



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
JUNE 1, 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, AUDITOR- HAZEL HOLMES, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RHONDA MITCHELL

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 SAULS GAVE THE INVOCATION

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** - COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - 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 – AUDITOR’S OFFICE; AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, THE RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM - UPDATE –**

COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE 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 – AUDITOR’S OFFICE; AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, THE RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM UPDATE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 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 REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED I-T EQUIPMENT WITH THE AUDITOR. COUNCILMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO PRESENT THE PROPOSAL FROM THE AUDITOR TO THE ADMINISTRATOR AND HE IS TO REVIEW IT WITH THE CONSULTANT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID NO OTHER ACTION WAS NEEDED AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION** – MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT ALL THE CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT COUNTY'S OPERATION BUDGET IS \$21,518,634 WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A 3 MILLS INCREASE ABOVE THE ROLL FORWARD. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SCHOOL'S 4 MILLS INCREASE WAS INCLUDED AND IT WOULD HOLD THE SCHOOLS TO THE SAME LEVEL OF FUNDING AS LAST YEAR DUE TO THE VALUE OF THE MILL. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE VALUE OF THE MILL IS DOWN AND THE TAX COLLECTION RATE IS DOWN. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE SCHOOL WOULD BE GETTING THE \$300,500 THEY REQUESTED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE GETTING ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THEY DIDN'T HELP THE SCHOOLS IN ANY WAY AND WHAT HE VOTED FOR HAD NO MERIT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID WITH THE INCREASE IN THE MILLS THEY WILL STAY THE SAME AND IF THE MILLS WERE NOT ADDED THEY WOULD HAVE RECEIVED LESS THAN THEY DID LAST YEAR. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT CAN THE COUNTY DO TO MAKE THAT \$300,000 HAPPEN. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE SCHOOL MILLS CAN ONLY GO UP SO MUCH AND IF THEY DID NOT ADD THE 4 MILLS, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD BE GETTING \$400,000 LESS.

MR. MALPHRUS REVIEWED THE TAX COMPARISONS ON A HOME VALUED AT \$150,000 AND ON A RENTAL HOME OR BUSINESS OF THE SAME VALUE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE CHART HE PREPARED WAS BASED ON THE LEASE MONEY BEING PAID OVER 3 YEARS AND HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE LOOKING AT 18 MILLS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY WILL HAVE ABOUT \$1,000,000 LEFT IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE FUND AND IF IT IS USED TO PAY DOWN THE LEASE AMOUNT, THE MILLS CAN BE CUT DOWN TO 12. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE \$250,000 FOR THE DSS BUILDING AND THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPAIRS CAN BE DONE IN NOVEMBER WHEN THE OTHER BAN IS DUE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE CHARTS THE ADMINISTRATION PROVIDES ALWAYS REFER TO 2007 WHEN THE PEOPLE WERE STILL PAYING SCHOOL TAXES AND THEY WANT TO MAKE IT SOUND AS THIS IS THE ONLY COUNTY DOING THIS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID EVERYONE IS ALSO PAYING AN ADDITIONAL 1% SALES TAX. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES ARE GOING TO BE HIT THE HARDEST. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNCIL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PAY THE COUNTY'S DEBTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS FEES COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE DUES BEING PAID AND THAT ONLY DUES FOR ONE MEMBERSHIP TO THE ROTARY IS TO BE PAID BY THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE DISCUSSED THE PHONE EXPENSES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS TOLD TO CUT \$100,000 FROM THOSE EXPENSES, BUT HE DID NOT THINK THEY SHOULD BE CUT THAT MUCH, BUT HE DID IT BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THE COUNCIL TOLD HIM TO DO. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY COULD PROBABLY SAVE \$20,000 - \$25,000,

BUT NOT \$100,000. MR. MALPHRUS SAID SOME FAX LINES COULD BE CUT AND THE PHONE LINES ALSO INCLUDE THE CISCO COSTS. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY NEED THINGS, BUT THEY MAY HAVE TO BE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE COULD STUDY THE SYSTEM AND PERHAPS SOME LINES COULD BE BUNDLED AND THEY HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH CENTURY LINK FOR A LOWER LONG DISTANCE RATE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE COULD DO A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE SYSTEM WHEN HE GETS SOME TIME. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID A LOT OF MONEY IS BEING SPENT ON LAND LINES AND THEY NEED TO BE CUT. VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID JASPER COUNTY IS TOO HIGH TECH FOR A POOR COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE MINI-BOTTLE MONEY AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID ALL THOSE FUNDS GO TO THE NEW LIFE CENTER. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE SALE OF PROPERTY AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS FOR THE 3 OLD TRUCKS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE AND MR. TERRY MET WITH THE COMPANY FOR THE NEW TRUCKS AND THEY WOULD LIKE ASSURANCE THAT THE COUNTY IS GOING TO GET THE TRUCKS PRIOR TO ORDERING THEM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO DO THE LEASE FOR THE TRUCKS, THEY CAN GET THE PROCESS STARTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT GIVING \$1,000 TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL TEAM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SUGGESTED REDUCING THE APPROPRIATION TO THE NEW LIFE CENTER AND GIVING IT TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY COULD FIND \$1,000 TO DO THAT IF IT IS WHAT THE COUNCIL WANTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION TO NEW LIFE CENTER \$1,000 AND TO GIVE THE LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH VICE CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMEN DRAYTON, ETHERIDGE AND SAULS VOTING FOR. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTED AGAINST.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 4:35 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