



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
MAY 25, 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, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS, ATTORNEY MARVIN JONES, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK

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 3:05 P.M.

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

**INVOCATION** – VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**AMEND THE AGENDA** – CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED FOR A MOTION TO INCLUDE AMENDING THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONTRACTUAL MATTERS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY SHOULD GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THE ORDINANCES. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID NO, THEY DID NOT.

**ORDINANCES**

**RONNIE MALPHRUS – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF AN ORDINANCE REGARDING**

**THE LEASE REVENUE INSTALLMENT BONDS-** MR. MALPHRUS REQUESTED THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINACE SO THAT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING COULD BE HELD AT THE JUNE 6, 2011 MEETING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID EVERYTHING NEEDED TO BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2011 WHEN THE BANS ARE DUE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY NEEDED TO HAVE \$12,000,000 BY JULY 1, 2011 TO PAY OFF THE BANS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE LEASE REVENUE INSTALLMENT BONDS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY BOTH ORDINANCES NEEDED TO BE PASSED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE DOING TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF FINANCING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE TOTAL AMOUNT FINANCED WOULD NOT EXCEED \$20,950,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE BOND ATTORNEY RECOMMENDED DOING PART IN THE FALL BECAUSE THE ONE BAN IS NOT DUE UNTIL FEB., 2012. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY A MOTION WAS NECESSARY IF THEY ARE NOT TO GO OVER \$20,950,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE ORDINANCES DEAL WITH TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF FINANCING. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY ALREADY PAID \$500,000 SO THE AMOUNT SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$20,450,000 NOT \$20,950,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT IS NOT TO EXCEED \$20,950,000 SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED WHAT BOND WAS FOR THE \$3,000,000 IN LEASES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT IS PART OF THE \$2,950,000 AND THE COUNCIL CAN DECIDE HOW THEY WANT TO PAY IT. COUNCILMAN SAULS SAID HE FELT THE \$3,000,000 SHOULD BE PAID OVER A SHORTER AMOUNT OF TIME. COUNCILMEN ETHERIDGE AND DRAYTON AGREED. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON EQUATED IT TO FINANCING A TELEVISION FOR 30 YEARS WHEN YOU FINANCE YOUR HOME. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST TO COVER A \$500,000 PAYMENT AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID 5 MILS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THEY SHOULD DO THE LONG TERM FINANCING FOR EVERYTHING AND PAY EXTRA ON THE PRINCIPAL WHEN THEY CAN. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE VAROUS SCENARIOS FOR THE BONDS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMAN DRAYTON AND COUNCILMAN SAULS VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED AGAINST.

**RONNIE MALPHRUS – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF AN ORDINANCE REGARDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS-** MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THIS ORDINANCE WAS FOR THE SECOND FORM OF FINANCING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS COST LESS AND THE COUNTY WOULD DO A COMBINATION OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE LEASE REVENUE INSTALLMENT BONDS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF AN ORDINANCE REGARDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMAN DRAYTON AND

COUNCILMAN SAULS VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED AGAINST.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION** – THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR THE BOND FINANCING OF THE \$3,000,000 LEASES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO DO A 3 YEAR BOND FOR THE \$3,000,000 LEASES AND THE BALANCE OF THE \$2,950,000 (NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT) IS INCLUDED IN THE OTHER BONDS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, AND COUNCILMEN DRAYTON, ETHERIDGE AND SAULS VOTING IN FAVOR. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY VOTED AGAINST.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE ADDITIONAL \$394,000 THE STATE WAS GIVING TO THE SCHOOLS AND ASKED IF THE MILLS THE COUNTY ADDED COULD BE REMOVED. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN THOSE FUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SCHOOLS AND HE THINKS IT SHOULD REMAIN THE SAME AND HE WAS NOT GOING TO CHANGE HIS VOTE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE SCHOOLS WOULD BE GETTING THE SAME AMOUNT AS LAST YEAR WITH THE MILLS ADDED BECAUSE THE VALUE OF THE MILL HAS DECREASED AND HE USED THE TAX PAYMENTS COLLECTION RATE OF 92% NOT 95% AS THE SCHOOL PROJECTED.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. COULD BE CUT SINCE THE BUILDING INSPECTORS WERE NOT BUSY NOW AND THEY COULD OVERSEE ANY PROJECTS AND IF IT GOT BUSY THE COUNCIL COULD LOOK AT THAT POSITION THEN. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED HOW MUCH IT WOULD SAVE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID ABOUT \$50,000 AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID \$50,000 WAS SALARY AND BENEFITS, BUT IF THE DEPT. WAS ELIMINATED IT WOULD SAVE \$95,800. COUNCILMAN SAULS ASKED IF THE BUILDING DEPT. COULD HANDLE IT AND MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT THAT THEY COULD, HOWEVER THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER PROJECTS AND THE POSITION WAS ALSO HELPFUL WITH GRANTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT LCOG WROTE THE CBDG GRANT AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID SINCE THE FIRST ONES WERE DONE, IT WOULD BE EASIER SINCE THEY HAVE A GUIDE. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID HE FELT MR. JIROUSEK COULD HELP WITH THE GRANTS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT YOU CAN BURN A PERSON OUT IF YOU PUT TOO MUCH ON ONE PERSON. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY EXPECT THE EMPLOYEES TO DO MORE WORK, BUT THEY DON'T PAY THEM MORE MONEY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID \$50,000 WAS NOT A LOT OF MONEY AND THE PERSON SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GRANTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY RECEIVED \$2,800,000 IN GRANTS AND \$2,700,000 IN GRANTS WERE DENIED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE IS STILL ONE GRANT FOR \$75,000 PENDING.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE COUNTY NEEDED AN HR DIRECTOR TO DIRECT TWO EMPLOYEES AND THEY COULD CHANGE

THE TITLE TO HR GENERALIST AND SAVE THE COUNTY ABOUT \$20,000 PER YEAR. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY VOTED THAT THE POSITION WAS TO BECOME A DIRECTOR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY COULD VOTE TO CHANGE IT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THE HR DIRECTOR AT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE SALARIES HE DID NOT LIKE WHEN HE CAME ON BOARD, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT HAVE VOTED FOR IT, BUT IT WAS DONE PRIOR TO HIS COMING. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE OFFICE HAS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT WHEN MS. DRAYTON WAS THE PERSONNEL DIRECTOR SHE DID EVERYTHING HERSELF AND HE ALWAYS FELT IT WAS TOO MUCH WORK FOR ONE PERSON. MR. MALPHRUS SUGGESTED THEY DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DID NOT VOTE ON THE PREVAILING SIDE WHEN THEY VOTED FOR THE HR DIRECTOR POSITION SO HE CANNOT BRING IT UP AND THE ISSUE IS DEAD.

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

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

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR CALLED FOR ANY MOTIONS AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON MOTIONED TO ELIMINATE THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. PROJECT COORDINATOR POSITION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, AND COUNCILMEN DRAYTON, ETHERIDGE AND SAULS VOTING FOR; CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTED AGAINST.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADD THE ATTORNEY AND HIS STAFF BACK INTO THE BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, AND COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND SAULS VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTED AGAINST.

VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO REMOVE THE SALARY CUTS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY, AND COUNCILMEN ETHERIDGE AND SAULS VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN DRAYTON VOTED AGAINST.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR REMINDED THE COUNCIL THEY WERE TO TURN IN THEIR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTATOR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE

SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS DUE UNTIL JUNE. COUNCILMAN  
ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE  
MOTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REVIEW BE TURNED AT THE  
JUNE 1, 2011 BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING.

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

THE BUDGEWORKSHOP/MEETING ENDED AT 5:30 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