



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
CONFERENCE ROOM
539 WILLIAM HILTON PARKWAY
HILTON HEAD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2010
4:00 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, JUDITH M. FRANK-CLERK TO COUNCIL, MARVIN JONES - ATTORNEY

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 4:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION: VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

ORDINANCES

1ST READING OF ORDERING A REFERENDUM REGARDING A CHANGE IN THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE EXISTING AT-LARGE METHOD TO SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS METHOD AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE CURRENT FIVE MEMBERS TO NINE MEMBERS; FORMULATING THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS THAT ARE TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN SUCH REFERENDUM; TO REPEAL JASPER COUNTY

ORDINANCES 09-18 AND 09-32; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:

COUNCILMAN GREGORY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE VOTING AT LARGE WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT JASPER COUNTY AND HAMPTON COUNTY WERE THE ONLY TWO COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA THAT STILL VOTED AT LARGE AS OPPOSED TO VOTING FOR A SINGLE MEMBER BY DISTRICT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE HAS SHARED THIS INFORMATION WITH SOME OF THE CITIZENS AND THEY WERE IN FAVOR OF THE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED THE ATTORNEY ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS. MR. JONES SAID THAT BY DIVIDING THE COUNTY INTO 9 DISTRICTS, EACH COUNCIL MEMBER WOULD REPRESENT A LITTLE OVER 2,000 CITIZENS EACH AND WOULD COVER A SMALLER GEORGRAPHICAL AREA. MR. JONES SAID AS THE COUNTY GROWS, WITH SOME OF THE AREAS BEING MORE DENSELY POPULATED, THE DISTRICTS WOULD HAVE TO BE REDRAWN. MR. JONES SAID THE DISTRICTS IN THE NORTH END OF THE COUNTY WOULD GET LARGER AND THE DISTRICTS IN THE SOUTH END WOULD GET SMALLER, BUT EACH DISTRICT WOULD HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE BASED ON THE POPULATION. MR. JONES SAID THAT EVERY TEN YEARS, THE DISTRICTS ARE EVALUATED.

MR. FULGHUM ASKED HOW THE MUNICIPALITIES VOTED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY VOTE AT LARGE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE CENSUS WON'T BE IN UNTIL JANUARY AND HE DID NOT THINK THE REDISTRICTING SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO THE CENSUS RESULTS. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS, BUT HE WAS OPPOSED TO NINE DISTRICTS.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WAS PROPOSING TO HAVE THIS ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER TO SEE IF THE CITIZENS WANTED TO GO TO SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS, BUT THE DISTRICTS WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE DRAWN UNTIL AFTER THE CENSUS RESULTS ARE IN. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE AGREED THAT 7 DISTRICTS WOULD BE GOOD. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THAT IF IT IS NOT ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER, IT WILL BE TWO YEARS BEFORE IT WOULD GO TO THE CITIZENS TO SEE IF THEY WANTED SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THEY COULD GO TO SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS AND WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE CENSUS TO DIVIDE THE COUNTY INTO DISTRICTS. MR. JONES SAID THAT THE DISTRICTS WOULD NOT BE NEEDED UNTIL THE 2012 ELECTION. MR. JONES SAID IF IT GOES TO REFERENDUM AND PASSES, THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE CITIZENS.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY ADDED THAT THE COUNTY CAN ONLY GO TO SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS IF THAT IS WHAT THE CITIZENS WANT.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD AND HE FELT THE COUNCIL SHOULD GET TOGETHER WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SENATOR AND DISCUSS THIS MORE BEFORE THIS GOES ON THE BALLOT.

MR. JONES SAID HE WENT TO COUNCILMAN GREGORY AND THEY DISCUSSED THE TIMELINE TO HAVE THIS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT. MR. JONES SAID THAT THE DISTRICT MAPPING FOR THE COUNCIL IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL, WHILE THE DISTRICT MAPPING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IS DONE BY THE SENATOR. MR. JONES SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT EVEN IF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE COUNCIL HAD THE SAME NUMBER OF DISTRICTS, THE DISTRICT LINES COULD BE DIFFERENT. MR. JONES SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE COUNCIL WANTED THE SENATOR TO DETERMINE THE COUNCIL'S DISTRICTS.

MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WAS REQUIRED TO HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER. MR. JONES RESPONDED THAT THE COUNCIL COULD STAY AT 5 AND STILL HAVE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS OR STAY AT VOTING AT LARGE, AND NO SET NUMBER IS REQUIRED.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT MORE MEMBERS WOULD COST THE CITIZENS MORE MONEY. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE COUNTY IS A LONG WAY FROM HAVING A POPULATION OF 40,000-50,000 PEOPLE AND HE WAS COMFORTABLE WITH 7 MEMBERS.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE SENATOR SAID THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS IS HIS CALL AND THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS HAVE NO VOICE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE COUNCIL COULD ASK THE SENATOR TO HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AS THE COUNCIL.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WAS TRYING TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF COUNCILMAN GREGORY FELT HE COULD REPRESENT HIS PEOPLE BETTER. COUNCILMAN GREGORY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR THE PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY INITIATIVE TO WORK AS A TEAM WITH SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS COULD CREATE MORE CHALLENGES.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT AN OFFICIAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO VOTING AT LARGE.

VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT IF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL FROM EACH DISTRICT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS DISTRICT AND NOT THE WHOLE COUNTY, HE WOULD ONLY BE TRUE TO THE CITIZENS OF HIS DISTRICT AND IT WOULD AFFECT THE ENTIRE COUNTY.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE ENTIRE COUNCIL WOULD VOTE ON ALL ISSUES.

MR. FULGHUM ASKED HOW THE CHAIRMAN WAS ELECTED AND MR. JONES RESPONDED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ELECTED THE SAME WAY HE IS ELECTED NOW, NOT AT LARGE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXTRA EXPENSE FOR 7 MEMBERS AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY TAKE THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT IS PAID TO THE FIVE MEMBER COUNCIL AND DIVIDE IT BY SEVEN FOR A SEVEN MEMBER COUNCIL, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SPLIT 9 WAYS FOR TWO YEARS UNTIL ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WHO WERE VOTED ON AT LARGE HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TERM.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE ASKED FOR THE DATE OF SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS REFERENDUM TO BE CHANGED TO SEE IF THIS IS SOMETHING

THE CITIZENS WANTED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE REFERENDUM SHOULD BE SOONER THAN 2012 AND HE FELT THE CITIZENS SHOULD DECIDE.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO LEAVE THE REFENDUM SCHEDULED FOR 2012. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE VOTING FOR. COUNCILMAN GREGORY VOTED AGAINST.

MR. FULGHUM DISCUSSED A GRANT RECEIVED FOR THE PURRYSBURG PROJECT AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE ACCEPTING THE GRANT, THE \$50,000.00 MATCH AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE GRANT AWARD, AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID AN ADDITIONAL \$7,430.00 WAS NEEDED AND HE WAS WORKING ON GETTING OUTSIDE FUNDING FOR THAT PORTION. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING THE GRANT, THE \$50,000.00 MATCH, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE GRANT AWARD AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE CLERK TO SEND OUT A NOTICE THAT THE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 13, 2010 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE CLERK TO PROVIDE MS. HERMAN WITH A COPY OF THE BROWNFIELD GRANT INFORMATION AND TO PLACE THE BROWNFIELD GRANT REPORT UNDER COMMITTEE REPORTS AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING AND HE WILL REPORT ON IT.

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 4:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN