

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 6, 2008
1:00 P.M.**

BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

FRED TUTEN, VICE CHAIRMAN
GLADYS JONES, COUNCILWOMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEPUTY ADM. ADMINISTRATIVE 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 T ORDER:

VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 P.M.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

COASTAL EMPIRE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER:

MR. KOVALANCHIK OF STATED THAT THEY SERVICED OVER 200 CASES IN JASPER COUNTY. MR. KOVALANCHIK SAID THAT THEY NOT ONLY PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE, BUT THEY ALSO PROVIDE MEDICATION FOR THE PATIENTS THAT CANNOT AFFORD THEIR MEDICATIONS. MR. KOVALANCHIK SAID THAT SOME INJECTIONS AND PILLS COST OVER \$400.00 EACH. MR. KOVALANCHIK SAID THAT THE PATIENTS SET UP APPOINTMENTS AND THEY ALSO TREAT WALK-INS. MR. KOVALANCHIK SAID THE AGENCY HAS ALSO SERVED COUNTY EMPLOYEES. MR. KOVALANCHIK REQUESTED \$26,413.00. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE REQUEST WAS PRO-RATED AND IF \$26,413.00 WAS THE AMOUNT THE COUNTY WAS REQUIRED TO PAY. MR.

MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE BUDGETED \$20,000.00 THIS YEAR AND THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE TO PROVIDE WHAT THEY REQUESTED.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

MR MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS WORKING ON GETTING THE BUDGET FORMULATED AND THAT HE TALKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE REGARDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. MR MALPHRUS SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY LESS MONEY THIS YEAR THAN THEY RECEIVED LAST YEAR, BUT THEY COULD POSSIBLY GET MORE. MR MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY WILL NOT COLLECT TAXES FOR THE SCHOOLS ON HOME OWNERS THIS YEAR EXCEPT FOR A FEW MILS FOR SCHOOL DEBT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND RENTAL PROPERTY WILL STILL PAY MILLAGE FOR THE SCHOOLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT ANY PROPERTY THAT IS NOT A LEGAL RESIDENCE WILL BE SCHOOL MILLAGE. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHERE SENATOR PINCKNEY GOT HIS NUMBERS BECAUSE THE SENATOR TOLD HIM THE SCHOOLS WILL BE \$300,000.00 SHORT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE SPOKE WITH MS. MACK-HUFF, THE SCHOOL FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND SHE TOLD HIM THE SCHOOLS WILL NOT GET LESS THAN THEY RECEIVED LAST YEAR. MS. MACK-HUFF SAID THAT THERE WAS \$2,500,000.00 FOR SMALL SCHOOLS AND THE DEPT. OF REVENUE WAS STILL WORKING ON HOW THAT MONEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THE COUNTY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOLS THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT SCHOOL MILLAGE ON PROPERTY THAT IS NOT A LEGAL RESIDENCE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE THOUGHT THE COUNTY FUNDED EXTRA MONEY TO THE SCHOOLS LAST YEAR SO THE COUNTY WOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY THIS YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SCHOOLS WOULD NOT BE GETTING AS MUCH THIS YEAR IF THE COUNTY DID NOT GIVE THE EXTRA MONEY LAST YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE HOMEOWNERS WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THE SCHOOLS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE PENNY TAX WAS ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE BONDS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT MILLAGE HAVE TO BE ADDED FOR A \$500,000.00 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AND MILLAGE WILL BR NEEDED TO COVER A NEW BOND. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF IT WAS ADDED THIS YEAR, WHY CAN'T IT BE ADDED IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY MAY NEED MONEY UP FRONT, AND THEY CAN DO IT WITHOUT A REFERENDUM AND THEY PLAN TO DO IT THIS YEAR. COUNCILMAN TYLER STATED THAT FINANCIALLY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT 7-9 MILS MAY NEED TO BE ADDED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHEN THE HOMEOWNERS WILL HAVE TO PAY SCHOOL TAX AGAIN. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT UNLESS THE LEGISLATION CHANGES, THE HOME OWNERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY SCHOOL TAXES ANYMORE, BUT IF THE SALES TAX IS NOT ENOUGH, IT WILL HAVE TO BE FIXED. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHAT WOULD

HAPPEN IF THERE WAS A DRASTIC INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT. MR MALPHRUS SAID THE MINIMUM EFFORT IS \$12,100,000.00 FOR THE SCHOOLS AND MILLAGE CANNOT GO UP MORE THAN 4.6% AND THE SCHOOL DEBT MILLAGE IS NOT INCLUDED. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT DOING A COUNTY CENSUS SINCE MONEY IS DETERMINED BY POPULATION. MR MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURE IF THEY WOULD PAY ANY ATTENTION TO IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT IS A LEGAL PROCESS AND THE REGULAR CENSUS WAS STARTING RIGHT NOW. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CLEMSON STUDY ESTIMATED THE COUNTY AT 28,000.00. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THEY COUNTED THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS NOT SURE. MR. MALPHRUS STATED THAT AT THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP, HE WOULD PRESENT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND HE WILL HAVE THE MILLAGE INFORMATION TOGETHER. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT SHE DID NOT THINK THE BUDGET THAT THE STAFF PROVIDED COUNCIL WAS WORTH ANYTHING AND SHE REQUESTED THAT THE STAFF HAVE THE BUDGET READY FOR THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE CAR LEASE AND WHO THE CAR BELONGS TO AT THE END OF THE LEASE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY OWNS THE CAR AT THE END OF THE LEASE. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF EXTENDED WARRANTIES WERE PLACED ON THE VEHICLES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE, BUT HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS ADDED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF ALL THE CARS WERE SWAPPED OUT THE LAST TIME AND MR MALPHRUS SAID THEY DID 20 CARS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED THAT THE CARS BE CHECKED OUT AND SEE WHICH ARE STILL SERVICABLE. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT CAMERAS BEING INSTALLED AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ARE INSTALLED IN THE 2 OR 3 VEHICLES THAT DO TRAFFIC. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THE CARS ARE PARKED AT NIGHT AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THEY ALL TAKE THE CARS HOME BECAUSE THEY ARE ON 24 HOUR CALL.

AHJ LIBRARIES – BETH MCNEER:

MS. MCNEER SAID THAT THE LIBRARIES WORK HARD TO SERVE THE COMMUNITIES AND THEY HAVE EXTENDED THEIR SERVICES AND CHANGED THE HOURS TO ACCOMMODATE THE CITIZENS. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY STILL NEED PART-TIME HELP AND THEY WOULD LIKE GIVE ALL STAFF A 30 CENT PER HOUR RAISE. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY PLAN TO START A SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER AND DEDICATE IT TO MS. ZENIE INGRAM AND THEY ALSO PLAN TO START AN EMILY HOOD ENDOWMENT FUND IN HER MEMORY WHICH WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE CHILDREN'S BOOKS. MS. MCNEER ALSO DISCUSSED THE CHALLENGES OF SERVING THE HISPANIC POPULATION. MS. MCNEER SAID ALL AREAS OF THE LIBRARY HAS SHOWN INCREASES IN USAGE. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED BY THE LIBRARY AND MS. MCNEER RESPONDED 2 FULL - TIME AND 6 PART-TIME.

VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED ABOUT THE DEVELOPER FEES. MS. MCNEER SAID THEY RECEIVED \$42,000.00 IN ADVANCE FROM THE SETTINGS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENT FEES OTHER THAN THE SETTINGS. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF A PLAQUE WOULD BE PLACED ON THE DOOR IN MEMORY OF MS. INGRAM. MS. MCNEER SAID YES. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THAT SHE HOPED THAT WHEN THE ANNEX BUILDING WAS COMPLETE THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE MUSEUM MOVED TO THE PERRY HOUSE AND THAT WOULD GIVE THE LIBRARY MORE ROOM TO EXPAND. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED IF THE COMPUTERS FOR THE LIBRARY WERE PAID FOR WITH GATES FOUNDATION MONEY AND MS. MCNEER SAID THAT THEY WERE. MS. MCNEER REQUESTED \$149,915.50.

CARLE ROACHE – COUNCIL ON AGING:

MR. ROACHE DISCUSSED THE NEW FACILITY TO BE BUILT IN HARDEEVILLE AND THAT THEY WERE REQUESTING \$20,000.00 FOR FURNITURE FOR THAT CENTER, WHICH IS THE SAME AMOUNT THAT THE COUNTY GAVE FOR FURNITURE FOR THE RIDGELAND CENTER. MR. ROACHE SAID THE HARDEEVILLE CENTER WILL BE ABOUT 3,330 SQUARE FEET WITH AN AREA THAT WILL HAVE THE ROOF AND FLOOR COMPLETED, BUT NO WALLS, FOR FUTURE EXPANSION. MR. ROACHE ALSO DISCUSSED THE MEALS PROGRAM AND SAID THAT MEALS ARE SERVED 3 DAYS PER WEEK IN GRAYS AND COOSAWHACHIE AND FIVE DAYS AT THE OTHER SITES. THEY ARE SERVING ABOUT 932 MEALS IN ROBERTVILLE , 1,006 MEALS IN HARDEEVILLE AND 2,884 MEALS IN RIDGELAND, 98 MEALS IN GRAYS AND 264 MEALS IN COOSAWHATCHIE. MR. ROACHE SAID THEY WERE ALSO LOOKING INTO PURCHASING LOW MILAGE VEHICLES FOR THE STATE SURPLUS TO SAVE ON FUEL. MR. ROACHE REQUESTED \$140,000.00 FOR THE COUNCIL ON AGING.

SMITTY COOLER –JR YOUTH BASEBALL:

MR. COOLER SAID THE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW AND THIS YEAR THE BOYS 9-12 DIVISION IS THE LARGEST IT HAS EVER BEEN. MR. COOLER SAID THEY ALSO STARTED A 15-16 YEAR OLD BOY'S TEAM THIS YEAR AND THE MEMBERSHIP ON ALL THE OTHER AGE DIVISIONS HAS GROWN. MR. COOLER SAID THAT ALL THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD REMODELING THE FIELDS. MR COOLER SAID THE THEY STILL NEED TO WORK ON THE OLD CONCESSION STAND, FENCING, BATHROOMS, THE FIELDS, THE PRESS BOX, AND THE KLECKLY FIELDS AREA. MR. COOLER SAID THE TWO SMALLER FIELDS NEED A LOT OF WORK AND THERE ARE SOME SINK HOLES IN THEM AND THE OUTFIELDS CANNOT BE USED AFTER A RAIN. MR. COOLER SAID THERE IS ALSO A PROBLEM WITH SECURITY AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO LOCK EVERYTHING DOWN. MR. COOLER SAID THEY DO A LOT OF FUND RAISING AND ALL THE PARENTS PARTICIPATE IN SOME WAY. MR. COOLER SAID THE ENROLLMENT IN THE BALL PROGRAM IS CLOSE TO 300 BOYS AND GIRLS FROM 5-16 YEARS OF

AGE AND THEY PLAY UNTIL THE END OF JUNE. MR. COOLER SAID THAT HARDEEVILLE IS ALSO TRYING TO GROW THEIR PROGRAM AND THE TEAMS ARE NOW PLAYING EACH OTHER. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED THE LOCATION OF THE FIELDS AND MR. COOLER INVITED HIM TO VISIT THEM. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF HE HAS RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ROADS AND MR. COOLER SAID HE HAS HAD QUITE A FEW. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE COULD APPROACH THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE FOR SOME HELP. COUNCILWOMAN JONES ASKED MR. FULGHUM TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. MR. COOLER SAID THEY TRY TO STRETCH EVERY PENNY AS FAR AS IT WILL GO AND THERE ARE A LOT OF VOLUNTEERS DOING THE WORK. MR. COOLER SAID THIS IS A TRUE COMMUNITY EFFORT AND THEY APPRECIATE ALL WHATEVER CAN BE DONE. MR. COOLER SAID THE PROJECTED COSTS FOR THIS YEARS PROJECTS IS \$23,000.00 AND HE REQUESTED \$10,800.00 FOR THE JASPER RIDGELAND YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.

DELIA CASKEY – KEEP JASPER BEAUTIFUL:

MS. CASKEY SAID THAT LITTER IS STILL A BIG PROBLEM IN THE COUNTY AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER HIRING A FULL TIME CERTIFIED LITTER OFFICER WHO CAN GIVE TICKETS. MS. CASKEY SAID THE COUNTY CURRENTLY HAS ONE PERSON WHO ACTS IN THIS CAPACITY, BUT HE IS ALSO THE DIRECTOR OF RECYCLING. MS. CASKEY SAID HE ISSUED 74 TICKETS WITH AN 85% CONVICTION RATE. MS. CASKEY SUGGESTED CONTACTING WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SEE IF THEY COULD PUT SOME FUNDS TOWARDS THIS POSITION. VICE CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF SHE WANTED THE LITTER CONTROL OFFICER TO WORK UNDER KEEP JASPER BEAUTIFUL AND MS. CASKEY SAID THE POSITION COULD GO UNDER HER, PUBLIC WORKS OR THE SHERIFF. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT MS. HOLMES HAS A POSITION FOR LICENSE PLATES AND HE COULD ALSO BE UTILIZED AND DOUBLE AS A LITTER OFFICER. MS. CASKEY SAID THE PERSON WOULD HAVE TO ATTEND THE POLICE ACADEMY AND CARRY A GUN. COUNCILWOMAN JONES SAID THE GEORGE GIBBONS, OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, HAD SUGGESTED 50 CENTS PER LOAD BE CHARGED TO HELP PAY FOR A LITTER OFFICER. MS. CASKEY TOLD THE COUNCIL OF THE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS THAT HER BOARD HAS BEEN DOING IN HARDEEVILLE AND BY THE HICKORY HILL LANDFILL ENTRANCE. COUNCILMAN TYLER SAID HE HAS NOTICED THEM AND THEY MAKE THINGS LOOK BETTER.

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 3:05 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC

FRED TUTEN

CLERK TO COUNCIL

VICE CHAIRMAN