



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**358 THIRD AVE.  
RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009  
5:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR  
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL  
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY

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 MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR OFFERED THE INVOCATION.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING SPECIAL REFERENDUM ELECTION:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD COMMENTED THAT THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE REFERENDUM ELECTION WAS PASSED AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING AND ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE PREVAILING SIDE REQUESTED THIS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE ORDINANCE. ATTORNEY JONES SAID HE PREPARED TWO PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS ORDINANCE. MR. JONES SAID ONE PROPOSAL WAS TO POSTPONE THE REFERENDUM

ELECTION FROM 2009 TO 2010 IN ORDER TO SAVE THE COUNTY THE EXTRA COST OF HOLDING A SPECIAL ELECTION AND THE OTHER VERSION WAS TO DO AWAY WITH THE REFERENDUM ELECTION ALL TOGETHER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY EXPENSES FOR THIS ELECTION TO DATE. MR. JONES RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE SOME ATTORNEY FEES AND THE COST OF AN AD. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE REQUESTED THE MEETING BECAUSE OF THE COST AND THERE WAS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WOULD NOT TAKE AFFECT UNTIL 2012. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE REFERENDUM WOULD PASS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE FELT THERE COULD BE SOME CONFUSION WITH THE VOTERS IF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE COUNCIL HAD A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF DISTRICTS. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM WITH THE STATE IF THE ELECTION WAS TO BE HELD NOW. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE ISSUE WAS ABOUT SPENDING THE EXTRA MONEY FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE CENSUS WILL BE DONE IN 2010 AND THE DISTRICTS CAN BE DETERMINED FOR THE 2012 ELECTION. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE PUSHED HARD FOR THIS ELECTION AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE OUTCOME AND THE VOTERS WILL MAKE THE DECISION AND HE FELT THAT IT COULD WAIT UNTIL THE 2010 REGULAR ELECTION. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO POSTPONE THE SPECIAL ELECTION UNTIL 2012 SO THAT THE DISTRICTS CAN BE THE SAME AS THE SCHOOL BOARD. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY WAITS UNTIL 2012 IF THE SENATOR STATES HE IS GOING TO CHANGE THE SCHOOL BOARD TO SEVEN MEMBERS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE HAS NOT TALKED WITH THE SENATOR. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEAK WITH THE SENATOR AND FIND OUT WHAT HE PLANNED ON DOING WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE ORDINANCE CAN BE REVISITED REGARDING HOLDING THE ELECTION IN 2010. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE ORDINANCE CAN BE REWORDED DURING THE NEXT TWO READINGS. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. ATTORNEY JONES SAID HE WILL CANCEL THE SCHEDULED PUBLICATIONS AND HE WILL NOTIFY THE ATTORNEY IN CHARLESTON WHO HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD MR. FULGHUM TO NOTIFY MS. BOSTICK.

**ADJOURN:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACK-SHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN