



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
APRIL 13, 2011  
3:00 P.M.**

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**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, CLERK TO COUNCIL-JUDITH FRANK, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - RONNIE MALPHRUS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

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 BLACKSHEAR CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

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

**INVOCATION-** COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**VERNA GARVIN –** MS. GARVIN WAS NOT PRESENT.

**SHERIFF JENKINS –** SHERIFF JENKINS ASKED THE COUNCIL TO PLEASE GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ITEMS HE REQUESTED IN HIS BUDGET. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THE ITEMS HE REQUESTED WERE TO MAKE SURE THE CITIZENS ARE SAFE. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE REQUEST WAS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THERE WERE SOME INCREASES IN OVERTIME AND A REQUEST FOR SOME NEW VEHICLES. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE ALSO NEEDED MORE FUNDING FOR TRAINING.

COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE SHERIFF JENKINS HAD ENOUGH STAFF. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE DID NOT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT THEY HAVE TO PATROL THE ENTIRE COUNTY TWICE PER SHIFT. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HIS BUDGET REQUEST WAS ONLY FOR WHAT HE NEEDED TO PROVIDE SERVICE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY WERE SHORT VEHICLES. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID TWO OF THE VEHICLES WERE FROM 2003. JACKIE LAWRENCE SAID THE OLDER CARS USE MORE FUEL AND HAVE HIGHER MAINTENANCE COSTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE SHERIFF WAS PAYING THE OVERTIME. SHERIFF JENKINS SAID HE WAS AND HE HAS BEEN ASKING FOR VOLUNTEER TIME TO DETER CRIME AND HANDLE COMPLAINTS. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHO PURCHASED THE UNIFORMS AND SHERIFF JENKINS SAID THAT SOME OF THE OFFICERS PURCHASE THEIR OWN.

**DR. LEITZL AND MR. WISER - TCL** - DR. LEITZL TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT 228 STUDENTS FROM JASPER COUNTY ATTEND TCL. DR. LEITZL SAID THAT TCL HAS GROWN 65% WITH NO INCREASE IN STAFF LEVELS, BUT PART TIME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HIRED. DR. LEITZL SAID THAT TCL IS THE FASTEST GROWING COLLEGE IN THE STATE. DR. LEITZL INTRODUCED MR. WISER, VP OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES. DR. LEITZL EXPLAINED THAT TCL HAD A 91% PLACEMENT RATE FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS. DR. LEITZL SAID HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH DR. WASHINGTON AND THE TENTH GRADE IS TO VISIT THE CAMPUS TO SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE OFFERED. DR. LEITZL SAID THAT TCL WORKS WITH COMPANIES LIKE BE GREEN. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MANY STUDENTS ATTEND TCL. DR. LEITZL SAID THAT THERE WERE 2,800 STUDENTS AND 228 COME FROM JASPER COUNTY. DR. LEITZL SAID THAT THERE WAS A 9% INCREASE IN STUDENTS FROM JASPER COUNTY LAST YEAR. COUNCILMAN SAULS COMMENTED THAT TCL PARTNERED WITH PALMETTO AND THE BE GREEN IS THE NEW BUZZ WORD. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED WHAT TCL HAS PLANNED FOR GREEN OPPORTUNITES. DR. LEITZL RESPONDED THAT THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR GRANTS TO COVER GREEN PROGRAMS. DR. LEITZL SAID THEY WERE TRAINING MACHINISTS AND CUSTOMIZING PROGRAMS FOR BE GREEN. MR. WISER PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A COPY OF *THE COMPAS* AND THEIR STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE TCL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. DR. LEITZL THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASKED THAT THEY CONSIDER THE TCL REQUEST OF \$300,000.

**DR. JANE UPSAW – USCB-** DR. UPSHAW TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT USCB IS CONNECTING JASPER COUNTY TO THE LEGO PROJECT AND

THAT THE COUNTY'S INVESTMENT IN USCB HAS BEEN THE LINCHPIN TO THE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM. DR. UPSHAW DISCUSSED THE INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT AND ADDITIONAL DEGREES OFFERED. DR. UPSHAW EXPLAINED HOW USCB ADDS TO THE ECONOMY OF JASPER COUNTY. DR. UPSHAW DISCUSSED STATE FUNDING AND WHILE PRIVATE SCHOOLS RECEIVE UP TO \$3,200 PER STUDENT, USCB RECEIVED \$954. DR. UPSHAW SAID THAT THEY WERE EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH A CONNECTION TO LEGO EDUCATION. DR. UPSHAW SAID THEY PLANNED TO EXPAND THE EDUCATION DEGREE TO INCLUDE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY MATH AND SCIENCE. DR. UPSHAW TOLD THE COUNCIL THEY HAVE CREATED THE "MISTERS" PROGRAM IN HARDEEVILLE AND RIDGELAND. DR. UPSHAW SAID THIS PROGRAM ENCOURAGES YOUNG MEN TO GO INTO ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. DR. UPSHAW SAID THE PROGRAM PROVIDES TUITION ASSISTANCE AND THEY ARE REQUIRED TO TEACH 3-5 YEARS IN JASPER COUNTY TO PAY BACK THE TUITION ASSISTANCE. DR. UPSHAW TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM JASPER COUNTY HAS INCREASED FROM 74 IN 2009 TO 95 IN 2011. DR. UPSHAW SAID THE FIRST BSN CLASS WILL BE GRADUATING IN APRIL. DR. UPSHAW LISTED THE VARIOUS WAYS THAT USCB HAS PARTNERED WITH THE AREA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. DR. UPSHAW SAID THAT THROUGH SPORTS THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHOWCASE THE AREA WHILE BOOSTING THE ECONOMY. DR. UPSHAW SAID THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS AND THEY ARE LIVING IN COURTNEY BEND AND AUSTIN CHASE, THUS BRINGING TAX DOLLARS TO JASPER COUNTY. DR. UPSHAW REVIEWED EXPANSION PROJECTS THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED. THE COUNCIL ASKED ABOUT THE MAKEUP OF STUDENTS AND THE AREA THEY CAME FROM. DR. UPSHAW SAID THAT THERE ARE LOCAL STUDENTS, STUDENTS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA, OUT OF STATE STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. DR. UPSHAW SAID THERE WERE 20 STUDENTS FROM CHINA THAT ATTENDED USCB THIS YEAR. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE NAME CHANGE FOR USCB AND DR. UPSHAW EXPLAINED THAT A COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AND FIVE NAMES WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER. DR. UPSHAW INTRODUCED MR. EARL HOLLINGS, VICE CHANCELLOR OF FINANCE. DR. UPSHAW ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THEIR REQUEST FOR \$150,000.

**DISCUSSION:** MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED A BRIEFING ON THE NEW INFORMATION HE PROVIDED. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE BUDGET THEY RECEIVED IS THE OFFICIAL STAFF RECOMMENDED BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID 3 MILLS WERE ADDED FOR DEBT SERVICE AND A \$20 PER VEHICLE FOR ROAD

MAINTENANCE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THE BUDGET INCLUDED A FAIR ESTIMATE FOR NEW REVENUE AND HIS HANDOUT HIGHLIGHTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SENATOR PRESENTED A BUDGET REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,100 AND THAT AMOUNT IS CURRENTLY NOT INCLUDED. MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED A SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE BUDGET ALSO ASSUMED THAT THE COUNTY CAN ROLL FORWARD THE MILLAGE DUE TO THE CHANGES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE IMPACT OF THE BUDGET FOR A \$150,000 OWNER OCCUPIED HOME AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. MR. MALPHRUS REVIEWED THE PROCEDURES FOR ROLL BACK AND ROLL FORWARD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE BUDGET INCLUDED THE ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED CHARTS SHOWING THE MAJOR EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR THE BUDGET PRESENTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT NICKEL PLATE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT 40% OF THE TAXES ARE RETURNED FOR INFRASTRUTURE AS OUTLINED IN THE FILOT AGREEMENT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DISCUSSED THE ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX WITH SOMEONE FROM HAMPTON AND THEY DID NOT FEEL THE PEOPLE OBJECTED TO THE TAX AND THAT IT WAS A GOOD SOURCE OF REVENUE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO GET AWAY FROM TAXING AND START PUTTING FEES ON THE PEOPLE WHO USE THE SERVICES.

**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 4:20 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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LEROY BLACKSHEAR  
CHAIRMAN