



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936
OCTOBER 18, 2010
MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

OFFICIALS PRESENT - GEORGE HOOD-CHAIRMAN, LEROY BLACKSHEAR-VICE CHAIRMAN, HENRY ETHERIDGE-COUNCILMAN, REV. SAMUEL GREGORY-COUNCILMAN, HUBERT TYLER-COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT - ANDREW FULGHUM-ADMINISTRATOR, RONNIE MALPHRUS-DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, JUDITH FRANK-CLERK TO COUNCIL, WILBUR DALEY-DIRECTOR OF EMS, DAVID JIROUSEK- PLANNING AND BUILDING DIRECTOR, DALE TERRY-DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, SHERIFF JENKINS, MARVIN JONES – ATTORNEY, CHRISTY HERMAN -SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

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 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION - VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES- COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 10/04/2010 COUNCIL THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION: BETH MCNEER – ANNUAL LIBRARY REPORT- MS. MCNEER WAS NOT PRESENT AND ITEM TABLED TO A FUTURE MEETING.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES – THERE WERE NO PUBLIC HEARINGS OR ORDINANCES.

RESOLUTIONS - RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE JASPER COUNTY HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN- MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT LCOG UPDATED THE PLAN AND THEY WORKED WITH HAMPTON, COLLECTON AND JASPER COUNTIES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PLAN NEEDED TO BE IN PLACE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE JASPER COUNTY HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS – THERE WAS NO OLD BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS - ANN WALKER – REQUEST FOR A-TAX FUNDING FOR A BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB FUND RAISING EVENT- MS. WALKER AND MS. HENDERSON EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE REQUESTING A-TAX FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 TO BRING SNOW TO JASPER COUNTY. MS. WALKER SAID THE PROGRAM WAS A GREAT SUCCESS LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR THEY PLAN TO BRING IN TWICE AS MUCH SNOW SO THERE WILL NOT BE SUCH LONG LINES. MS. HENDERSON SAID THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER AREAS ATTENDED AND THOSE PEOPLE ALSO SUPPORTED LOCAL RESTAURANTS WHILE IN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE RESTAURANTS DONATED TO THIS FUND RAISER SINCE THEY ALSO BENEFITED. MS. HENDERSON SAID THE RESTAURANTS DONATE TO THE TASTE OF JASPER AND THEY ARE NOT APPROACHED FOR THIS FUND RAISER. MS. WALKER SAID 450-500 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT LAST YEAR. MS. WALKER LISTED VARIOUS OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE TIME THE SNOW IS IN JASPER COUNTY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$5,000 REQUEST AND THAT THE FUNDS WERE TO COME FROM THE A-TAX ACCOUNT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – CHAIRMAN HOOD AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY REPORTED ON THE SCAC CONFERENCE AND CLASSES. CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED A NEW PLANT IN RALEIGH, NC THAT WILL BRING 300 NEW JOBS TO THE RALEIGH AREA AND THE JOBS WILL HAVE AN AVERAGE STARTING SALARY OF \$89,000. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE HOPED THAT JASPER COUNTY WOULD LAND SOME BUSINESS LIKE THAT. CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED THE PORT AND HOW THE COUNTY NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD. CHAIRMAN HOOD ADDED THAT CHARLESTON IS TALKING ABOUT DEEPENING THEIR PORT. CHAIRMAN HOOD AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY DISCUSSED THE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE STATE WITH SOME COUNTIES HAVE 19%-20% UNEMPLOYMENT.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH HANDOUTS THAT INCLUDED THE UPDATE ON GRANTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID COUNTY WIDE, GRANTS TOTALING \$563,000,000 WERE APPLIED FOR AND COUNTY WIDE GRANT MONEY AWARDED WAS \$2,700,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID A \$75,000 GRANT FOR FIRE TOWER ROAD FIRE STATION WAS STILL PENDING. MR. FULGHUM'S SECOND HANDOUT DISCUSSED THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE JASPER COUNTY MAY HAVE A HIGHER PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT THAN SOME OF THE COUNTIES, THE OTHER COUNTIES HAVE MANY MORE PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE 3RD HANDOUT COVERED THE TO DO LIST FROM PAST MEETINGS WHICH HE UPDATED AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONTACT HIM IF THEY HAD ANY QUESTIONS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE 4TH HANDOUT DEALT WITH WATER SAMPLING AND HE DISCUSSED THE SITE AT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TESTS WERE GOOD AND DHEC WAS GOING TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE 5TH ITEM REGARDED A SUB-DIVISION THAT CAME TO THE COUNTY ABOUT CREATING A SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT TO PAY FOR MAINTAINING THEIR ROADS. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THAT A PLAN COSTING \$3,500-\$4,500 WAS NEEDED FOR IT TO BE EFFECTIVE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT THIS HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE AND HE FELT THE PEOPLE MAKING THE REQUEST SHOULD PAY FOR THE PLAN. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED WHO WOULD MAINTAIN THE ROAD. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THAT THE TAXES COLLECTED FROM THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT WOULD PAY FOR THE COUNTY TO MAINTAIN THE ROAD. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ALL THE PROPERTY OWNERS WERE CONTACTED. MR. JIROUSEK SAID HE WAS NOT SURE, MR. ALLEN CONTACTED HIM. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY NEEDED TO GO BACK AND NEGOTIATE TO SEE WHAT THE PEOPLE WILL COMMIT TO. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF EVERY HOME OWNER WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO THE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT. MR. JIROUSEK SAID THAT 50% NEED TO SIGN THE PETITION AND THEY NEED TO OWN AT LEAST 66% OF THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY IN THE SUB-DIVISION. IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR AND MR. JIROUSEK TO MEET WITH THE SUB-DIVISION PROPERTY OWNERS TO SEE IF THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT THEY WANTED TO DO, THEY WERE TO GET THE HOMEOWNER'S SIGNATURES AND FOR THE HOME OWNERS WERE TO PAY FOR THE STUDY.

MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A REPORT LISTING THE INMATES WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE DETENTION CENTER FOR MORE THAN 300 DAYS. MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THIS REPORT WAS REQUESTED BY COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVEN INMATES IN THE DETENTION CENTER FOR OVER 300 DAYS AND ONE INMATE HAS BEEN HOUSED IN THE DETENTION CENTER FOR OVER 800 DAYS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WOULD LIKE FOR THE SOLICITOR TO COME AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AT THEIR NEXT MEETING WHAT STEPS HE IS TAKING TO GET THESE INMATES MOVED OUT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. FULGHUM TO CONTACT THE SOLICITOR AND SCHEDULE HIM FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER INDIVIDUAL) – CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

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; 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 – **BEAUFORT COMMERCE PARK, PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND – CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THERE WERE NO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS TO DISCUSS, HOWEVER HE ADDED **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 LION AND PROJECT WINTER.**** COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER 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 – **BEAUFORT COMMERCE PARK, PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND** AND 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 LION AND PROJECT WINTER.****

COUNCILMAN TYLER LEFT THE MEETING DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

CHAIRMAN HOOD REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL RECEIVED UPDATES ON PROJECT WINTER, PROJECT LION AND CYPRESS RIDGE.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO USE THE RDA FUNDS TO PROCEED WITH PLAN B. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF AN AMOUNT SHOULD BE ADDED. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED FOR THAT USE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT THEY HAVE TO WORK WITH IS \$1,000,000 AND CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE AMOUNT DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS LESS THAN THAT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ANNOUNCED THAT THE NOVEMBER 1, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING WILL START AT 5:00 P.M. DUE TO THE TAX SALE.

ADJOURN- COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN