



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

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 19, 2012, 7:00 P.M.  
MINUTES

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** CHAIRMAN SAMUEL GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN MARTIN SAULS IV, COUNCILMAN HENRY ETHERIDGE

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:** COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN THEODUS L. DRAYTON

**STAFF PRESENT:** ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADM. GEORGE HOOD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR HERMAN SMITH, ACTING PLANNING DIRECTOR LISA LAMB, BUSINESS LICENSE DIRECTOR RENTY KITTY, HR DIRECTOR GLORIA LUCAS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JOHNNY DAVIS, DETENTION CENTER DIRECTOR ARTHUR BENJAMIN, ASSESSOR SUSAN WAITE

**STAFF ABSENT:** DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR RHONDA MITCHELL, ATTORNEY MARVIN JONES, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES WILBUR DALEY, ROD PATSYE GREEN, IT DIRECTOR EARL BOSTICK, JR.

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 MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

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

**INVOCATION** – COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 2/21/2012 AND 3/05/2012** - VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 2/21/2012 AND 3/05/12. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION** -**PRESENTATION TO THE THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM IN RECOGNITION OF WINNING THE SCISA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**- THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZED THE THOMAS HEYWARD ACADEMY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE SCISA

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. THE COUNCIL PRESENTED PLAQUES TO EACH TEAM MEMBER AND THE TWO COACHES.

**JOHN GEISLER- PROCLAMATION FOR SECOND HELPINGS AND PROCLAMATION MARCH PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH-** THE COUNCIL PRESENTED A PROCLAMATION TO SECOND HELPING RECOGNIZING THEIR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL PRESENTED TIDE WATER HOSPICE WITH A PROCLAMATION NAMING MARCH AS PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH.

**JORDAN JINX- RED ZONE SPORTS BAR-** ATTORNEY CREECH REPRESENTING MR. JINX THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR PLACING THEM ON THE AGENDA; HOWEVER, THEY WERE GOING TO PRESENT THE COUNCIL WITH A LETTER ADDRESSING THE ISSUES.

#### **ORDINANCES**

**ANDREW FULGHUM – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE FRAMPTON PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT** – MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS THE PIECE OF PROPERTY AND THE OWNERS WERE ASKING FOR FIVE YEAR EXTENSION. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGES FROM THE ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE WERE NO CHANGES AND ALL THE TERMS WERE THE SAME. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE FRAMPTON PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**ANDREW FULGHUM –2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CONVEY 0.17 ACRES AT CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK TO SCDOT-** MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONVEY THE 0.17 ACRES TO SCDOT FOR ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO CONVEY 0.17 ACRES AT CYPRESS RIDGE BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL PARK TO SCDOT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RESOLUTIONS-** THERE WERE NO RESOLUTIONS.

**OLD BUSINESS - COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD** – THIS ITEM WAS TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

**NEW BUSINESS - ERIC WALSNOVICH – PRESENTATION OF PLANS FOR WALKING/BIKE TRAIL AT SGT. JASPER PARK** – MR. WALSNOVICH PRESENTED THE PLANS FOR THE WALKING/BIKE TRAIL AT SGT. JASPER PARK FOR COUNCIL'S APPROVAL. MR. WALSNOVICH SAID THAT PHASE ONE OF THE PLANS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY, THE SCHOOL AND THE PARK. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE FUNDING. MR. DAVIS SAID HE HAD A GRANT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE GRANT COVERED ALL THE EXPENSES. MR. DAVIS SAID THE MAIN GOAL WAS TO CONNECT THE SCHOOL TO THE PARK ENTRANCE AND HE WAS GOING TO DO AS MUCH AS THE GRANT MONEY ALLOWS. MR. DAVIS SAID HE HAD A GRANT FOR \$97,000.84 AND THE COUNTY'S MATCH IS 20% WHICH WILL BE IN KIND. MR. DAVIS SAID HE HAD A SECOND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,000. MR. DAVIS SAID THE TRAIL WOULD BE OPEN THE SAME HOURS AS THE PARK AND THE PARK STAFF WOULD MAINTAIN THE TRAIL.

VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PLANS AS PRESENTED FOR THE WALKING/BIKE TRAIL AT SGT. JASPER PARK. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ANNOUNCE THAT THE COUNCIL WAS MEETING WITH BIO-MASS AND TOURING THE NEW PELLET MILL ON NIMMER FARM ROAD. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE MILL CURRENTLY HAS 22 EMPLOYEES AND IT WILL CREATE AN ADDITIONAL 26 JOBS. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE OWNERS HAVE INVESTED OVER \$12,000,000. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS THANKED THE CHAIRMAN FOR HELPING TO BRING THIS TOGETHER. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ANNOUNCED THAT STATE HOUSE DAY IS MARCH 28, 2012 IN COLUMBIA AND INVITED THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS TOLD THE PUBLIC THAT JASPER ON THE MOVE WAS SCHEDULED IN MID-APRIL AND THERE WERE 8 CATEGORIES FOR AWARDS. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WAS BEING HELD ON THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M. AT ALL PRINT. CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE TOLD THE PUBLIC HE ATTENDED A MEETING HELD BY SENATOR PINCKNEY AND THERE IS \$295,000,000 AVAILABLE TO HELP PEOPLE FACING FORECLOSURE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND ANYONE WANTING MORE INFORMATION CAN CONTACT HIM. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED THE PUBLIC TO KEEP COUNCILMEN BLACKSHEAR AND DRAYTON IN THEIR PRAYERS AS THEY BOTH WERE DEALING WITH HEALTH ISSUES.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – MR. FULGHUM SAID HE PROVIDED THE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION AND HE WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THEY PRESENTED. MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED THE CONTRACT FOR PHONES AT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE CURRENT EQUIPMENT WAS INSTALLED IN 2005 AND THEY WERE HAVING A LOT OF PROBLEM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL THE COUNTY OFFICES USING THE SAME SYSTEM. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE CURRENT PHONES ARE NOT UNDER WARRANTY. MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED A PROPOSAL FROM CENTURY LINK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,959.64. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS \$55,000 IN THE SALES TAX ACCOUNT FOR THE JAIL THAT CAN BE USED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT A GUARANTEE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID NORMALLY THE GUARANTEE IS 3 YEARS AND THE COUNTY WILL DO A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AFTER THAT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ALREADY HAVE THE PHONES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT IF YOU HAVE TWO COMPANIES INVOLVED THERE IS ALWAYS CONFLICT AS TO WHO IS A FAULT. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE UP TO \$19,959.64 PLUS THE SALES TAX AND THAT THE AMOUNT INCLUDES A 3 YEAR WARRANTY. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC –PER ORDINANCE 08-17- ANY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTY MAY SIGN TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO COUNTY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. (TOTAL PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE LIMITED TO 30 MINUTES)** – CHAIRMAN GREGORY OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC. DR. MCBRAYER ASKED THE COUNCIL TO GIVE A VOTE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONGRATULATION TO DR. KAREN WICKES AND HER HUSBAND LESS WICKES FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS IN JASPER COUNTY TO PURSUE THEIR DREAM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. DR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT THE ROYAL LIVE OAKS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL COULD WELL MODEL A

MORE EFFICIENT, AS WELL AS, AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF LEARNING THAT PREPARES A WAY FOR MORE OF JASPER COUNTY'S YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW INTO HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE AND RESOURCEFUL CITIZENS. DR. MCBRAYER SAID THE NEW SCHOOL HAS BEEN TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS FOR THE LAST 3 MONTHS AND LAST WEEK WAS THE PUBLIC LOTTERY TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS. DR. MCBRAYER SAID THE SCHOOL WAS HOPING FOR 396 STUDENTS FROM GRADES K-8 AND THEY ACHIEVED THAT AND CURRENTLY HAVE A WAITING LIST OF 80 MORE STUDENTS. DR. MCBRAYER SAID THE CITIZENS OF JASPER SHOULD RIGHTFULLY VIEW WHAT THIS COUPLE HAS BEGUN AS A VERY POSITIVE STEP FOR OUR YOUTH AND FOR OUR FUTURE. DR. MCBRAYER ADDED THAT WITH DR. WASHINGTON'S VISION IN HER WORDS OF A "COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SYSTEM" HAS POSSIBLY HAD A NEW DIMENSION ADDED TO IT. DR. MCBRAYER SAID THAT WE ALL WIN WITH THIS TYPE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. **BARBARA BARTOLDUS** ASKED THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR LIST THE ITEMS COVERED IN HIS ADMINISTRATORS REPORT BECAUSE THE PUBLIC NEVER KNOWS ABOUT WHAT HE IS REPORTING.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY - PROJECT NEO - VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION, EXPANSION, OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ENCOURAGING LOCATION OR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIES OR OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC BODY - PROJECT NEO . THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.**

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

CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID NO ACTION WAS NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 8:40 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

APPROVED BY:

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REV. SAMUEL GREGORY  
CHAIRMAN

