR. SAULS THANKED MR. ALLEN FOR BRINGING HIM THE AWARD AND STATED THAT HE ENJOYS WORKING WITH MR. ALLEN. MR. SAULS SAID THAT PEOPLE ASK HIM WHEN HE IS GOING TO RETIRE AND HE SAID AFTER A PERSON RETIRES THERE IS ONLY ONE BIG EVENT LEFT AND HE WANTED NO PART OF THAT.

**PRESENTATION TO VICTORIA ETHERIDGE – CINDERELLA MINIATURE MISS SOUTH CAROLINA-** CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR PRESENTED A PLAQUE VICTORIA ETHERIDGE THE REIGNING SOUTH CAROLINA CINDERELLA MINIATURE MISS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR EXPLAINED THAT VICTORIA IS A TEN YEAR OLD HONOR ROLL STUDENT AT THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY WHO ENJOYS HELPING OTHERS AND OVER THE PAST YEAR, VICTORIA HAS HELPED RAISE OVER \$30,000 FOR LOCAL CHARITIES. VICTORIA IS THE WINNER OF THE LITTLE MISS SOUTH CAROLINA AIMING HIGH AWARD AND A RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENT OBAMA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. IN JULY, VICTORIA REPRESENTED SOUTH CAROLINA AT THE CINDERELLA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT WHERE SHE MET GIRLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. VICTORIA THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR PRESENTING HER WITH THE PLAQUE.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID AT THE LAST MEETING THERE WERE CONCERNS ABOUT THE COUNCIL NOT RESPONDING TO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC DURING THE OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC SECTION OF THE MEETING. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR READ THE DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN AND ALSO SECTIONS OF THE MODEL RULES FORMULATED BY SCAC AND HE SAID THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THOSE RULES AS GUIDELINES FOR THE COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO FOLLOW. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC IS MEANT FOR THE COUNCIL TO GAIN PUBLIC INPUT AND THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT RESPOND OR HAVE ANY INPUT. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MAJORITY AND POSITIVE MAJORITY, RECALL MOTION TO RECONSIDER OR AMEND. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR DESCRIBED THE PROPER METHOD TO AMEND OR RECONSIDER AN ORDINANCE. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION TO MAKE THE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE REASONS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE COUNCIL TAKES AN OATH TO DO THE BEST FOR THE COUNTY AND TO VALUE THEIR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS AS THEY HAVE AND RESPECT THEIRS.

## **ORDINANCES**

**DAVID JIROUSEK – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JCZO ARTICLE 5:1 PRIMARY DISTRICTS TO ADD MIXED**

**BUSINESSES; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 5:3 TO ADD MIXED BUSINESS INTENT STATEMENT; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 6:1, TABLE 1, TO ADD MIXED BUSINESS; AMEND ARTICLE 6:1.2, USES SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS; REPEAL ARTICLE 6:1.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS; REPEAL JCZO ARTICLE 6:2, EXCEPT FOR ARTICLE 6:2.15 AND RENUMBER ARTICLE 6:2.15 AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS TO 6:2; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 7:3, TABLE 1; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 11; AND AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 12; TABLE 12:1, MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS – MR. JIROUSEK EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS A NEW DISTRICT AND HE COVERED THE VARIOUS ALLOWABLE USES. MR. JIROUSEK ALSO DISCUSSED THE TYPES OF BUSINESSES THAT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE THIS TYPE OF DISTRICT. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THE REVIEW PROCESS WAS ALSO CLEANED UP. MR. JIROUSEK TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE STAFF AND PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND APPROVAL. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JCZO ARTICLE 5:1 PRIMARY DISTRICTS TO ADD MIXED BUSINESSES; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 5:3 TO ADD MIXED BUSINESS INTENT STATEMENT; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 6:1, TABLE 1, TO ADD MIXED BUSINESS; AMEND ARTICLE 6:1.2, USES SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS; REPEAL ARTICLE 6:1.5 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS; REPEAL JCZO ARTICLE 6:2, EXCEPT FOR ARTICLE 6:2.15 AND RENUMBER ARTICLE 6:2.15 AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS TO 6:2; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 7:3, TABLE 1; AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 11; AND AMEND JCZO ARTICLE 12; TABLE 12:1, MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

**DAVID JIROUSEK – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER A PROPERTY BEARING TAX MAP NUMBER 052-00-12-022 AND GENERALLY LOCATED ON PINE LEVEL CHURCH ROAD FROM THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO THE RURAL PRESERVATION ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP – MR. JIROUSEK EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD ONLY CHANGE THE ZONING AND THAT FIRING RANGE RESTRICTIONS APPLY AND IT MUST BE ONE MILE FROM ANY RESIDENCES. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THE OWNER WOULD HAVE TO SEEK A VARIANCE FROM THE BZA. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF RECOMMEND APPROVAL. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE APPLICANT WAS PRESENT. MR. JIROUSEK SAID HE WAS NOT, BUT HE WOULD BE AT THE NEXT MEETING. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN ADVERTISED AND THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER A PROPERTY BEARING TAX MAP NUMBER 052-00-12-022 AND GENERALLY LOCATED ON PINE LEVEL CHURCH ROAD FROM THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO THE RURAL PRESERVATION ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

**ANDREW FULGHUM – 3<sup>RD</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BE GREEN FEE-IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT-KIM STATLER** INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE NECESSARY LEGAL LANGUAGE WAS ADDED AND THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE FEE IN LIEU AGREEMENT WAS READY FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BE GREEN FEE-IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RESOLUTIONS – NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ANDREW FULGHUM – HOUSEKEEPING CONTRACT WITH THE BDSN –** MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE CONTRACT WITH BDSN. THE BDSN IS TO PROVIDE CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE EOC AND CLEMSON OFFICES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CONTRACT WAS FOR \$360 PER MONTH. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO DISCUSS THE CONTRACT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THIS WAS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THE FUNDS WERE REMOVED AND CURRENTLY THERE IS NO LINE ITEM FOR THIS AND THE \$4,300 WOULD COME FROM THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE LINE OR THE EMERGENCY FUNDS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THERE WAS ENOUGH MONEY IN THOSE LINES TO COVER THE EXPENSE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HOUSEKEEPING CONTRACT WITH BDSN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMAN DRAYTON AND COUNCILMAN SAULS VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ABSTAINED STATING HE SERVES OF THE BDSN RESOURCE FOUNDATION BOARD.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RONNIE MALPHRUS– APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR WASTE CONTAINERS AND COMPACTORS** –MR. MALPHRUS ASKED THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE LOW BID FROM BAKER WASTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,729.68. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THIS WAS THE LOWEST BID FOR THE 2 OPEN TOP CONTAINERS AND 3 TRASH COMPACTORS. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THERE WAS \$50,000 IN THE BUDGET TO PURCHASE THIS EQUIPMENT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LOW BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,729.68 FROM BAKER WASTE FOR 3 TRASH COMPACTORS AND 2 OPEN TOP CONTAINERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RONNIE MALPHRUS – APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR STREET SIGNS** – MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED THE BIDS FOR ROAD NAME SIGNS, MOUNTING BRACKETS AND POLES. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE APPROVED \$14,000 FOR THE SIGNS. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE 4 DIFFERENT SIZES OF SIGNS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO APPROVE THIS IF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WAS FUNDING IT. MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE PROCUREMENT POLICY REQUIRES COUNCIL APPROVAL. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE \$14,000 WAS ENOUGH TO COVER THE SIGNS. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT IT WAS AND THEY WILL ORDER SIGNS AS NEEDED UNTIL THE FUNDING RUNS OUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LOW BID OF IBIS SIGNS FROM JOHNS ISLAND. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE REPORTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MET AND THAT JULY WAS THE WORSE YEAR IN THE PAST 4 YEARS, BUT THIS MONTH LOOKS GOOD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE AD HOC LIBRARY COMMITTEE MET AND HARDEEVILLE HAS TAKEN ON ITSELF TO BUILD A NEW LIBRARY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HARDEEVILLE HAS COMMITTED \$800,000 AND THEY WERE APPLYING FOR A \$500,000 GRANT THROUGH LCOG. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE TO COMMIT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FUND THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING BUDGET OF THE NEW LIBRARY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL DID NOT HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT REQUEST AT THIS TIME AND THE ADMINISTRATOR IS WORKING ON IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT AHJ IS ALSO INVOLVED AND THE CITY WAS EXPECTING HELP FROM THEM.

COUNCILMAN DRAYTON REPORTED THAT THE CRBIP REVIEW BOARD WOULD MEET ON TUESDAY AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE WOULD MEET ON AUGUST 23, 2011.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE SOLICITOR DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR SPACE AND UTILIZING THE OLD COUNCIL OFFICE AND MOVING OUT OF THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME HOUSE KEEPING NEEDED TO BE DONE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE SOLICITOR IS WILLING TO INVEST SOME MONEY ALONG WITH THE COUNTY IN UPGRADING THE BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LETTING THE SOLICITOR USE THE OLD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE SINCE THE MARY GORDON ELLIS BUILDING IS SUPPOSE TO BE UTILIZED FOR OTHER THINGS AND THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE NEEDS TO BE OFF BY ITSELF. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID MR. FULGHUM ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD THING.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE HAS HEARD THINGS FROM THE PUBLIC AND SOME OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS ARE POPULAR AND SOME ARE NOT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IT WAS DISCUSSED THAT THE COUNCIL AND FORMER COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN SPENDING THE

TAXPAYERS MONEY WISELY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THEY WERE SPENDING THE TAX DOLLARS WISELY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID WHEN HE WAS NOT ON COUNCIL HE DID NOT HEAR ABOUT THIS BUILDING AND THE COST OF THE BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE PEOPLE HAD ANY INPUT REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF DEBT THE COUNTY IS IN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT PUBLIC OPINION WAS THAT THIS BUILDING SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BUILT AND IT WAS GOING TO PUT THE COUNTY IN DEBT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL PUT THE COUNTY \$20,000,000 IN DEBT AND THE TAXES ARE GOING TO GO UP TO PAY FOR THIS BUILDING AND THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATION. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE CITIZENS DID NOT GET TO VOTE ON BUILDING THIS BUILDING AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE VOTED TO BUILD IT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IF THE PEOPLE KNEW THE AMOUNT, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST FIGHT AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WORTHWHILE FIGHT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IF THEY WERE GOING TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE TAXES ARE GOING TO GO UP. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED DID THE TAXPAYERS VOTE FOR THIS BUILDING - NO; DID THE TAXPAYERS KNOW ABOUT THIS BUILDING - NO. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE MILLAGE IS GOING TO GO UP BECAUSE WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE BUILDING IS BUILT AND NOW WE HAVE TO STRUGGLE TO PAY FOR THIS BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE SIDE OF THE PUBLIC BECAUSE \$20,000,000 WAS TOO MUCH MONEY IN THIS ECONOMY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID ABOUT 20 EMPLOYEES WERE JUST RIDING THE BOAT AND THERE WERE TOO MANY EMPLOYEES AND THE WORST THING HE COULD SEE WAS PEOPLE MAKING MONEY AND THEY WERE JUST STANDING AROUND NOT DOING ALL THAT THEY COULD DO. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY WENT THROUGH THE BUDGET TO DOWNLOAD THE SIZE AND HE SAID HE WOULD NOT ELIMINATE ANYMORE POSITIONS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE TAXES ARE GOING UP TO PAY FOR THIS BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE CITIZENS DIDN'T VOTE FOR IT AND NOW THEY HAVE TO STRUGGLE TO PAY FOR IT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE THOUGHT ABOUT THE \$80,000 SALARY AND THE \$20,000,000 THAT THE COUNTY HAS TO PAY BACK. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF ANYONE TOLD THE CITIZENS THAT THE \$20,000,000 WAS GOING TO CAUSE THE MILLAGE TO GO UP EVERY YEAR, BUT EVENTUALLY IT WILL DROP DOWN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE BUILDING DEBT AND THERE WAS NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT NOW AND HE DID NOT VOTE TO BUILD THE BUILDING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD HE DID A WRONG THING BY VOTING ON THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DOES HIS HOMEWORK AND THE LAW STATES THAT HE CAN VOTE ON THE BUDGET BUT HE CANNOT VOTE ON HIS SALARY AND HE NEVER VOTED ON HIS SALARY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HIS SALARY WAS NEVER IN THERE AND HE HASN'T HAD AN INCREASE IN 5 YEARS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL. VICE CHAIRMAN

GREGORY SAID PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE THE WAY THEY THINK IS RIGHT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID LETS NOT MAKE AN ISSUE THAT THREE OF US VOTED FOR AND 2 VOTED AGAINST. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE HOW THEY WANT TO VOTE AND SO DOES HE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID SOME CONSCIENCE SEARCHING TO MAKE SURE HE DID THE RIGHT THING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE NEVER TOLD MR. FULGHUM WHO SHOULD BE HIRED FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION AND HE WILL NOT SAY IT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE LOOKED AT THE HIRING PRACTICE AND HE WANTED IT TO BE EQUALLY FAIR. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAW, THE COUNCIL ONLY HIRES THE ADMINISTRATOR, THE ATTORNEY AND THE CLERK TO COUNCIL AND THEY ARE THE ONLY THREE EMPLOYEES THAT THE COUNCIL CAN GIVE DIRECTIONS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID MR. FULGHUM HIRES EVERYONE ELSE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THE COUNCIL SAID TO HIRE A BLACK. VICE CHAIRMAN ASKED THE PEOPLE NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN THAT AND DON'T GET COLOR SHOCKED BECAUSE IT IS A FACT THAT IN THIS COUNTY WHEN COMES TO HIRING, THEY LOOK AT THE HIRING PROCEDURE AND THE COUNCIL WANTED IT TO BE EQUALLY FAIR. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE WAS ELECTED FOR FOUR YEARS AND HE WAS NOT ELECTED TO BE NO ONES FLUNKY, HE VOTES HIS WAY AND NO ONE SCARES HIM. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE HAS BEEN HERE FOR FOUR YEARS AND HE DOES THE BEST THAT HE CAN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY IS GOING TO BE IN DEBT FOR YEARS FOR THE \$20,000,000. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE VOTED FOR THE POSITION WITH THE \$80,000 SALARY AND FOR THE \$25 PER VEHICLE AND THOSE TAXES AFFECT HIM TOO. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD THE COUNCIL IS NOT LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS GOING TO LIKE HIS DECISIONS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT EVEN WITHOUT THE ADDED POSITION, THE TAXES WOULD GO UP. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID THAT AT THE LAST 2 COUNCIL MEETINGS HE DISCUSSED THAT THE OPERATING MILLAGE, AND THAT THE DEBT SERVICE MILLAGE IS GOING TO GO UP 12 MILLS EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT 32 YEARS. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED WHY ADD MORE FUEL TO THE FIRE. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID IN HIS MIND IT IS NOT A GOOD FINANCIAL ATTITUDE TO ADD ANOTHER POSITION AND HE DIDN'T THINK THE TAXPAYERS COULD HANDLE IT. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID THE TAXES WILL BE GOING UP 20% AND IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT THE VALUE OF THE HOME WAS BECAUSE EVERYONE'S TAXES WILL BE UP 20% AND THE 12 MILLS IS GOING TO BE HARD ENOUGH TO SWALLOW. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID THAT THE 12 MILLS FOR DEBT SERVICE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET FOR 32 YEARS PLUS WHATEVER THE OPERATING MILLAGE WILL BE. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT TAKE ACTION ON THE MATTERS RELATING TO THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE SPACE AND THE HARDEEVILLE LIBRARY AT THIS TIME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT LAST YEAR THE COUNTY LOST \$250,000 IN INCOME DUE TO A MISTAKE WITH THE COASTAL CAROLINA

FILOT, THE ASSESSED VALUE IS DOWN ABOUT 6%-11 % DEPENDING ON APPEALS. THE MILL HAS DECREASED AND THE BUDGET IS UP \$50,000 ON OPERATING EXPENSES AND HE HOPED THE MILLS FOR DEBT SERVICE WOULD STAY AT 12 MILLS UNTIL 2013. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET IS UP \$30,000 AND THERE IS UP \$256,000 IN SCHOOL DEBT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID MS. MCHUFF REQUESTED A 4.6% INCREASE AND THEY DID NOT GET THE DEBT SERVICE AMOUNT UNTIL JUNE 15. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT FOR 3 YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CUT THE COUNTY'S BUDGET AND CURTAIL EXPENSES. COUNCILMEMBER ETHERIDGE SAID HE BELIEVES IN EDUCATION BECAUSE EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IT WAS STATED IN THE COUNTY AUDIT TO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS AND NOT HAVE ANY INCREASES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY NEVER ASKED THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CUT THEIR BUDGET ONE DIME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY SHOULD ALSO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE COUNTY SHOULD HAVE STAYED WHERE THEY WERE LAST YEAR, THEY MADE SOME CUTS, BUT CERTAIN ITEMS COULD NOT BE CUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE \$25 PER CAR FEE WILL BE A LEVEL TAX AND EVERYONE WILL BE TAXED THE SAME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE VOTED FOR THE \$25 PER VEHICLE FEE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT AT THE LAST MEETING ALL HE HEARD ABOUT WAS THAT THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE RETREAT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE HAD ALL THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND MINUTES FROM THE RETREAT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT AT THE MID YEAR CONFERENCE, NOT THE RETREAT, THE COUNCIL TALKED ABOUT HIRING A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PROPOSAL OF THE BUDGET, BUT IT WAS ADDED TO THE SECOND BUDGET PROPOSAL AND IT WAS IN THE BUDGET UNTIL MAY 18, 2011 WHEN IT WAS CHANGED TO A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS AGAINST IT FROM THE DAY IT STARTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE ASKED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TALK ABOUT IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WANTED TO REMOVE THAT POSITION AND TWO OTHERS POSITIONS, BUT HE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES AND PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO HELP FAMILY MEMBERS PAY THEIR TAXES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE TRIED TO GET THE OPERATING BUDGET DOWN SO THERE WOULD NOT BE AN INCREASE AND HE WAS NOT ABLE TO DO IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DOESN'T CARE WHO IS HIRED BY THE COUNTY, HE JUST WANTS THE MOST QUALIFIED TO BE HIRED AND HE HAS NEVER TOLD MR. FULGHUM WHO TO HIRE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IT IS MR. FULGHUM'S JOB TO DO THE HIRING, NOT THE COUNCIL, THE ADMINISTRATOR WORKS FOR THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS DISTURBED WHEN HE LOOKED AT THE JOB DESCRIPTION IN THE COUNTY'S JOB DESCRIPTION MANUAL HE WAS GIVEN WHEN HE CAME

INTO OFFICE AND THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR THAT WAS ADVERTISED IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY THE COUNCIL NEVER SAW A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THIS POSITION BEFORE THE POSITION WAS APPROVED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE NEW JOB DESCRIPTION WAS NOT SEEN OR VOTED UPON BY THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT THE JOB DESCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN LAST WEEK AND IT WAS NEVER BROUGHT TO COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS WERE NOT THE SAME AND THE JOB TITLES WERE NOT THE SAME, AND IT WAS A NEW POSITION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL DID NOT HAVE ANY INPUT NOR DID THEY APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE HAD INPUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DOES NOT SEE A NEED FOR THIS POSITION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL DID NOT SEE OR APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE JOB DESCRIPTION WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE AGREED WITH VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY THAT THE PEOPLE ELECTED THEM TO DO THEIR BEST FOR THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IN THIS ECONOMY THE BUDGET SHOULD HAVE BEEN CUT, NOT KEPT AT THE SAME LEVEL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR DEBT SERVICE AND COMMENTED THAT THE COUNCIL CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT SINCE THE MONEY WAS ALREADY SPENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE CANNOT SEE A NEW JOB DESCRIPTION BEING WRITTEN WITHOUT THE COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGING IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID NOT SEE THE NEED FOR A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND MAYBE MORE MONEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO THE ALLIANCE BECAUSE THAT IS WHO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WANTS TO WORK WITH. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOES NOT WANT TO WORK WITH 46 COUNTIES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS BROUGHT 275 NEW JOBS TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WILL TRY TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF JASPER COUNTY THAT HE SERVES.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR COMMENTED THAT HE READ FROM THE SCAC MODEL RULES AND IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS TO NO AVAIL. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY HAVE AN AGENDA, BUT A LOT WAS DISCUSSED THAT WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA, BUT HE WOULD OVERLOOK IT FOR TIME BEING AND MOVE ON.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT-** MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A LETTER FROM THE SOLICITOR REGARDING THE USE OF THE OLD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE AND WHAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE FINANCIALLY HELP FOR THE CHANGES.

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION AND THE JOB DESCRIPTION. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HAD A GOOD DISCUSSION ABOUT THE JOB DESCRIPTION WITH COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE STAFF WORKED ON CONDREY ASSOCIATES BASED ON THE DIRECTIONS THEY RECEIVED FROM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GENERAL DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY ALSO MADE CORRECTIONS TO THE DIVISION DIRECTOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION REGARDING REPORTING AS TO THE COUNCIL'S WISHES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HAD THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE COUNCIL TO REVIEW AND HE JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE STAFF WAS HEARING WHAT THE COUNCIL SAID AND THAT THEY ACTED ACCORDINGLY. MR. FULGHUM SAID NO ONE HAS APPLIED FOR THE JOB. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR READ SECTION 3.3 WHICH SAID THE COUNCIL ONLY HAS AUTHORITY WHEN SPEAKING IN ONE VOICE AND NO ONE INDIVIDUAL HAS AUTHORITY OVER COUNTY OPERATIONS. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID WANTED TO READ IT AGAIN FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE SAT HERE TWO MEETINGS AGO AND HEARD HIM SAY THAT THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO HIRE A MINORITY, AND HE WAS NOT DOING ANYMORE THAN THE CHAIRMAN DID. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR TOLD COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE HE WAS OUT OF ORDER.

**OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER INDIVIDUAL):** CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

**JOHN CRAPSE** SAID HE GRADUATED FROM JASPER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL IN 1989 AND JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST OF STANDARDIZED TESTING. MR. CRAPSE SAID HE GRADUATED FROM THE DUMBEST HIGH SCHOOL IN UNITED STATES AND 22 YEARS LATER IT IS STILL THE DUMBEST HIGH SCHOOL IN UNITED STATES. MR. CRAPSE ASKED THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO VOTED FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR TO FORFEIT THEIR SALARIES TO PAY FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION.

**DEL DAVIDSON** SAID THAT THE MEDIUM INCOME IN JASPER COUNTY IS \$29,000 AND THERE ARE MILLIONAIRES IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. DAVIDSON SAID THE \$58,000 SHOULD BE THE MAXIMUM ANY TOP COUNTY EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE PAID. MR. DAVIDSON SAID HE WAS A SMALL BUSINESS MAN, AND HE AGREED WITH THE \$25 PER VEHICLE TAX, BUT HE WANTED TO KNOW IF ALL CARS, TRUCKS, CAMPERS ETC. WOULD BE TAXED SO THAT IT WOULD BE FAIR. MR. DAVIDSON ALSO DISCUSSED A WILDLIFE TAX OF 50 CENTS PER ACRE ON ALL PARCELS OVER 10 ACRES. MR. DAVIDSON SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING FAST BEFORE THE COUNTY WENT BANKRUPT AND SOMEONE ELSE ENDS UP OWNING THE COUNTY.

**KEITH HORTON** EXPLAINED THAT WHEN HE CAME TO THE MEETING HE DID NOT INTEND TO SPEAK, BUT AFTER HEARING VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY'S STATEMENT HE FELT THE NEED TO SPEAK. MR. HORTON SAID HE DID NOT THINK YOU COULD FIND 9 USELESS FIREMEN STANDING

AROUND NOT DOING THEIR JOB. MR. HORTON SAID CUTTING THOSE FIREMEN LEFT THE CITIZENS WITH NO FIRE OR EMS PROTECTION. MR. HORTON SAID THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE HIGHER INSURANCE RATES IN ADDITION TO HIGHER TAXES. MR. HORTON SAID VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID PEOPLE WERE LAID OFF BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT WORKING. MR. HORTON INVITED THE COUNCIL TO GO TO THE RECYCLING CENTERS; MR. HORTON SAID THOSE PEOPLE WORK AND THOSE PEOPLE NEED MONEY, BUT THE COUNTY CANNOT AFFORD TO KEEP THE RECYCLING CENTERS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. THE PEOPLE AT THE RECYCLING CENTERS INCOME WERE CUT WHEN THE DAYS WERE CUT. THE COUNTY DOES NOT NEED AN \$80,000 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR. MR. HORTON SAID IF THE COUNCIL IS GOING TO SPEND MONEY, SPEND IT ON THE CITIZENS. MR. HORTON SAID THE COUNCIL CUT THE FIREMEN AND EMS WORKERS. MR. HORTON SAID THOSE PEOPLE SAVE LIVES AND THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A JOB. MR. HORTON SAID THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE IS DOING A GOOD JOB AND BROUGHT 275 JOBS TO THE COUNTY. MR. HORTON TOLD THE COUNCIL TO LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE, DON'T CHANGE IT AND STOP BLAMING THE OTHER COUNCILS. MR. HORTON SAID IT HAS TO STOP AND THIS COUNCIL CAN GO BACK AND AMEND THE BUDGET. MR. HORTON SAID THE PEOPLE OF JASPER COUNTY DO NOT DESERVE TO BE TAXED OUT OF THEIR HOMES. MR. HORTON SAID PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR HOMES, WHITE PEOPLE, BLACK PEOPLE, EVERYONE. MR. HORTON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE CITIZENS VOTED FOR THEM, NOT TO WORK FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY AND IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE.

**IRIS YOUNG** SAID SHE DID NOT SUPPORT ANYMORE CUTS TO EMS AND FIRE. MS. YOUNG SAID THOSE PEOPLE CANNOT BE STRETCHED ANYMORE AND THE PEOPLE HAVE TO PAY HIGH INSURANCE RATES. MS. YOUNG SAID THERE WERE ONLY 4 AMBULANCES FOR OVER 600 SQUARE MILES AND NOW THE COUNCIL IS ASKING THEM TO MOW THE GRASS AT THE STATIONS. MS. YOUNG SAID SHE FELT THAT WAS RIDICULOUS. MS. YOUNG SAID THEY ARE CUTTING GRASS AND GET A CALL, THEY GO AND THEY ARE ALL SMELLY. MS. YOUNG ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL FIND IT IN THEIR HEARTS NOT TO MAKE ANYMORE CUTS TO EMS AND FIRE.

**JOHN ALSTON** SAID HE HEARD A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON AND HE SAID WE ARE IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES AND SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN A MOST COGENT WAY. MR. ALSTON SAID THE PEOPLE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND NOT MAKE SHOTGUN CUTS, BUT SURGICAL CUTS AND THEY STOP BICKERING AND WORK TOGETHER. MR. ALSTON SAID NORMALLY YOU HEAR A CASE SUPPORTING THE POSITION, HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT HEARD A CASE, AND HE HAS ONLY HEARD NUMBERS. MR. ALSTON SAID HE HEARD THAT JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS WERE THE DUMBEST SCHOOLS AND IF THAT IS TRUE WE HAVE CAUSED IT. THERE ARE MANY PRESENT TONIGHT THAT HAVE ABANDON THE JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS AND HE SAID THAT SCHOOL SYSTEM TURN OUT SOME PRETTY GOOD STUDENTS AND HE WAS ONE OF THEM. MR. ALSTON SAID HE GRADUATED FROM JASPER HIGH SCHOOL WHEN THEY HAD INFERIOR BOOKS AND INFERIOR BUILDINGS, BUT BUILDING DON'T EDUCATE

CHILDREN. MR. ALSTON SAID THE PEOPLE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE DUMBEST HIGH SCHOOL IN UNITED STATES HAS PRODUCED SOME GOOD STUDENTS. MR. ALSTON SAID HE DID NOT LIKE TO PAY TAXES EITHER, BUT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO PRIORITIZE THINGS AND DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY. MR. ALSTON SAID HE KNOWS PEOPLE SAY THINGS TO GET ELECTED, BUT EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET TOGETHER AND RISE TOGETHER AND WORK IN UNITY.

**ROB MCBRAYER** SAID HE MOVED TO JASPER COUNTY ABOUT A 1 ½ YEARS AGO AND THEY LOVE THE COMMUNITY AND THE SLOWER PACE OF LIFE. MR. MCBRAYER SAID IN VIRGINIA WHEN THE PROPERTY VALUES WENT DOWN THE TAXES WENT DOWN AND SERVICES WERE CUT. MR. MCBRAYER SAID HE KNEW OF THREE BUSINESSES THAT CLOSED BECAUSE PEOPLE COULD NOT TO PAY THE TAXES. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT REALTORS ARE HESITANT TO SHOW PROPERTIES ON THE JASPER COUNTY SIDE OF SUN CITY. MR. MCBRAYER ASKED WHY HIRE A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND HAVE TO PAY HIS EXPENSE ACCOUNT. MR. BLAIR ASKED WHAT WOULD THEY PROMOTE- HIGH TAXES, TRIPLE PROPERTY VALUES. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ARE PAYING HIGH TAXES, BUT THE LARGER COMPANIES COMING INTO THE COUNTY GET TAX BREAKS AND WHEN THOSE TAX BREAKS EXPIRE, THEY CLOSE UP AND LEAVE. MR. MCBRAYER SAID HIS TAXES HAVE ALMOST TRIPLED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT 53% OF THE CITIZENS OF JASPER COUNTY GO OUTSIDE OF JASPER COUNTY TO WORK. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT 60% OF THE TAX MONEY GOES TO THE SCHOOLS AND ONLY 40% OF THE STUDENTS WHO MAKE IT TO THE 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATE. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT COUNTY BUSINESSES ARE NOT HIRING AND SOME ARE GOING UNDER. MR. MCBRAYER SAID WHEN A BUSINESS GOES UNDER, THAT MONEY IS GOING SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE COUNTY. MR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT DANIEL DEFENSE AND BE GREEN WERE RECRUITED WITHOUT THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.

**PAM ALTMAN** SAID SHE GRADUATED FROM RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL IN 1971 AND IT WAS GOING BAD THEN. MS. ALTMAN SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING SHE HAS EVER ATTENDED AND THESE ARE STRUGGLING TIMES. MS. ALTMAN ASKED VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY WHERE HE WAS DURING THE MEETINGS WHEN THEY DISCUSSED THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATION AND THE DEBT. MS. ALTMAN SAID SHE VOTES EVERY ELECTION AND AS A VOTER SHE HAD A RIGHT TO SPEAK AND THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T VOTE SHOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING. MS. ALTMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR WAS DOING A FINE JOB WITH THE CURRENT STAFF. MS. ALTMAN SAID BY ADDING A NEW POSITION PUTS THEM ON THE SAME LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AS WASHINGTON BY RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT. MS. ALTMAN SAID IF THEY INSIST ON HIRING SOMEONE, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERSON COULD BENEFIT THE ENTIRE COUNTY, BUT THE BUDGET CANNOT STAND IT. MS. ALTMAN SAID THE COUNTY IS IN DESPERATE TIMES AND THEY NEED TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES. MS. ALTMAN ASKED IF THE ADMINISTRATOR ASKED FOR THIS POSITION TO BE ADDED OR WAS IT ADDED BECAUSE THE COUNCIL THOUGHT IT WAS NEEDED. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR TOLD MS. ALTMAN THAT THE COUNCIL

DOES NOT RESPOND DURING OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC. MS. ALTMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR WAS DOING A FINE JOB AND NOT HIRING A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR WAS SOMETHING FOR THEM TO THINK ABOUT IT.

**FREDDY BRANTLEY** SAID HE FELT THAT THE PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD AS TO WHAT IS BEING ASKED AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL LOOKED AT THE BUDGET AND CAME UP WITH THIS POSITION AND WHEN THEY DID THE BUDGET THEY ALL VOTED FOR IT. MR. BRANTLEY SAID THE POSITION WAS CREATED TO MAKE MORE JOBS AND MORE JOBS MEANS MORE TAXES. MR. BRANTLEY SAID THE COUNTY COUNCIL HAS TO BE UNITED AND THEY NEED VISION. MR. BRANTLEY SAID THAT WHEN THE POSITION WAS DECIDED AND WHO WAS GOING TO GET THE POSITION WAS DECIDED IS WHEN THE PROBLEMS STARTED. MR. BRANTLEY SAID MR. SAULS SAID HE MADE A MISTAKE AND VOTED FOR IT, BUT HE IS ENTITLED TO CHANGE HIS MIND. HE ASKED COUNCILMAN SAULS IF HE SAID THAT. MR. BRANTLEY SAID THAT THE POSITION WAS CREATED TO FREE UP MR. FULGHUM SO HE COULD WORK ON BRINGING IN MORE JOBS TO THE COUNTY. MR. BRANTLEY SAID THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD REFLECT THE MAKE-UP OF THE COUNTY AND IT DOES NOT. MR. BRANTLEY SAID DON'T TELL HIM WHAT IS FAIR OR WHAT IS RIGHT BECAUSE IF YOU LOOK AT THE MAKE-UP OF THE COUNTY'S STAFF, YOU WILL SEE THAT IT IS NOT EQUAL. MR. BRANTLEY SAID PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS POSITION GOING TO A MINORITY AND IT SHOULD NOT MATTER IF HE IS QUALIFIED. MR. BRANTLEY SAID HE DID NOT LIKE TO PAY TAXES, BUT TAXES ARE WHAT THE COUNTY USES TO PAY FOR THE SERVICES THE CITIZENS WANT. MR. BRANTLEY SAID HE GOES TO ALL THE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HE NEVER HEARD HOW MUCH THIS BUILDING AND THE COURTHOUSE COST AND HE AGREED WITH VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY THAT IS JUST THE WAY IT IS AND WHAT DID THE PAST COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS DO.

**RANDY HORTON** SAID HE WAS ON THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE DUMBEST SCHOOL IN THE NATION. MR. HORTON SAID THE BOARD TRIES TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE COUNTY. MR. HORTON SAID THEY BUILT THE SCHOOLS AND THEY DON'T HAVE FISCAL AUTONOMY AND IT IS UP TO THE COUNCIL TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE DOING WHAT IS RIGHT. MR. HORTON SAID TWO VOTES COST THE COUNTY OVER \$500,000 FOR A SECURITY SYSTEM AND A CUSTODIAL CONTRACT. MR. HORTON SAID BY TAKING THE LOWEST BID FOR THE CUSTODIAL SERVICES THEY WOULD HAVE SAVED \$141,000 PER YEAR. MR. HORTON SAID IT WAS HARD TO SIT ON A BOARD AND SEE TAX MONEY BEING WASTED AND NOT MAKING IT TO THE CLASSROOM. MR. HORTON SAID ADMINISTRATORS DON'T TEACH CHILDREN, TEACHERS TEACH CHILDREN, BUT THIS YEAR 12 TEACHERS WERE LET GO AND ONLY 3 ADMINISTRATORS WERE LET GO. MR. HORTON SAID THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT IS COSTING \$400,000 THIS YEAR AND 2 YEARS AGO IT COST \$50,000. MR. HORTON SAID THEY ALL NEED TO TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS. MR. HORTON ASKED THE COUNCIL TO MAKE THE SCHOOL BOARD BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE. MR. HORTON SAID FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS THEY HAVE ASKED FOR A FORENSIC AUDIT AND THEY CANNOT GET THE SUPERINTENDENT TO GET ONE. MR. HORTON ASKED THE

COUNCIL TO MAKE THE SCHOOL BOARD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE FUNDS THEY RECEIVE.

**MILTON WOODS** THANKED VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE WHO POINTED OUT WHAT THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN TRYING TO SAY AND THAT WE ARE IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE AND THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO RAISE THE TAXES BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD STEWARDS OF THE TAXPAYERS MONEY IN ALL CASES. MR. WOODS SAID VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE BOTH POINTED THAT OUT SO WELL AND HE HOPED THE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEY SAID. MR. WOODS SAID THAT WE ARE LIVING BEYOND OUR MEANS AND LIVING IN UNUSUAL TIMES. MR. WOODS CONTINUED THAT THE THINGS WE WANT ON THE LIST OF 27 GOALS ARE WONDERFUL AND YOU SHOULD STRIVE TO MEET THEM, BUT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO STEP BACK AND SEE WHAT GOALS ARE THE GREATEST AND PRIORITIZE THEM. MR. WOODS SAID HE ASKED AT THE LAST MEETING IF IT WAS AN EMERGENCY TO FILL THIS POSITION THAT HAS BEEN CREATED AND BUDGETED. MR. WOODS SAID AT THE LAST MEETING HE ASKED HOW MUCH WAS THIS POSITION GOING TO COST AND NOT ONE COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACTED HIM TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THAT INFORMATION. MR. WOODS SAID HE HAS TO ASSUME HIS QUESTION WAS NOT IMPORTANT TO THEM. MR. WOODS SAID HE WAS A TAXPAYER, BUT HE WAS A WEIGHT AROUND THEIR NECK IN WHAT THEY CALL PROGRESSIVENESS. MR. WOODS ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD TURN THE PAGE AND LOOK AT BEING CONSERVATIVE. MR. WOODS SAID THAT WE ARE LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND HE ASKED IF ANY OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS COULD OPERATE THEIR HOUSEHOLD OR BUSINESS BUDGETS THE WAY THE COUNTY OPERATES NOW. MR. WOODS SAID THAT SOMEONE POINTED OUT THAT THE MILLAGE FOR THE BOND DEBT WAS GOING TO GO UP OVER THE NEXT 2 OR 3 YEARS AND THAT THEY HOPED IT WOULD LEVEL OFF. MR. WOODS SAID HE THOUGHT THE BOND DEBT WAS LOCKED IN, BUT EVIDENTLY IT IS NOT AND IT IS GOING TO CONTINUOUSLY CLIMB. MR. WOODS ASKED THE COUNCIL HOW THEY WERE GOING TO DEAL WITH THAT. MR. WOODS ASKED THE COUNCIL IF THEY WERE HAPPY THAT THEY WERE GOING TO SADDLE THE TAXPAYERS WITH THAT TYPE OF TAX BURDEN. MR. WOODS SAID THAT THE COUNTY HAS IT AND THE CITIZENS WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT, BUT THERE WERE PLENTY OF PLACES TO SAVE MONEY IN THE COUNTY. MR. WOODS SAID EVERY OFFICE SHOULD BE EVALUATED ANNUALLY TO SEE THAT THE WORK IS BEING DONE EFFICIENTLY AND WHAT THE EMPLOYEES ARE BEING PAID TO DO. MR. WOODS SAID THE COUNTY IS A BIG BUSINESS. MR. WOODS ASKED TO THE COUNCIL NOT TO FILL THE POSITION AND HE CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THE COUNTY IS GOING TO LOSE TOO MANY JOBS BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ALLIANCE. THE COUNCIL HAS PRAISED THE ALLIANCE MANY TIMES. MR. WOODS SAID IT IS DISHEARTENING WHEN COME TO THESE MEETINGS AND HE ASKED THE COUNCIL NOT TO FILL THE POSITION, MAYBE THEY COULD FILL THE POSITION IN JANUARY, BUT THE COUNTY WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO FILL THE POSITION NOW.

**DENISE DAVIDSON** COMMENTED THAT SHE WAS RESPONDING TO WHAT WAS REPORTED AT THE LAST TWO MEETINGS AND SHE ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CORRECT HER IF SHE WAS WRONG. MS. DAVIDSON SAID IT WAS BROUGHT UP THAT PART OF THE \$450,000 COLLECTED AS A ROAD MAINTENANCE FEE WAS GOING TO BE USED FOR THE SALARY OF THE NEW POSITION. SHE ASKED IF THAT WAS CORRECT. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL DOES NOT RESPOND TO QUESTIONS DURING THIS PART OF THE MEETING. MS. DAVIDSON SAID IF THIS IS THE CASE WHEN THIS \$25 IS COLLECTED UNDER THE PREMISE THAT IT IS DESIGNATED FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SHE ASKED HOW SOME OF THE FUNDS COULD BE DIVERTED TO PAY FOR ANOTHER POSITION. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE SPOKE THIS EVENING ABOUT THE \$450,000 AND SHE ASKED WHERE WAS THE PLAN ON HOW THE MONEY WOULD BE USED. MS. DAVIDSON SAID EVERY PERSON IN JASPER COUNTY WITH A VEHICLE WILL PAY THIS TAX AND THE PEOPLE ARE COMING AND ASKING YOU TO RECONSIDER THE POSITION. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THE PEOPLE CAN'T RECONSIDER IF THEY ARE GOING TO PAY THIS. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID THEY ARE GOING TO WORK WITH THE ALLIANCE. MS. DAVIDSON SAID SHE READ THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND THERE WAS NOT A THING IN IT ABOUT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SHE ASKED IF ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES OR WHAT TYPE OF CREDENTIALS FOR THE POSITION. MS. DAVIDSON ASKED WHAT THE REAL REASON WAS FOR THIS POSITION AND WHAT WAS THE URGENCY TO HIRE SOMEONE FOR THIS POSITION. MS. DAVIDSON SAID THAT AS A TAXPAYER AND VOTER SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT PAYING THE TAXES, BUT THE COUNCIL HAS A CHOICE AND IF YOU MADE A WRONG DECISION THERE HAS NOT BEEN A 3<sup>RD</sup> READING. MS. DAVIDSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY COULD CHANGE IT AND SAVE THE TAXPAYERS SOME MONEY.

**BARBARA BARTOLDUS** SAID SHE MADE A SUGGESTION REGARDING THE OLD SCHOOLS AND SHE ASKED WHY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT SELLING THE TWO OLD SCHOOLS TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL. MS. BARTOLDUS SAID THE BUILDINGS ARE LITERALLY FALLING DOWN ACCORDING TO THE JASPER COUNTY SUN. MS. BARTOLDUS SAID THE BUILDINGS ARE IN SHAMBLES AND THE CHARTER PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO COME AND FIX THE BUILDINGS AND TEACH OUR CHILDREN AND PERHAPS THE COUNTY COULD GET RID OF THE NAME OF THE STUPIDEST SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. MS. BARTOLDUS SAID WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOLS, MAYBE THE CHILDREN WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A DECENT EDUCATION. MS. BARTOLDUS ADDED THAT SHE WAS NOT SAYING THIS WAS THE SOLUTION, BUT PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO BUY THE SCHOOLS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TURNED THEM DOWN. MS. BARTOLDUS SAID IT WAS THIS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS.

**GARY HODGES** – MR. HODGES SAID THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CAME TO THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND AND ASKED FOR HELP TO PAY THEIR STAFF. MR. HODGES SAID THE TOWN TURNED DOWN THE REQUESTS BECAUSE IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY TO PAY FOR THE LIBRARY. MR. HODGES ASKED HOW THE COUNTY COME CAN UP WITH THE MONEY FOR A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND NOT HELP TO KEEP THE LIBRARY SYSTEM

OPEN. MR. HODGES SAID THE RIDGELAND FIRE CONTRACT OF \$195,000 TO COVER A FIVE MILE RADIUS WAS RENEWED FOR ONE YEAR. MR. HODGES SAID THE SALARY FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR IS HALF OF THE COST OF THE FIRE CONTRACT. MR. HODGES ASKED ABOUT THE \$25 PER VEHICLE APPLYING TO THE MUNICIPALITIES AND HE SAID THE TOWN WAS GOING TO RAISE SOME ISSUES ABOUT THAT. MR. HODGES ASKED WHAT THE PLAN WAS FOR THAT \$450,000 AND HE EXPECTS 10% OF THAT MONEY TO BE SPENT ON THE ROADS IN THE TOWN IF THAT IS TRULY WHAT IT IS FOR. MR. HODGES SAID THAT EVERYONE IS GOING THROUGH THE SAME THINGS AND IN 3 YEARS THE BUDGET AND THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND IS THE SAME AS WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE. MR. HODGES SAID IF A POLICE OFFICER RESIGNS, THEY WAIT 3 MONTHS BEFORE HIRING ANOTHER ONE. MR. HODGES SAID THE TOWN ABSORBED THE DROP IN THE VALUE OF THE MILLS. MR. HODGES SAID THIS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION HAS PEOPLE STIRRED UP AND HE IS HAPPY TO BE PART OF BE GREEN, DANIELS DEFENSE AND THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE BEING IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. HODGES SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE PULLED IN SOME BIG FISH AND HE ASKED THE COUNCIL TO LOOK AT THIS NEW POSITION AND IF THEY HONESTLY THINK THIS POSITION IS NEEDED THEN SOMEONE IS CONFUSED. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9:30 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR  
CHAIRMAN

