

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007
6:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR
STEVE SAGER, DEP. ADM. DEV. SER.
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

GLADYS JONES, VICE CHAIRMAN
FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN

STAFF ABSENT:

RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SER.
TOM WATSON, DEP. ADM. ES
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SER.
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED

DURING PERIODS OF DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS MINUTES ARE TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

CALL TO ORDER:

CHAIRMAN HOOD CALLED THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

ORDINANCES:

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM UNTIL NOV. 13, 2007:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM UNTIL NOV. 13, 2007. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. CHAIRMAN HOOD EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE SEVERAL OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE OUT OF THE COUNTY ON NOV. 1, 2007 WHEN THE PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM IS TO EXPIRE.

1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP (BY TITLE ONLY):

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP (BY TITLE ONLY). THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTIONS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMUNITY ON MILLER STREET, RIDGELAND, SC:

MS. JOHNSON, LCOG REPRESENTATIVE, EXPLAINED THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND THAT ON SEPT. 24, 2007 THE APPLICATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED. MS. JOHNSON SAID THE GRANT APPLICATION IS IN THE AMOUNT IS \$185,816.00 AND A \$44,000.00 MATCH IS NEEDED TO BRING IT UP TO A TOTAL OF \$231,273.00 TO BRING WATER, SEWER, DRAINAGE AND ROADS TO THE AREA. THE FACT THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, BUT THE FACTS WERE DISCLOSED THAT MR. FULGHUM HAD ALREADY SOLD THE PROPERTY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND HE WOULD NOT GAIN

FROM THE GRANT. MS. JOHNSON SAID THAT THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND ALREADY HAS AN OPEN GRANT AND THAT IS WHY THEY CAME TO THE COUNTY TO MAKE APPLICATION. MS. JOHNSON SAID THAT BECAUSE OF MR. FULGHUM'S DISCLOSURE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE GRANT. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED IF THIS GRANT WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE COUNTY AND MS. JOHNSON SAID ALL RESIDENTS MAY APPLY FOR THE HOUSING IF THEY QUALIFY. MS. JOHNSON SAID THAT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETINGS AND THAT IS THE ONLY PLACE A PERSON MAY PICK UP AN APPLICATION. MS. JOHNSON SAID THAT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S NEXT MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 29, 2007 AND IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

MS. WORTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, EXPLAINED THAT SINCE 1976 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAS BUILT OVER 250,000 HOMES WORLDWIDE AND 76 HOMES IN THE LOWCOUNTRY. MS. WORTH EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS A CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING FOR ONE OF THE HOMES AND THE PROCESS TAKES ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE APPROVED. MS. WORTH SAID THAT PEOPLE SEEM TO DO BETTER WHEN THEY HAVE A STABLE PLACE TO LIVE AND THE CHILDREN SEEM TO DO BETTER IN SCHOOLS. MS. WORTH SAID THEY JUST COMPLETED A 61 HOUSE COMMUNITY IN BLUFFTON AND THEY PLAN 3 PROJECTS IN JASPER COUNTY. THE PROJECTS WILL BE LOCATED ON MILLER STREET, 4 HOMES AT FORDVILLE RIDGE AND THEY HAVE 51 ACRES OF LAND OFF OF RICESHIRE ROAD FOR MORE HOUSING. MS. WORTH SAID THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF 100 ACRES BEING DONATED IN HARDEEVILLE. MS. WORTH SAID THAT THEY HOPE TO BUILD 250 HOUSES IN JASPER COUNTY AT 0% PROFIT AND HOLD THE MORTGAGES AT 0% INTEREST.

MR. PATTERSON SAID HE IS A JASPER COUNTY RESIDENT AND HE SERVES ON THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR. MR. PATTERSON SAID HE WAS GLAD THIS IS COMING TO JASPER COUNTY AND THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS A WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION.

RON CLIFFORD, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, SAID THAT ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNERSHIP OF ONE OF THEIR HOMES IS SWEAT EQUITY AND THAT IT BUILDS PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE HOMES. MR. CLIFFORD COMMENTED ON THE HIGH RENT PEOPLE ARE PAYING AND SAID THE PAYMENT ON ONE OF THEIR HOMES WOULD BE ABOUT \$350.00 WHICH INCLUDED TAXES AND INSURANCE. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED THAT IF A PERSON COULD NOT KEEP THE PAYMENTS UP, COULD A FAMILY MEMBER TAKE OVER. MS. WORTH SAID THAT THEY WORK VERY HARD WITH THE HOMEOWNER AND IF A FAMILY MEMBER COULD HELP THEM WITH A PAYMENT THAT WOULD BE FINE, BUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE IF THAT PERSON COULD TAKE OVER THE HOME.

LILLE VARNER SAID SHE HAS BEEN IN HER HOME FOR SIX YEARS AND SHE IS VERY HAPPY AND THANKFUL FOR HER HOME.

MR. DERTICHSEN SAID HE IS ALSO ON THE BOARD AND HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE. MR. DERTICHSEN SAID THAT A LOT OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK ON THESE HOMES WILL BE COMING FROM HILTON HEAD AND HE HOPED THAT SOME JASPER COUNTY PEOPLE WOULD ALSO BECOME VOLUNTEERS. MR. DERTICHSEN SAID IT HELPS CEMENT THE COMMUNITY AND A LOT OF WORK GETS DONE.

MR. NEELS SAID HE IS THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AND HE WORKS AT THE SITE AND THE HOUSES ARE ALL BUILT TO SPEC AND WILL WITHSTAND THE WEATHER AND THE TESTS OF TIME. MR. NEELS SAID THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE GOOD HOMES THAT WILL NOT COST THEM A LOT OF MONEY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO PASS THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMUNITY ON MILLER STREET, RIDGELAND, SC. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

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

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SALARY FOR THE NEW SHERIFF. THE SALARY IS TO BE \$60,000.00. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO PAY CHIEF HUGHES FOR HIS SERVICE AS ACTING SHERIFF. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

ADJOURN:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. THE MEETING ENDED AT 7:30 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD
CHAIRMAN