



## JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

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JASPER COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MAY 27, 2009  
2:30 P.M.  
MINUTES

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, VICE CHAIRMAN  
HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN  
REV. SAMUEL GREGORY, COUNCILMAN

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR  
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERVICES  
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL  
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

HAZEL HOLMES, AUDITOR  
VERNA GARVIN, TREASURER  
GREG JENKINS, SHERIFF  
JOEY MALPHRUS, PROBATE JUDGE

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 HOOD CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:30 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

**DR. LEITZEL – TCL:**

DR. LEITZEL THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THE FUNDING THEY HAVE RECEIVED IN THE PAST AND THAT THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY. DR. LEITZEL SAID THAT THE COUNTY NEEDED TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW WHAT CLASSES NEEDED TO BE OFFERED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE AREA. DR. LEITZEL SAID THAT 171 STUDENTS FROM JASPER COUNTY ATTEND TCL AND THAT REFLECTED A 38% INCREASE IN ONE YEAR. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY TCL REQUESTED AND DR. LEITZEL SAID THE SAME AMOUNT AS THEY RECEIVED LAST YEAR WHICH WAS \$300,000.00. DR. LEITZEL SAID HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH TED FELDER AND THEY ARE EXPLORING THE NEEDS OF THE WORK FORCE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SUGGESTED THAT DR. LEITZEL MEET WITH THE PLANNING STAFF. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD DR. LEITZEL THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE BEST THEY COULD REGARDING FUNDING IN THIS BUDGET YEAR. DR. LEITZEL THANKED THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

**JASPER COUNTY SCHOOLS:**

DR. SANFORD INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT LAST YEAR THE STATE TOOK \$1,600,000.00 FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. DR. SANFORD SAID ALL TRAVEL IN THE COMING YEAR WILL BE LIMITED TO ESSENTIAL TRAVEL AND THE DAY SERVICE EMPLOYEES WILL BE FURLOUGHED 5 DAYS AND THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE FURLOUGHED 10 DAYS. DR. SANFORD SAID THAT HE WILL ALSO BE FURLOUGHED 10 DAYS. MS. MCHUFF REQUESTED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE MAXIMUM LEVEL INCREASE OF MILLAGE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. MS. MCHUFF ASKED FOR \$11,939,530.00 FOR THE SCHOOLS. MS. MCHUFF SAID THAT THE MINIMUM EFFORT WAS NOT PRESENTED THIS YEAR FROM THE STATE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHAT WAS THE TOTAL THE SCHOOL BOARD WOULD RECEIVE FROM THE COUNTY AND THE STATE. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT LAST YEAR THE TOTAL WAS \$14,600,000.00. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THEY WERE REQUESTING A \$1,100,000.00 INCREASE AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT IS CORRECT AS IT STANDS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT IS ALL THAT IS ALLOWED BY LAW. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE SALES TAX IS NOT COMING IN AS PROJECTED AND FUNDING IS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IT WAS IN 1993. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE INCREASE IN SALARIES MAKES IT VERY HARD. CHAIRMAN HOOD TOLD THE SCHOOL BOARD THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD DO THE BEST THEY COULD IN THIS BUDGET YEAR AND THE MAXIMUM MILLAGE INCREASE SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ANY TEACHERS WERE BEING LET GO AND DR. SANFORD RESPONDED THERE WERE 8 VACANIES THAT WERE NOT GOING TO BE FILLED.

**ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:**

MR. MALPHRUS PRESENTED A NEW BUDGET SUMMARY TO THE COUNCIL. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ALL THE CHANGES THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THIS COPY OF THE BUDGET AND THEY WERE STILL \$63,000.00 SHORT OF BALANCING THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WERE STILL SOME ISSUES CONCERNING PERSONNEL THAT NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE ESTIMATE FOR THE SCHOOL WAS CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL'S REQUEST AND WERE THEY SURE OF THE NUMBERS FOR THE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE USED LAST YEAR'S NUMBERS AS AN ESTIMATE.

**OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:**

MS. GABBARD SAID SHE WAS WAITING FOR THE COUNCIL'S DECISION FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET. MS. GABBARD INVITED THE COUNCIL TO VISIT THE ANIMAL SHELTER. MS. GABBARD SAID SHE NEEDED THE \$157,000.00 SHE REQUESTED TO OPERATE THE SHELTER, AND THE BUDGET SHOWED THAT THEIR APPROPRIATION WAS \$146,000.00. MS. GABBARD SAID SHE PLANNED ON APPROACHING THE TWO MUNICIPALITIES FOR FUNDING.

EVANGELIST JACKSON GAVE THE COUNCIL A COPY OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF HER FOUNDATION WAS APPROVED FOR ANY GRANT FUNDING AND EVANGELIST JACKSON SAID IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO GET SOME FUNDS. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED EVANGELIST JACKSON TO BRING THE INFORMATION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR WHEN SHE RECEIVES IT.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

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

CHAIRMAN HOOD REPORTED THAT EMPLOYMENT MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED AND THAT NO ACTION WAS NECESSARY. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR IS TO TALK TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

DOUG GRAHAM ASKED IF HE COULD ADDRESS THE COUNCIL. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HIM TO COME FORWARD. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT A MOTION WAS MADE AT THE LAST BUDGET WORKSHOP AND HE ASKED

WHAT HAPPENED REGARDING THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE HAD A LETTER THAT WAS TO BE HAND DELIVERED TO MR. GRAHAM. MR. FULGHUM HANDED THE LETTER TO MR. GRAHAM AND MR. GRAHAM QUICKLY READ THE LETTER. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THREE YEARS AND MR. FULGHUM WANTED TO PUT THE LEVY FIRE DEPT. UNDER A CONTRACT AND THEY DID IT AND IT WORKED AND THE COUNTY OPERATING IT DID NOT WORK. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT THE LETTER HANDED TO HIM TODAY BY MR. FULGHUM STINKS AND THAT PROBABLY NOTHING IN THE LETTER WOULD BE ACCEPTED. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR DOES NOT HAVE A CLUE OF WHAT GOES ON IN LEVY. MR. GRAHAM SAID HE CALLED MR. DALEY FIVE TIMES AND MR. DALEY HAS NEVER RETURNED HIS PHONE CALL. MR. GRAHAM SAID THAT THEY WERE TIRED OF THE WAY THAT LEVY HAS BEEN TREATED AND THE LETTER FROM MR. FULGHUM WAS DISRESPECTFUL AND HE WAS VERY UPSET THAT THIS WAS DISCUSSED AT THE LAST MEETING AND HE WAS NOT CONTACTED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WOULD BE SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE.

**ADJOURN:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE 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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DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN