



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 20, 2012, 3:30 P.M.
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING
MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN SAMUEL GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN MARTIN SAULS IV, COUNCILMAN HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN THEODUS L. DRAYTON

STAFF PRESENT: ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADM. GEORGE HOOD, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK

STAFF ABSENT: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS

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 GREGORY CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/ MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:30 P.M.

INVOCATION - COUNCILMAN DRAYTON GAVE THE INVOCATION.

APPROVAL OF A-TAX REQUESTS – MR. DINKINS REMOVED HIS REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE STUDY FOR POINT SOUTH. MR. DINKINS SAID HE WOULD TRY AND GET THE MONEY ELSEWHERE, AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO TRY AND GIVE POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS CLOSE TO THE \$96,000 THAT THEY REQUESTED. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE ROCK BOTTOM AMOUNT NEEDED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS \$40,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SUGGESTED CUTTING \$1,000 FROM THE CHAMBER OR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE PYROTECHNIC 4TH OF JULY PRESENTATION. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE PROCEDURE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO CUT THE CHAMBER OR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE PYROTECHNIC 4TH OF JULY PRESENTATION BRINGS A LOT OF TOURIST TO THE AREA THAT ARE SPENDING MONEY WITH THE OTHER MERCHANTS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNTY WOULD ONLY BE GIVING MONEY, NOT MAKING ANY MONEY. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS PRESENT AND ASKED IF THAT WAS FAIR. THE COUNCIL VOTED TO GIVE THE CHAMBER \$40,000, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ABSTAINED FROM VOTING, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE VOTED TO GIVE THE CHAMBER \$39,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO DELAY APPROVAL UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN

SAULS, AND COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTED AGAINST.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE 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 - CONTRACTUAL MATTERS COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED PURCHASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY, RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE 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 - CONTRACTUAL MATTERS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. NO ACTION RESULTED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING A-TAX REQUESTS: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- \$40,000; HISTORICAL SOCIETY-\$4,550; BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB-\$7,500; GOPHER HILL - \$2,500; BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER-\$4,000; LOWCOUNTRY TOURISM -\$3,000; POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS -\$68,450; 4TH OF JULY PYROTECHNIC- \$1,000. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN ETHERIDGE AND DRAYTON VOTING FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR VOTING AGAINST; VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ABSTAINED.

COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION – MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE LIST OF CUTS PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL TOTALED \$228,000 AND THEY ADDED TWO EMPLOYEES FOR DETENTION AT A COST OF \$72,500 LEAVING A NET OF \$155,500 IN CUTS. MR. MALPHRUS DISCUSSED THE OTHER CUTS SUGGESTED BY THE COUNCIL AND EXPLAINED THAT BY MAKING THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES HE FELT IT WOULD BE CUTTING THINGS TOO CLOSE. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS COMMENTED THAT CUTTING \$500,000 FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES WOULD BE CUTTING ALL THE FIRE FIGHTERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WOULD BE THE ONLY AREA THAT THEY COULD CUT CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID \$5,656,850 AND IF \$500,000 IS DEDUCTED THAT WOULD LEAVE \$5,100,000 AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THAT AMOUNT IS TO ELIMINATE EMPLOYEES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET COVERS FIRE, AMBULANCES, DISPATCH, FIRE CONTRACTS AND THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION AMBULANCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID PERSONNEL, BENEFITS AND FIRE CONTRACTS TAKE UP MOST OF THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AMBULANCES HAVE HIGH MILLAGE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE MOTOR CAN BE REPLACED AND KEEP THE BODY AND EQUIPMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID CHASSIS CAN BE BOUGHT AND THE BODY CAN ALSO BE KEPT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT 2 AMBULANCES WERE PURCHASED 3 YEARS AGO AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY RUN 24/7. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY HAS FOUR AMBULANCES IN SERVICE AND 2 SPARES. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE

QUALIFICATIONS, SALARIES AND OVERTIME FOR THE AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY HAVE BUILT IN OVERTIME AND IT IS THE SAME ACROSS THE STATE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF THEY WANTED TO CUT OVERTIME, THEY NEEDED MORE EMPLOYEES. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY LINES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID IN THE PAST THE FIRE VOLUNTEERS HAD FUNDRAISERS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WANTED TO GO THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDED CUTS TO GET A CONSENSUS AND HAVE THE COUNCIL VOTE ON THE BUDGET LATER AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE THE CHANGES.

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION – KEEP- CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND BLACKSHEAR; ELIMINATE – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE

\$10,000 FROM POST MORTEMIS – CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGAINST; VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ABSTAINED

CUT LAW LIBRARY – ELIMINATE- ALL IN FAVOR

CUT LEGAL FEES - CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGAINST

\$500,000 FROM EMS – CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON FOR; VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AND COUNCILMEN BLACKSHEAR AND ETHERIDGE AGAINST.

CUT FIRE STATIONS \$20,000 EACH – CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGAINST

CUT OFFICE SUPPLIES - COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGAINST

CUT PHONE - CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AGAINST;

OVERTIME CUT - CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AGAINST;

CUT TRAVEL AND TRAINING - CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS AGAINST;

CUT LEVY FIRE CONTRACT TO \$195,000 - CHAIRMAN GREGORY, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND BLACKSHEAR AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS FOR; COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE AGAINST

REMOVE SECURITY CONTRACT – ALL IN FAVOR

CUT GAS AND OIL – ALL IN FAVOR

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADD \$15,000 TO THE LIBRARY APPROPRIATION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS, COUNCILMEN DRAYTON AND ETHERIDGE FOR; COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR AGAINST. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO ADD \$30,000 FOR JCNU AND TO DO THE THREE STEP WAGE INCREASES FOR THE EMPLOYEES.

ADJOURN – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE WORKSHOP.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 5:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

REV. SAMUEL GREGORY
CHAIRMAN

