



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPRINGHILL SUITES
CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2010
1:00 P.M.
RETREAT**

MINUTES

FEB. 18, 2010

1:30 P.M.

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

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 HOOD CALLED THE RETREAT TO ORDER AT 1:30 P.M. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE 2009 GOALS AND IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY BE ON GOING. THE GOALS THAT HAVE BEEN MET NEEDED TO BE ONGOING WITH UPDATES QUARTERLY.

REINSTATEMENT OF DISCHARGED EMPLOYEES:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED SECTION 14.G OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY THAT DEALS WITH DISCHARGE OF EMPLOYEES. THIS SECTION STATES THAT EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR REINSTATEMENT IF RETURN TO DUTY OCCURS WITHIN THE FIRST 90 DAYS OF DEPARTURE; REHIRE OF THE DISCHARGED PERSON MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE AN ACCUMULATIVE MATTER AND DEALT WITH ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED ABOUT AN EVALUATION PRIOR TO THE END OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR, THE

COUNCIL CAN TELL HIM THAT AN EVALUATION PROCESS NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE FOR EMPLOYEES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE AND HE DID NOT FEEL IT WAS NEEDED SINCE THE ADMINISTRATOR MAKES THE FINAL DECISION, AND EVEN IF THE COMMITTEE DECIDES IN FAVOR OF THE PERSON WHO FILED THE GRIEVANCE, THE ADMINISTRATOR CAN OVERRULE THEIR DECISION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE IS TO GIVE THE EMPLOYEE DUE PROCESS, BUT THE COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE TO KEEP THE EMPLOYEE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE NEVER WORKED ANYWHERE WHERE THERE WERE SO MANY PERSONNEL ISSUES LIKE THERE ARE IN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN APPEALS PROCESS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH ATTORNEY LINDA EDWARDS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY EVEN HAVE A HEARING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT WAS SO THAT THE EMPLOYEE WOULD HAVE DUE PROCESS AND IT LETS THEM HAVE THEIR SAY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IF SOMEONE FEELS THEY HAVE BEEN DISMISSED UNFAIRLY, THEY CAN FILE A LAWSUIT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT HOME RULE ESTABLISHED THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR IS OVER THE EMPLOYEES. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID IF THIS IS A CONTINUOUS PROBLEM, IT NEEDED TO BE LOOKED INTO. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT WAS NOT A PERFECT SITUATION, BUT IT DOES GIVE THE EMPLOYEE DUE PROCESS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THEY CAN HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH THE RULING OF THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WANTED COPIES OF ALL FUTURE GRIEVANCE HEARING MINUTES, RULINGS, THE FINAL OUTCOME AND THAT THEY WANTED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE DATE AND TIME OF ALL FUTURE HEARINGS.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVED ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BUDGET SO THAT ALL THE FIRE STATIONS WOULD BE MANNED 24-7 BY ONE PERSON. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE RECEIVED A CALL THAT THE FIREMEN WERE PULLED FROM THE TILLMAN FIRE STATION AND THE GRAYS FIRE STATION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE ROBERTVILLE FIRE STATION IS STILL MANNED. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY WOULD NEED TO GET CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM MR. DALEY AS HE THOUGHT THEY WERE TO BE COVERED, NOT MANNED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE CALLED MR. DALEY AND WAS TOLD THAT THEY WERE OVER BUDGET IN OVERTIME AND HE WAS TOLD NEVER TO LET ROBERTVILLE BE WITHOUT FIREMEN. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS NOT SURE ROBERTVILLE WAS COVERED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE CALLED MR. FULGHUM AND MR. FULGHUM TOLD HIM THAT HE NEVER TOLD MR. DALEY ANYTHING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY NEEDED TO COME BACK TO COUNCIL AND DOES NOT REMEMBER THE COUNCIL EVER SAYING THAT ABOUT ROBERTVILLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED PRIOR TO ANY FIREMEN BEING PULLED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT GRAYS AND TILLMAN ARE

NOT COVERED AND THE FIREMEN WERE PULLED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS TOLD BY WILBUR DALEY THAT MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE MAY GO OVER BUDGET IN OVERTIME AND HE WAS TOLD TO PULL THE MEN AND HE PULLED THE MEN BECAUSE HE WAS SCARED OF GOING OVERBUDGET IN OVERTIME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD THAT WILBUR DALEY MADE THE DECISION TO PULL THE FIREMEN AND MR. FULGHUM TOLD HIM THAT HE DID NOT KNOW A THING ABOUT IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT ALL THE CITIZENS SHOULD BE TREATED ALIKE AND THAT DURING THIS YEARS BUDGET, THEY MANY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE EXPENSE OF COVERING THE RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE WAS NEVER NOTIFIED. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE DOES NOT MEET UNLESS THERE IS A PRESSING ISSUE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED SO THAT THEY COULD HAVE CALLED A MEETING. THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT THE FIREMEN RECEIVED INCORRECT INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF DAYS THAT THEY WORKED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK AT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WAS TO BE ONE FIREMAN AT ALL THE STATIONS AND CHAIRMAN HOOD RESPONDED THAT AS OF THIS WEEK, THE FIREMEN WERE NO LONGER IN GRAYS OR TILLMAN. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE EXISTING FIREMEN SHOULD BE ROTATED AND NOT STATIONED IN ONE FIRESTATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDS TO COME UP WITH A ROVING SYSTEM FOR THE FIREMEN.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT INSTEAD OF WORKING ROADS AND DITCHES IN THREE DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTY, THEY SHOULD ALL WORK IN ONE AREA AND ROTATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT MR. FULGHUM AND MS. HERMAN WERE WORKING ON A GRANT FOR DRAINAGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT A CITIZEN CALLED HIM ABOUT AN AMBULANCE THAT RESPONDED TO A CALL AT A CHURCH AND THE EQUIPMENT WAS NOT WORKING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS TOLD THE HEATER IN THE AMBULANCE WAS ALSO NOT WORKING. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT IT SHOULD BE PART OF THE JOB THAT ALL EQUIPMENT ON THE AMBULANCES SHOULD BE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. WHEN THE EMPLOYEES ARE AT WORK THEY SHOULD BE TESTING THE EQUIPMENT.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT THAT IF PEOPLE BUILD FIRE STATIONS, THEY SHOULD HAVE A WAY TO FUND THEM. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THAT ALL THE FIRE STATIONS SHOULD BE UNDER THE COUNTY AND HANDLED THE SAME WAY.

SCHOOLS:

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE PROBLEM IN THE SCHOOLS IS NOT MONEY; IT IS THAT 75% OF THE EMPLOYEES NEED TO BE CHANGED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT BENCHMARK TESTS NEED TO BE GIVEN, BUT NOT GIVEN BY THE TEACHERS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE ENTIRE SCHOOL

BOARD NEEDED TO BE CHANGED AND THEY NEED TO SUPPORT THE SUPERINTENDENT.

IMAGE:

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY NEEDED TO HAVE MORE COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND THEY SHOULD GO BACK TO HAVING A FEW MEETINGS A YEAR IN HARDEEVILLE.

TAXES:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE TAXES IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND HE FELT THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO FIND A WAY TO ADJUST THE TAXES. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE INSTALLMENT TAXES AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE REQUESTED A REPORT THREE WEEKS AGO AND HE HAS NOT RECEIVED IT. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE QUARTERLY REPORTS ON THE INSTALLMENT TAX PROGRAM.

THE CHAIRMAN TOLD THE CLERK TO PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATOR A GENERIC LETTER AFTER EACH COUNCIL MEETING CONTAINING A LIST OF ITEMS THAT WERE REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR HIM TO HAVE READY AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE CLERK TO NOTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION AND TO SEND A COPY OF THE REQUEST TO THE COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATOR. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT WHEN THEY MAKE A REQUEST, THE CLERK SHOULD CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PROVIDE THE INFORMATION, COPY THE REQUEST TO THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE COUNCIL, THE CLERK IS TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION FROM THE PERSON THAT SHE CONTACTED FOR THE INFORMATION, AND PROVIDE COPIES OF THE INFORMATION TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS.

SATELLITE OFFICE AND MEETINGS IN HARDEEVILLE:

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR OPENED THE DISCUSSION FOR A SATELLITE OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE AND MEETINGS IN HARDEEVILLE. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE SATELLITE OFFICE IN HARDEEVILLE IS UP AND RUNNING BY JULY 1, 2010. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY HOLD A FEW MEETINGS EACH YEAR IN HARDEEVILLE AND ALSO SCHEDULE COMMUNITY MEETINGS SO THAT THEY CAN RESPOND TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF ALL THE CITIZENS.

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE ORDINANCE WAS APPROVED TO MOVE FORWARD. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE DISTRICTS WILL BE DECIDED AFTER THE CENSUS AND THEY WILL BE THE SAME AREAS AND NUMBER OF DISTRICTS AS THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE ATTORNEY UPDATES THE COUNCIL ON THE PROGRESS AND STATUS OF THE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS.

EMPLOYEE IMPROVEMENTS:

CHAIRMAN HOOD REPORTED THAT MS. LUCAS IS WORKING ON AN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES WHO NEED HELP.

LOW COST HOUSING:

CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED THE FUNDING FROM LCOG AND THE COUNCIL REQUESTED AN UPDATE FROM SISTER LUPE AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.

EXPAND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE STATE HAS CUT THE BUDGET AGAIN FOR THE BOARD OF DISABILITES AND SPECIAL NEEDS.

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REVISIT THE AGAPE CONTRACT AND NOTIFY THE ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A COPY OF THEIR AUDIT AND AN EXPLANATION AS TO HOW THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THEM WAS SPENT.

LOW COUNTY ALLIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH THE ALLIANCE AND NOTHING TO BENEFIT JASPER COUNTY HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST YEAR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WANTED TO SEE SOME RESULTS. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR SCHEDULE THE ALLIANCE TO COME TO A COUNCIL MEETING AND GIVE THEM AN UPDATE OF WHAT IT HAS DONE TO BENEFIT JASPER COUNTY. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO MEET WITH THE RIDGELAND AND HARDEEVILLE COUNCILS TO FORMULATE A DIFFERENT MARKETING PLAN.

RECREATION:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THAT HARDEEVILLE WAS WORKING ON TURNING THE OLD SCHOOL IN HARDEEVILLE INTO A RECREATION CENTER AND THAT THE COUNTY NEEDED TO ALSO BE WORKING TOWARD MORE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CITIZENS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LIBRARIES UPGRADED, AND A CIVIC CENTER BUILT FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

GRANTS:

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID NOT THINK JASPER COUNTY WAS GETTING ITS FAIR SHARE OF STIMULUS FUNDS AND GRANT MONEY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO SET A BENCHMARK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE COUNTY WAS APPLYING FOR THE GRANTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT CHRISTY HERMAN WAS APPLYING FOR GRANTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT HE FELT THERE WERE GRANTS THAT WERE BEING MISSED AND THE COUNTY WAS NOT GETTING ITS FAIR SHARE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT LCOG HAD GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE AND THE OTHER COUNTIES HAVE BEEN GETTING THE FUNDS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR

COMMENTED THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO SET PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES AND HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR FOLLOW THROUGH. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE THEM WITH A LIST OF ALL GRANTS APPLIED FOR, ALL GRANTS RECEIVED, AND A LIST OF ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED ON THE GRANT APPLICATIONS.

DRIGGERS LANE:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED DRIGGERS LANE AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF AREAS IN THE COUNTY THAT DO NOT HAVE PROPER DRAINAGE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT BAD DECISIONS WERE MADE BY PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS WHEN THAT SUBDIVISION WAS DEVELOPED. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE ADMINSTRATOR WORK ON APPLYING FOR GRANTS FOR AREAS IN THE COUNTY THAT NEED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

THE COUNCIL WORKSHOP SESSION ENDED AT 5:00 P.M. AND THE COUNCIL WOULD RESUME MEETING AT 7:30 P.M. AND WOULD GO DIRECTLY INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEPT. ADM. ADM. SERVICES
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

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 RETREAT TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN HOOD INFORMED THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL'S GOALS FOR 2010-2011 WILL REMAIN THE SAME. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT SOME OF THE GOALS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED; HOWEVER, THERE WERE OTHERS THAT STILL NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE GOAL DEALING WITH THE CIVIC CENTER NEEDED TO BE WORKED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID A SPECIAL

MEETING NEEDED TO BE CALLED TO LOOK AT THE COST OF RURAL FIRE STATIONS AND HOW IT CAN BE HANDLED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT HE AND COUNCILMAN TYLER WILL WORK WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUOUS REQUESTS HE RECEIVES ABOUT IMPROVING THE SCHOOLS. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED AN EVALUATION SYSTEM DEVELOPED AND THEY WANTED EACH EMPLOYEE REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD MR. MALPHRUS THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED QUARTERLY REPORTS ON THE INSTALLMENT TAX PROGRAM. MR. MALPHRUS REPORTED THAT 153 CITIZENS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SMITH DATA PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING, HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT PRINT RECEIPTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE FUNDS WERE PLACED INTO A SPECIAL ACCOUNT OR DID THEY GO INTO THE ROLLOVER ACCOUNT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MS. GARVIN IS AWARE OF HOW THE FUNDS ARE TO BE HANDLED. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD MR. MALPHRUS TO GET A LETTER OUT ABOUT THE FIRST PAYMENT AND TO REPORT TO COUNCIL THE STATUS AT THE NEXT MEETING.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED THE SATELLITE STATION IN HARDEEVILLE OPENED BY JULY 1, 2010 AND TO MAKE SURE THE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THESE PLANS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT FUNDS FOR COMPUTERS, PRINTERS AND COPIERS WILL BE NEEDED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WILL ALSO NEED FURNITURE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY SHOULD NOT NEED MANY COMPUTERS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE FURNITURE THAT THEY COULD USE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS NO FURNITURE FOR THEM TO USE. MR. MALPHRUS ESTIMATED IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$10,000.00 TO OPEN THE SATELLITE OFFICE. MR. FULGHUM STATED THAT THEY HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING ON THE BUDGET YET, BUT THE COUNCIL CAN APPROVE THAT MUCH. COUNCILMAN GREGORY TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR TO GET THE FURNITURE FROM THE TRIFT STORES.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE HR DEPARTMENT HAS DONE ANYTHING REGARDING EMPLOYEE IMPROVEMENTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID A FEW EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN SENT TO COUNSELING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHO WAS DOING THE COUNSELING AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE SENT TO COASTAL EMPIRE MENTAL HEALTH. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT HR SHOULD LET THE EMPLOYEES MINISTERS KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEMS SO THEY CAN HELP. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT A COMPANY CAN BE HIRED FOR AN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THEY CAN OPERATE OUT OF THE HR OFFICES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY PROVIDES AN APPROPRIATION TO AGENCIES THAT CAN BE UTILIZED.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED AN UPDATE AND A TIMELINE FROM THE ATTORNEY REGARDING SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. MR. FULGHUM

DISCUSSED CAMPUS II AND HE WILL GET PLANS FOR THAT AREA AND HE FELT THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY NEEDED TO DECIDE HOW THEY WANTED TO HANDLE THE STATE MANDATED AGENCIES AND OFFICES.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE FARMERS MARKET IS NOT OPEN AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE COUNTY WAS GETTING ITS MONEYS WORTH FOR WHAT THEY PAY THE CHAMBER TO MANAGE IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A LIST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES THAT THE BEEN HELD SINCE THE CHAMBER TOOK IT OVER.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF CBDG GRANT FUNDS WERE FOR LIBRARIES. HE TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTACT MS. MCNAIR. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE USDA FUNDS WERE FOR LIBRARIES, AND THERE WERE IMPROVEMENTS THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE AT PRATT LIBRARY AND NEW LIBRARY NEEDED TO BE BUILT IN HARDEEVILLE.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED BROADBAND AND MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WI-FI AREA IN CERTAIN AREAS ON THE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX FOR THE PEOPLE TO GET ONLINE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE FOR HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CITIZENS IN THE AREAS WHERE THEY LIVE.

CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED GROWTH AND THEY WANTED HIM TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES TO DISCUSS A NEW WAY TO MARKET THE AREA. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED SUGGESTING THAT THE DEVELOPERS BUILD A VARIETY OF HOMES IN DIFFERENT PRICE RANGES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ADDED THAT THEY NEEDED TO REVISIT THE TAXES ON THE NEW HOMES. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED HOW TO ATTRACT INDUSTRY TO THE AREA AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT FORT HOWARD WANTED TO COME TO JASPER COUNTY, BUT HILTON HEAD WAS A HINDERANCE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY LOST FORT HOWARD BECAUSE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED VARIOUS REASONS THEY FELT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS NOT PROVIDING WHAT THE STUDENTS AND THE AREA NEEDED.

CHAIRMAN HOOD INFORMED THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE ALLIANCE AND THE ALLIANCE HASN'T DONE WHAT THE COUNCIL FELT IT SHOULD BE IS DOING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE KNEW MR. FULGHUM WAS WORKING ON A FEW LEADS, HOWEVER, THE COUNTY NEEDS JOBS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT BUSINESSES WILL FOLLOW EACH OTHER. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL WANTED THE ALLIANCE TO REPORT TO COUNCIL ALL ACTIVITIES THEY HAVE OR ARE WORKING ON FOR JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY WAS REALLY IN THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THERE WAS \$400,000.00, BUT IT ROLLS OVER INTO THE GENERAL FUND. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED

THAT IT WAS NOT THERE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THE COUNTY WAS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN ALLENDALE COUNTY AND BAMBERG COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IT WAS THE JOB OF THE COUNCIL TO MAKE JASPER COUNTY A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD DIFFERENT OPINIONS; HOWEVER, THEY ALL WANTED JASPER COUNTY TO GROW AND PROSPER, BUT NOT EVERYONE WANTS CHANGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO IT RIGHT AND DESIGN WHAT THEY WANT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID PEOPLE LEFT JASPER COUNTY AND CAME BACK BECAUSE JASPER COUNTY IS WHAT THEY WANT.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THAT THE EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND GIVEN AWARDS PUBLICALLY ONCE A YEAR TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE APPRECIATED.

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE LIKES TO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE FOR THE COUNTY AND HE PRESENTED A POWER POINT TO PROVIDE A SENSE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE LIVING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY COMMENTED THAT HARDEEVILLE HAS EXPERIENCED MORE GROWTH THAN RIDGELAND. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED IMPACT FEES AND VOLUNTEER FEES. MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A LIST OF COUNTYWIDE DEVELOPMENTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY COLLECTS FEES FROM EVERY HOUSE BUILT IN THE COUNTY FOR RECREATION, SCHOOLS, POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, AND THE LIBRARY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE FEES GO TO THE AREA WHERE THE DEVELOPMENT IS LOCATED. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED HOW THE FEES WERE DETERMINED FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD STATED THAT POINT SOUTH HAS INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT POINT SOUTH IS THE ONLY UNINCORPORATED AREA IN THE COUNTY WITH WATER AND SEWER. MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE EXPANDED SCOPE OF COOPERATION FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT MR. JIROUSEK WAS WORKING ON AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH STORM WATER MANAGEMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE MORE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS. MR. FULGHUM ADDED THAT MR. JIROUSEK WAS LOOKING FOR GRANT FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE. MR. MALPHRUS INTERJECTED THAT BEAUFORT COUNTY WAS SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY BUYING UP PROPERTY FOR CONSERVATION AREAS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE COUNTY DID NOT USE THE LAND FROM THE FORFIETED LAND SALE FOR CONSERVATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT IT MAKES SENSE IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE FIRE SERVICES OVERLAPS EVERYWHERE IN THE COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED HAVING A FIRE AUTHORITY AND LET SOME OTHER GOVERNING BOARD RUN IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF THE FIRE SERVICES WERE COMBINED, THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE A PREMIER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SINCE HE HAS BEEN BACK ON COUNCIL, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY JOINT MEETING WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THE MEETINGS SHOULD BE CONSIDERATION TALKS AND MR. MALPHRUS ADDED THAT THEY NEED TO HAVE GOALS IN MIND AND AN AGENDA FOR THE ISSUES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT STAFF LEVEL CONFERENCES ARE DONE FOR PLANNING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE ARE 80 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE COUNTY INCLUDING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNTY WAS CHANGING AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO LOOK AT OTHER WAYS TO PROVIDE SERVICES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WERE OTHER GROWTH ISSUES IN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND JASPER COUNTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SUN CITY IS NOW IN JASPER COUNTY AND IS PART OF THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ORIGINAL SUN CITY IS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, BUT THEY COULD BE ANNEXED INTO HARDEEVILLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SUN CITY COULD ALSO BECOME THEIR OWN TOWN AND COME INTO THE COUNTY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THE SEMBLER PROJECT HAS BROUGHT THE PEOPLE TOGETHER. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SUN CITY IS A FORCE AND IF THEY INCORPORATE, THEY CAN DRAG PEOPLE IN WHO DO NOT WANT TO BE INCORPORATED. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR SCHEDULE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES. MR. FULGHUM SUGGESTED THAT THE TOPIC BE HOW TO MAKE ACQUIRING A BUSINESS LICENSE EASIER FOR THE CITIZENS.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED EXTENDING THE WORK HOURS OF THE EMPLOYEES TO 40 HOURS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID A PERSON WHO WORKS 39 HOURS IS CONSIDERED PART TIME, BUT THE FULL TIME PEOPLE ACTUALLY ONLY WORK 35 HOURS WITH 1 HOUR EACH DAY FOR LUNCH. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT PEOPLE WILL NOT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE. MR. FUGLHUM SAID HE WOULD NEED TO TALK THIS THROUGH WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY ARE GIVING UP A LOT OF MAN HOURS THE WAY IT IS NOW. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF THE COUNCIL TRIED TO DO THIS NOW; IT WOULD BE HARD ON THE MORAL OF THE EMPLOYEES SINCE THE TAXES HAVE GONE UP AND THE EMPLOYEES HAVE TO PAY THEIR PORTION OF INSURANCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE EMPLOYEES ARE DOING A LOT MORE WITH A LOT LESS PEOPLE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE STILL SEES PEOPLE STANDING AROUND IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE HAS HEARD A RUMOR THAT THERE ARE GOING TO BE MORE LAY-OFFS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID MORE LAYOFFS WERE NOT DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THAT AN AMBULANCE WAS CALLED OUT AND THE EQUIPMENT WAS NOT WORKING. MR. ETHERIDGE SAID THE PARAMEDICS HAVE A LOT OF DOWN TIME AND THEY SHOULD BE MAKING SURE EVERYTHING IS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT HOURS PUBLIC WORKS OPERATED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WENT THERE AT 3:30 P.M. AND THE GATES WERE LOCKED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE HAS GONE THERE AT 5:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. AND PEOPLE WERE STILL WORKING. MR.

MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES WORK 4 DAYS FOR 10 HOURS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING IF IT IS MORE PRODUCTIVE TO WORK 4 DAYS FOR TEN HOURS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE DIVERSITY IN THE EMPLOYEES NATIONALITIES IN THE DEPARTMENTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE TIMES, EMPLOYEES WORKING IN ONE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE ALL THE SAME NATIONALITY ARE WORKING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT GENERALLY THE COUNTY TRIES TO DIVERSIFY BY THE POPULATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT IN THE EVENT OF A LAWSUIT, HE HOPED THEY WERE HIRING THE BEST QUALIFIED PEOPLE FOR THE POSITIONS AND THAT THEY ARE KEEPING A RECORD OF EVERYONE INTERVIEWED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNTY IS A MELTING POT AND THE PEOPLE NEED TO BE RECOGNIZED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY KEEP ALL THE APPLICATIONS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT A MESSAGE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT THEY NEED TO MIX THE RACES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE ONLY TWO OFFICES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION THAT ARE ONE RACE ARE THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND THE ROD OFFICE AND THE ADMINISTRATION INHERITED ONE PERSON IN THE ROD OFFICE WHEN THEY TOOK IT OVER FROM THE CLERK OF COURT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE SUPERVISORS NEED TO TREAT PEOPLE THE SAME. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT SOME ELECTED OFFICIALS DO NOT HIRE OTHER RACES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THEM.

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE ORDINANCE TO APPOINT PROFESSIONALS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE WAY THE ORDINANCE IS WRITTEN IS THAT THE COUNCIL COULD APPOINT PROFESSIONALS IF THEY WANTED THEM. MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT MR. ED EVANS HAD TO RESIGN FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION SINCE THERE WERE NO PROFESSIONAL SEATS CREATED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE CAN BE AN ADVANTAGE TO HAVING PROFESSIONALS ON THE COMMISSION. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THERE ARE ALSO DISADVANTAGES AS THEY MAY TRY TO CONTROL THE COMMISSION. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR RECOMMENDED TO LEAVE IT AS IT IS AND HAVE THE STAFF MAKE THE RECOMMENDATIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF THE COUNCIL WANTED MORE CLARIFICATION, HE COULD PROVIDE IT AND THERE WAS NO GREAT NEED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES AT THIS TIME.

THE COUNCIL TOOK A LUNCH BREAK AND RESUMED AT 2:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE RETREAT BACK TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE EXCESS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND MR. FULGHUM GAVE THE COUNCIL A SPREADSHEET AND HE ALSO PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET CONTINGENCY PLANNING MEETINGS.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE TOLD MR. FULGHUM HE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE FIREMEN BEING PULLED FROM TILLMAN AND GRAYS. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH MR. DALEY'S RESPONSE AND THAT MR. DALEY HAS TO MAN THE STATIONS THE BEST THAT HE CAN AND STAY WITHIN THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WERE STAFFING THE STATIONS AT A HIGHER LEVEL AND WERE DIPPING INTO OVERTIME AND NOW THEY WERE SCALING BACK HOW MANY HOURS THEY ARE COVERED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE FIREMEN WERE PULLED BASED ON GRAPHIC RESPONSE TIME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WAS OF THE UNDERSTANDING WHEN THEY APPROVED THE BUDGET THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BUDGET TO COVER EVERY STATION AROUND THE CLOCK. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THREE FIREMEN WERE CUT FROM THE BUDGET AND THEY HAVE BEEN BRINGING IN PEOPLE WHO ARE ON CALL TO COVER THEM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE STATIONS WERE COVERED FOR AS LONG AS THEY COULD AND HE DID NOT REMEMBER THAT THERE WAS TO BE ONE MAN PER STATION 24-7 AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO DO THAT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE FIRE AND EMS PEOPLE MAKE \$50,000.00 PER YEAR AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS CLOSE AND THE BASE PAY WAS \$30,000.00 TO \$32,000.00. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE NUMBER OF FIRE PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO COVER A STATION 24-7 AND THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL IT TAKES TO COVER AN AMBULANCE AROUND THE CLOCK. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF AN EMS PERSON MAKING \$70,000.00 PER YEAR. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE COST OF EMS, FIRE AND EMS ADMINISTRATION. MR. MALPHRUS COVERED THE SALARIES, OVERTIME AND HOLIDAY PAY FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID RATHER THAN NOT COVERING TILLMAN AND GRAYS, THE FIREMEN SHOULD BE ROTATED TO ALL FIRE STATIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WERE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN BASED ON THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT ALL STATIONS WOULD BE MANNED 24-7. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THEY WOULD BE COVERED, NOT MANNED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY MAY BE ABLE TO COVER THE STATIONS 8 HOURS PER DAY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR TOLD MR. MALPHRUS THEY NEEDED TO SAY MANNED IF SOMEONE WAS THERE AND COVERED IF SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER STATION WOULD RESPOND. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO ANSWER THE CITIZENS AND THOSE WHO WANT COVERAGE 24-7 SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE CITIZENS WANT TO KNOW WHY SOME AREAS ARE MANNED AND OTHERS ARE NOT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE IS NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO MAN ALL THE STATIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THERE WAS ENOUGH IN THE EMS BUDGET TO TAKE THE FUNDS FROM ANOTHER LINE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WANTED MR. DALEY TO STAY WITHIN THE SALARY LINE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THAT ALL THE COMMUNITIES BELIEVED THEIR COVERAGE WAS 24-7 AND THE COUNTY CANNOT AFFORD TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE THE WAY THEY WANT IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE SHOULD BE A CLEAR ANSWER AND THAT IS TO ROTATE THE PEOPLE AND HELP THE

CITIZENS UNDERSTAND. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE SPOKE WITH MR. DALEY REGARDING THE THREE STATIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE UPCOMING BUDGET IS ALREADY BEHIND AND HE DID NOT THINK THE COUNTY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE COVERAGE 24-7. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COME BUDGET TIME THEY MAY HAVE TO LAY OFF MORE PEOPLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID ALL PEOPLE NEED TO BE TREATED FAIRLY AND THE COUNCIL KNOWS THAT THEY HAVE TO CUT \$2,200,000.00 FROM THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO COVER WHAT IS ALREADY BEEN OBLIGATED IN THE NEW BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT SOME HIGH SALARIES CAN BE CUT AND TITLES CAN BE TAKEN AWAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY WILL HAVE TO BE CUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS IS MOST IMPORTANT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY HAVE TO STOP ANYTHING ADDITIONAL AND FIRE AND RESCUE MAKES UP 21% OF THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT EMS, THE SHERIFF AND DETENTION ARE ALSO A LARGE PART OF THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE ARE LESS THAN 200 COUNTY EMPLOYEES NOW. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WILL NEED TO BUDGET FUNDS FOR A GASB STUDY. MR. FULGHUM SAID NOTHING IS GOING UP, EVERYTHING IS SLOWLY GOING DOWN.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE MUNICIPALITIES PAY THE COUNTY TO HOUSE THEIR PRISONERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY DO NOT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MR. JONES NEEDED TO WORK ON CHANGING THAT AND COME UP WITH A SCHEDULE OF CHARGES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT SPARTANBURG CHARGES AN HOURLY RATE BASED ON THE OFFENSE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT A REGIONAL FACILITY WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO GO AND PERHAPS THEY COULD TURN THE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER INTO A JUVENILE FACILITY. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE COUNTY COULD MAKE MONEY ON A JUVENILE FACILITY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY GRANT FUNDING FOR THE DETENTION CENTER AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THE ONLY FUNDING AVAILABLE IS ON A REGIONAL LEVEL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT RIDGELAND AVERAGES ABOUT 55 INMATES A MONTH AND HARDEEVILLE AVERAGES ABOUT 60 INMATES PER MONTH AND THE AVERAGE STAY IS ABOUT 60-80 DAYS.

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED THE FIRE CONTRACTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THAT IT COSTS ABOUT \$425,000.00 FOR THE COUNTY TO OPERATE A STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THE FIRE CONTRACTS WITH HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE COUNTY.

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED AN INCIDENT WHERE EQUIPMENT ON ONE OF THE AMBULANCES DID NOT WORK. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL THAT THE STAFF NEEDED TO CHECK ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING IS WORKING, INCLUDING ALL BACKUP EQUIPMENT.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED FOR A JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR PEOPLE IN THE HR DEPARTMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE DEPARTMENT HANDLED BENEFITS, TRUST, PAYROLL, AND DAY TO DAY SITUATIONS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT SOME COUNTIES HAVE ONE PERSON WHO

HANDLED TRUSTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THERE WAS A LOT INVOLVED AND HE WOULD LIKE FOR MR. HENDERSON TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS COVERED BY WORKERS COMPENSATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THOSE TWO CATEGORIES TAKE A LOT OF TIME AND ENERGY. THIS TOPIC WAS TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT IT BOTHERED HIM THAT \$300,000.00 WAS SPENT ON INTEREST AND \$200,000.00 WAS APPROVED TO PAY FOR SOMEONE TO INSPECT THE WORK ON THE COURTHOUSE, WHICH WAS NOT ORIGINALLY INCLUDED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WILL NEED TO START PAYING THE DEBT SERVICE IN THE NEW BUDGET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED TO KEEP THE BONDS AT THE \$16,500,000.00 AND WITH JUST THOSE TWO EXPENDITURES IT WAS UP TO \$17,000,000.00 AND THE COUNTY KEEPS GOING DEEPER IN DEBT. MR. FULGHUM ASKED WHAT ARE THE OTHER OPTIONS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IT WAS NOT GOOD BUSINESS TO PAY INTEREST ON INTEREST. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IT WAS WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR \$4,000,000.00. MR. MALPHRUS SAID YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. MR. MALPHRUS SAID YOU HAVE TO PAY IT NOW OR LATER. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT UTILITIES AND MODERIZATION HAVE CAUSED THE PRICES TO INCREASE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE EXPENDITURES; HOWEVER, THE REVENUE IS GOING DOWN. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID WHEN THE PORT IS IN AND EXIT 3 IS COMPLETE, THINGS WILL GET BETTER.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT PROPERTIES CAN BE SOLD. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNCIL IDENTIFIED 3 PROPERTIES THAT CAN BE SOLD. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED TO SELL THE OLD CLEMSON BUIDLING AND HE HAS NOT DONE THAT YET. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE FIVE ACRES AT THE AIRPORT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THAT PROPERTY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE THOUGHT JOHNNY DAVIS WAS WORKING ON SOMETHING FOR THAT PROPERTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD BE SOLD FOR AT LEAST \$50,000.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO DECIDE WHAT IT WANTS TO DO WITH THE KNOWLES ISLAND TRESTLE.

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED PRIVATE ROADS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT IS DONE ON PRIVATE ROADS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE EMT PERSONELL ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT ON BOOTS IF THEY NEED TO IN ORDER TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT THE BUDGET CONTINGENCY WORKSHOPS HELPED HIM.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR DINNER. MR. FULGHUM AND MR. MALPHRUS LEAVE AT THIS TIME.

COUNCIL RETURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AFTER DINNER AND ADJOURN UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION.

FEBRUARY 20, 2010

9:00 A.M.

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

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 RETREAT TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT GRANTS AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY RECEIVED MORE GRANTS LAST YEAR THAN IT DID THIS YEAR AND HE DID NOT THINK THE ADMINISTRATION WAS APPLYING FOR ENOUGH GRANTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD AGREED AND SAID THEY HAVE NOT BEEN APPLYING FOR THE CBDG GRANTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT ONE EMPLOYEE WAS DOING THAT AND HE DID NOT KNOW WHO DROPPED IT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID IF THAT INDIVIDUAL IS NOT CAPABLE OF APPLYING AND GETTING GRANTS, PERHAPS A GRANT WRITER IS NEEDED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY FILED WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND SHERIFF AND THEY GOT GRANTS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY NEEDS A PERSON WHO KNOWS HOW TO FIND THE MONEY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THERE ARE MORE GRANTS OUT THERE AND THE COUNTY IS NOT GETTING THEM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE KEEPS ASKING ABOUT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION APPLIED FOR AND HE KEEPS GETTING A REPORT REGARDING WHAT EVERYONE APPLIED FOR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT WAS APPLIED FOR AND WON BY THE ADMINISTRATION. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO APPLIED FOR THE GRANT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO SET GOALS TO SEE SOMETHING HAPPEN, AND PUSH THOSE PEOPLE TO GET THEM DONE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO PLACE A FREEZE ON SPENDING TO HOLD UP SOME OF THE MONEY. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT FUNDS FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHY THE SHERIFF WON'T DO IT, BUT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THERE ARE OVER 80 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BETWEEN THE

MUNICIPALITIES AND THE COUNTY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY WERE WASTING TIME TALKING ABOUT THE SHERIFF, THE ONLY THING THE COUNCIL CAN DO IS CUT HIS BUDGET AND THEN LET HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE SHERIFF AND THE COUNCIL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE PROCUREMENT POLICY AND THAT IT NEEDED TO BE CHANGED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT EVERYTHING OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT NEEDED TO GO OUT TO BID AND HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS TOO MUCH AUTHORITY AND SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO APPROVE THINGS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS ALREADY APPROVED 41% OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND FOR THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL CAN CHANGE IT AND THE COUNCIL CAN MEET TO APPROVE THE WORK ORDER CHANGES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID ONE MAN SHOULD NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THOSE FUNDS AND THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO PUT A SPECIFIC AMOUNT THAT HE CAN APPROVE WITHOUT BRINGING IT TO COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT 5% WAS OKAY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE \$41,000.00, FOR SOME KIND OF WIRING, THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR APPROVED SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT UNEXPECTED THINGS ARE ENCOUNTERED IN RENOVATION WORK AND THERE ARE COST FACTORS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT AS TO WHAT THE ADMINISTRATOR CAN APPROVE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE ONLY BRINGS IT TO COUNCIL TO SEE IF IT IS COST EFFECTIVE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY TOLD THE CHAIRMAN HE WAS THINKING LIKE AN ADMINISTRATOR AND HE NEEDED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY NOW.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THAT THE ATTORNEY NEEDED TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF THE COST OF LITIGATION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IN ONE CASE IT COST THE COUNTY \$31,000.00 TO AGREE TO CONCEDE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT ATTORNEY JONES NEEDS TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH ALL THE INFORMATION INCLUDING THE COST OF SETTLING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO BE APPRAISED OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AS SOON AS THE ADMINISTRATION KNOWS, NOT A WEEK LATER. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT ATTORNEY JONES NEEDED TO KEEP THE COUNCIL INFORMED OF ALL ASPECTS OF LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT ATTORNEY JONES WAS WORKING ON A SETTLEMENT.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL NEEDED MORE DETAILS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE ATTORNEY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THEY NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THE COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS BEING PRESENTED.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE CELL PHONES. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL HAS A POLICY ON CELL PHONES AND THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO KNOW IF IT NEEDED TO BE EXPANDED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WANTED PROOF AND DOCUMENTATION THAT THE PLAN

NEEDED TO BE EXPANDED TO COVER WORK RELATED CALLS AND TEXTS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE POLICY STATES THAT IF THEY GO OVER THE ALLOTTED MINUTES THEY HAVE TO PAY AND IT IS DEDUCTED FROM THEIR PAYCHECK.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED TERM LIMITS FOR A COUNCIL MEMBER TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE DID NOT FEEL THAT TERMS SHOULD HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF YEARS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SUGGESTED A 2 YEAR TERM AND THE CHAIRMANSHIP BE ROTATED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID IF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER WANTS TO DO WHAT HE IS DOING THEY CAN DO IT, THEY JUST NEED TO LET HIM KNOW. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT BY ROTATING THE CHAIRMANSHIP IT WOULD GIVE ALL THE MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE DID NOT THINK THERE SHOULD BE TERM LIMITS ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID IF THE CHAIRMANSHIP WAS ROTATED THE NEW CHAIRMAN WOULD HAVE THE GUIDANCE OF SOMEONE WITH EXPERIENCE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND IT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF A CHANGE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT MOST COUNTIES ROTATE THE CHAIRMANSHIP OR HAVE TERM LIMITS. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT HE DID NOT FEEL A TERM OF ONE YEAR WAS LONG ENOUGH, BUT A CHAIRMAN SHOULD NOT BE IN THAT POSITION FOR TOO LONG. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNCIL VOTES EACH YEAR AND THE CHAIRMAN IS ONLY ELECTED FOR ONE YEAR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE SCHOOL BOARD CHANGES THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND NOTHING HAS IMPROVED.

THE COUNCIL WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURN UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN