



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
358 THIRD AVE.
RIDGELAND, SC 29936
FEBRUARY 16, 2010
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN

OFFICIALS ABSENT;

HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL
DAVID JIROUSEK, PLANNING DIRECTOR
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SERVICES
WILBUR DALEY, DEP. ADM. ENGINEERING SERVICES
HERMAN SMITH, BUILDING DEPT. DIRECTOR
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 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION:

BUTCH WIDDON AND JIM MELLEN – 2009 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

MR. WIDDON EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE AUDIT AND HE AND MR. MELLEN WOULD ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. MR. WIDDON SAID THE REGULAR ACCOUNTING STAFF HANDLES THE DAY TO DAY ACCOUNTING AND THAT IS CHECKED BY MR. MELLEN. MR. WIDDON DISCUSSED THE GFOA AWARD AND SAID THAT THE COUNTY HAD EXCELLENT FINANCIAL CONTROLS. MR. WIDDON SAID HIS FIRM ISSUES AN OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE AUDIT INCLUDES AN OPINION LETTER. MR. WIDDON SAID ALL ITEMS WERE GOOD AND HE GAVE A CLEAN UNQUALIFIED OPINION. MR. WIDDON STATED THAT THE FINANCIAL ASSETS WERE DOWN FROM \$5,400,000.00 TO \$935,000.00 AND THERE WERE \$18,000,000.00 IN NOTES WHICH WAS UP ABOUT \$11,000,000.00. MR. WIDDON DISCUSSED PAGES 20-21 WHICH COVER A BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND INCLUDES ALL THE FUNDS IN A COMMON FINANCIAL STATEMENT. MR. WIDDON SAID THAT PAGE 21 INCLUDED AN INCOME STATEMENT THAT STARTED WITH EXPENSES, THEN REVENUE AND GENERAL REVENUE. MR. WIDDON SAID 74% OF THE COUNTY'S REVENUE COMES FROM TAXES AND THERE WAS A DECREASE IN THE NET ASSETS OF \$5,400,000.00, WHICH IS A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE. MR. WIDDON DISCUSSED THE BANK LOANS, INTEREST, BONDS AND DEBT SERVICE. MR. WIDDON LISTED THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE AUDIT AND THE FINDINGS FROM THE INTERNAL CONTROL TESTING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE NET ASSEST CHANGES ON PAGE 21 WERE DUE TO EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ENGINEERING SERVICES. MR. WIDDON RESPONDED THAT IT WAS MOSTLY EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT CAUSED THE CHANGE IN THE NET ASSETS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$321,595.00 IN ACCRUED INTEREST ON PAGE 23 AND MR. WIDDON SAID ACCRUED INTEREST IS INTEREST THAT HAS NOT BEEN PAID. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$935,000.00 IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDS. MR. WIDDON SAID THAT IS MONEY THAT IS AVAILABLE TO SPEND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THAT \$935,000.00 WAS ACTUALLY AVAILABLE TO SPEND. MR. WIDDON SAID IT WAS ON JUNE 30, 2009. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE \$3,944,000.00 BALANCE ON PAGE 14 THAT IS RESTRICTED FUNDS. MR. WIDDON SAID THOSE FUNDS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS TO WHERE THE FUNDS SHOULD GO. MR. MELLEN SAID IT WOULD BE CASH AND RECEIVABLES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS MONEY WAS IN THE BUDGET. MR. WIDDON SAID THAT ON A BUDGET BASIS IT SHOULD BE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE REFERRED TO PAGE 17 WHERE THE TAXES WERE UNDER BY \$1,495,000.00. MR. WIDDON SAID THAT WAS CORRECT AND HE DOES NOT PREPARE IT, HE JUST RATES IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE REFERRED TO PAGE 17 AND THAT WAS STILL A DECREASE OF \$12,644,000.00 FROM THE YEAR BEFORE. MR. WIDDON SAID THAT THE MAJOR EXPENDITURES WERE FOR THE TWO BUILDINGS

AND THEY TOOK UP THE FUNDS FROM THE RESERVE. THERE WERE NO OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUDIT PRESENTATION, CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THAT THEY WOULD RETURN TO THE REGULAR AGENDA AT 7:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 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 AND FOR 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:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND CHAIRMAN HOOD SECONDED THE MOTION TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE OLD SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER IN HARDEEVILLE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED AGAINST.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE 2/1/10 COUNCIL MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

DENNIS RIVERS – 2010 CENSUS JOB TESTING
MR. RIVERS AND MR. STADEM REVIEWED THE QUALIFICATIONS AND SALARIES FOR THE PEOPLE BEING HIRED AS CENSUS WORKERS. MR.

STADEM STATED THAT THEY WANTED TO HIRE LOCAL PEOPLE TO WORK THE CENSUS AND 150-200 PEOPLE WERE NEEDED IN JASPER COUNTY.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES:

ANDREW FULGHUM – PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PARK AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE BEAUFORT COUNTY BOUNDARIES OF THE PARK TO INCLUDE ALL THOSE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK KNOWN AS “BEAUFORT COMMERCE PARK” LOCATED IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA:

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE ADDED PROPERTY WAS TO ACCOMMODATE PLUMME INDUSTRIES. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 3RD READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PARK AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE BEAUFORT COUNTY BOUNDARIES OF THE PARK TO INCLUDE ALL THOSE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK KNOWN AS “BEAUFORT COMMERCE PARK” LOCATED IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

DAVID JIROUSEK – 1ST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 20-42 OF THE JASPER COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REVISE COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:

MR. JIROUSEK AND MR. JONES EXPLAINED WHY THE ORDINANCE WAS NEEDED AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DESIGNATED SEATS FOR PROFESSIONALS. THE COUNCIL WANTED MORE INFORMATION AND THIS ITEM WAS TABLED UNTIL AFTER THE COUNCIL HOLDS A WORKSHOP ON THE ORDINANCE.

RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY REPORTED ON THE TRIP TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TO INSPECT THE ROADS THAT WERE PAVED TO COUNTY STANDARDS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO IMPROVE THE DIRT ROADS IN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ADDED THAT FAIRFIELD COUNTY PAVED 3.6 MILES OF ROADS FOR \$356,000.00 AND MR. RUDY SMITH TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT DUE TO ALL THE ROCK CURRENTLY ON THE ROAD, THE PRICE MAY EVEN BE LESS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID ANY WORK DONE IN HOUSE WOULD BRING THE COST DOWN. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HOW THIS CAN BE STARTED IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WOULD NEED TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL PROPOSAL FROM THE ENGINEERS.

CHAIRMAN HOOD REPORTED THAT STATE DAY IN COLUMBIA WAS MARCH 10, 2010 AND EVERYONE NEEDED TO ATTEND TO HELP PROMOTE THE SEMBLER PROJECT.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

MR. FULGHUM REPORTED THAT MS. BOSTICK CONTACTED MR. RIVERS AND REQUESTED THAT HE SOLICIT FUNDING FROM THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE COURTHOUSE.

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE MET WITH HARDEEVILLE ABOUT RENOVATING THE OLD HARDEEVILLE SCHOOL CAMPUS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAVE A DRAFT PLAN TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE VISITED A CENTER IN GREENWOOD AND HE RECOMMENDED THE COUNCIL VISIT GREENWOOD TO SEE ALL THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

MR. FULGHUM REPORTED THAT AN ARCHITECTUAL FIRM HAS VOLUNTEERED TO DO A PLAN FOR THE GRAYS SCHOOL AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE RESTORATION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE INFORMATION.

MR. FULGHUM REQUESTED \$2,500.00 ON BEHALF OF THE CHAMBER FOR STATE DAY.

MR. FULGHUM REPORTED THAT EMS RECEIVED A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,641.01. MR. DALEY SAID THE FUNDS CAN BE SPENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, TO IMPROVE THE SITE AND TO ATTEND HURRICANE CONFERENCES. MR. DALEY SAID THE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO ENHANCE THE EOC, AND THAT THE 08-09 FUNDS WERE USED FOR SECURITY, HURRICANE CONFERENCES AND COMPUTERS.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER INDIVIDUAL);

JACKIE VAN BLARICUM, REPRESENTING HER 89 YEAR OLD FATHER, ASKED THE COUNCIL TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT DRIGGERS LANE. MS. VAN BLARICUM SAID THE PEOPLE ARE STRANDED AND THE EMS PEOPLE CANNOT GET DOWN THE ROAD. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNTY WAS LOOKING INTO GRANTS FOR DRAINAGE AND HE ASKED THAT PICTURES OF THE ROAD BE GIVEN TO THE ADMINISTRATOR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID A STAFF MEMBER WAS TO BE WORKING WITH MS. KNIGHT FROM LCOG ON DRAINAGE GRANTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THERE ARE CBDG GRANTS

AVAILABLE FOR DRAINAGE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL IS FAMILIAR WITH THE ROAD AND THE ROADS IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, THEY ARE PRIVATE ROADS AND THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO FIX PRIVATE ROADS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE TOLD MS. VAN BLARICUM TO MEET WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR AND HE CAN EXPLAIN HOW THE ROADS CAN BE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTY SYSTEM. CHARLES DOUD SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THE NEW ORDINANCE WOULD CHANGE HOW ROADS CAN BE PART OF THE COUNTY SYSTEM. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED MR. DOUD TO MEET WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR.

ADJOURN:

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 8:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN