



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
APRIL 7, 2011  
3:00 P.M.**

---

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
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, ATTORNEY MARVIN JONES, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, PLANNING DIRECTOR DAVID JIROSUEK, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR CHRISTY HERMAN

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-** COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY - [MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PROJECT ROSE AND](#) 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 - FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND**

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR REQUESTED A MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PROJECT ROSE AND 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 - FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR WELCOMED EVERYONE TO THE MEETING AND EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PROJECT ROSE. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR RECOGNIZED TOM UPSHAW, JIMMY BAKER AND JAN BAXTER FROM PALMETTO ELECTRIC AND THANKED PALMETTO ELECTRIC FOR BEING SUCH WONDREFUL PARTNERS WITH JASPER COUNTY. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR RECOGNIZED DAVID BROWN WHO REPRESENTED BE GREEN PACKAGING AND MANUFACTURING, LLC. (PROJECT ROSE) CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR THANKED EVERYONE FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING THIS COMPANY TO JASPER COUNTY.

**KIM STATLER - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PROJECT ROSE** - MS. STATLER EXPLAINED THAT BE GREEN PACKAGING AND MANUFACTURING, LLC IS BUYING THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OWNED BY HAVEN HOMES AT THE CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK. MS. STATLER SAID THE COMPANY IS INVESTING \$7,300,000 AND WILL BE BRINGING 175 NEW JOBS TO THE COUNTY WITH 85 OF THE JOBS PAYING OVER \$13.00 HR. MS. STATLER SAID THE A 20 YEAR PILOT AND THE

COUNTY CREATING A MCIP AT CYPRESS RIDGE WERE TWO OF THE INCENTIVES PROVIDED TO THE COMPANY. MS. STATLER SAID A GREEN EDUCATION FUND IS TO BE CREATED. MS. STATLER SAID THAT \$800,000 IN RDA FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT AND LEGAL PROVISIONS WERE ALSO INCLUDED. MR. BROWN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT BE GREEN APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY AND IS EXCITED ABOUT OPENING IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. BROWN SAID THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH MR. UPSHAW, MR. BAKER AND MRS. BAXTER. MR. BROWN SAID THE PACKAGING PRODUCT TO BE MANUFACTURED WILL BE MADE OF MATERIAL FROM THE COMMUNITY. MR. BROWN SAID THEY WERE GOING TO START LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES FOR MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION. MR. BROWN SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH DR. WASHINGTON TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MOU AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN AND EXECUTE THE MOU THAT WAS PRESENTED TODAY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE THANKED EVERYONE INVOLVED AND HE THANKED MR. BROWN FOR LOVING SOUTH CAROLINA AS MUCH AS THEY DID. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE THANKED PALMETTO ELECTRIC. THE COUNCIL TOOK A 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION.

**RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO 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 -, FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND.** THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS AND ASKED FOR A MOTION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO RENEW THE FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND FOR ONE MORE YEAR AND TO INSTRUCT THE FIRE CHIEF TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO COVER THOSE AREAS AND HE HAS ONE YEAR TO ACCOMPLISH IT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HIS RECOMMENDATION

WAS TO ELIMINATE ALL FIRE CONTRACTS IMMEDIATELY AND THEY NEEDED TO STOP KICKING THE CAN YEAR AFTER YEAR. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID EVERY YEAR THEY SAY IT IS FOR ONE MORE YEAR. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID SOME PEOPLE WILL BE UPSET WHEN THE ISO RATINGS GO UP, BUT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO LOOK OUT FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THE FIRE CONTRACTS SHOULD STOP IMMEDIATELY, TODAY, AND SOMETIME THEY JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS AND NOT KEEP KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THERE WILL BE SOME ROUGH YEARS, BUT THEY WILL COME OUT OF IT EVENTUALLY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE DECISIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE, AND THEY SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT THE RURAL AREAS TOO, BUT PEOPLE WILL LOSE JOBS AND HE BELIEVED THEY NEEDED TO GET OUT OF THE CONTRACTS, BUT HE FELT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN A YEAR'S NOTICE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT WOULD GIVE THE CHIEF ONE YEAR TO COME UP WITH A PLAN TO COVER THE ENTIRE COUNTY, SO THAT HE CAN GET THINGS IN MOTION AND HAVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID YOU CANNOT JUST DO IT ALL OF A SUDDEN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE TO AMEND HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT THE CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE RENEWED NEXT YEAR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN SHOWN THE COUNTY CANNOT COVER THOSE AREAS FOR LESS OR THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT WAS NOT REVELANT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE AMENDED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE AMENDMENT THAT THE MOTION WOULD INCLUDE THAT THE CONTRACTS WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR AND THEY WILL NOT BE RENEWED AT THE END OF 2012. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMAN SAULS AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON VOTED AGAINST.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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