



---

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
MAY 17, 2010  
7:00 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  
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
WILBUR DALEY, DEP. ADM. EMERGENCY SERVICES  
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENGINEERING SERVICES  
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL  
MARVIN JONES, ATTORNEY  
DAVID JIROUSEK, PLANNING DIRECTOR  
HERMAN SMITH, BUILDING DEPT. DIRECTOR

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 WORKSHOP 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 OF THE 05/03/2010 COUNCIL MEETING AND THE MINUTES FROM THE 04/28/2010 AND THE 05/05/2010 BUDGET WORKSHOP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

THERE WERE NO PROCLAMATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES**

**DAVID JIROUSEK – PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER THAT PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 10 ACRES BEARING JASPER COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 067-00-02-003 AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE END OF SCHINGER AVENUE FROM THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP:**

MR. JIROUSEK INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT MR. JIM DANA, OWNER OF THE PROPERTY REQUESTED THE ZONING BE CHANGED FROM RESIDENTIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL. MR. JIROUSEK STATED THAT THE PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY USED FOR TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, STORAGE, AND WASTE PRO BUSINESS OFFICE. MR. JIROUSEK TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE ZONING CHANGE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS RESIDENTIAL ZONING IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR THIS LOCATION. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCIL- MAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF JASPER COUNTY SO AS TO TRANSFER THAT PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 10 ACRES BEARING JASPER COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 067-00-02-003 AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE END OF SCHINGER AVENUE FROM THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONE ON THE JASPER COUNTY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**ANDREW FULGHUM – PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO RENEW THE LEASE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND THE JASPER ANIMAL RESCUE MISSION:**

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT JARM REQUESTED THAT JARM'S MISSION STATEMENT BE INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT. ATTORNEY JONES SAID THAT THE LANGUAGE IN THE LEASE IS MORE COMPREHENSIVE OF WHAT REPAIRS ARE THE COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY. MR. FULGHUM SAID \$145,000.00 WAS INSERTED INTO THE LEASE WHICH IS THE AMOUNT OF THIS YEAR'S STAFF RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF \$145,000.00 WAS THE SAME AMOUNT THAT WAS APPROPRIATED LAST YEAR. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IT WAS THE SAME.

COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE \$145,000.00 WAS NOT APPROVED YET IN THE NEW BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM ASKED IF THE COUNCIL WANTED TO REMOVE THE AMOUNT FROM THE LEASE AGREEMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT IT SHOULD BE REMOVED AND THAT ALL CONTRACTS SHOULD BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. BOB MORRIS, PRESIDENT OF JARM, AGREED THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE APPROPRIATION SHOULD NOT BE IN THE LEASE AGREEMENT AND THE APPROPRIATION AND THE LEASE SHOULD NOT BE TIED TOGETHER. MR. MORRIS SAID THAT THIS IS NOT JUST A LEASE, BUT ALSO AN AGREEMENT AND THE AMOUNT REQUESTED LAST YEAR WAS CUT SUBSTANTIALLY AND THEY WERE NOT TRYING TO GET AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO OPERATE, BUT THEY WILL HAVE A DEFICIT THIS YEAR. MR. MORRIS SAID HE HOPED THE COUNCIL WOULD REVIEW THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WITH THEIR FUNDING REQUEST. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO RENEW THE LEASE BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND THE JASPER ANIMAL RESCUE MISSION. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**ANDREW FULGHUM –PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BADGETT PROPERTY EXCHANGE:**

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDINANCE WAS TO EXCHANGE PROPERTY WITH MS. BADGETT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PROPERTY EXCHANGE WOULD ALLOW THE COUNTY TO CONSTRUCT A SIDEWALK AND IT WOULD ALLOW MS. BADGETT TO EXPAND HER LAW OFFICE TO THE REAR WHILE MAINTAINING THE PROPER SETBACKS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY WOULD BE RECEIVING .02 ACRES AND MS. BADGETT WOULD BE RECEIVING .13 ACRES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS REGARDING TREE REMOVAL, SIGNAGE AND MS. BADGETT CANNOT BUILD ON THE PROPERTY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE COUNTY WAS GIVING AWAY MORE LAND THAN THEY ARE RECEIVING. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MS. BADGETT WAS RECEIVING .10 ACRES MORE. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BADGETT PROPERTY EXCHANGE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**ANDREW FULGHUM – PUBLIC HEARING AND 3<sup>RD</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND HOME TIME TITLE:**

MR. FULGHUM TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE ADA IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS ARE COMPLETED AND THE BUILDING IS NOW READY FOR OCCUPANCY. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED MR. FULGHUM TO EXPLAIN WHY THIS WAS BEING DONE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT MS. LANGFORD HAD AN OPTION ON THE PROPERTY FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE DAVID

MATHEWS PROPERTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY NEEDED THE PROPERTY FOR A PARKING LOT FOR THE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IN ORDER TO ATTAIN THE PROPERTY THE COUNTY OFFERED MS. LANGFORD 10 YEARS OF FREE RENT SO THAT THE COUNTY COULD PURCHASE THE PROPERTY. MR. FULGHUM CONTINUED THAT THE COUNTY PURCHASED THE PROPERTY FROM MR. MATHEWS AND MS. LANGFORD HAS BEEN OCCUPYING THE BUILDING FOR 3 YEARS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PARKING LOT, THE HOUSE IS TO BE MOVED AND MS. LANDFORD WILL MOVE HER BUSINESS TO THE OFFICE PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR THE BALANCE OF THE AGREED TERM (7 YEARS). ATTORNEY JONES SAID THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO STATE THAT ONE CLOSET IN THE BUILDING IS NOT BEING RENTED AND THE COUNCIL WILL RETAIN CONTROL OF AND HAVE ACCESS TO THAT CLOSET. MR. JONES SAID THE CLOSET HOLDS SOME FIBER OPTICS AND THE CLOSET IS NOT PART OF THE LEASE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED IF THE PROPERTY WAS LOCATED AT 224 SECOND AVENUE AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PROPERTY WAS KNOWN AS THE MALPHRUS BUILDING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THE LOCATION WAS NOT CLEARLY LISTED AND NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS IN THE CLOSET AND MR. JONES RESPONDED THAT FIBER OPTICS AND TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT THAT THE COUNTY NEEDED TO HAVE ACCESS TO. MR. JONES SAID HE WAS TOLD TO PREPARE THE LEASE AND TO EXCEPT THE CLOSET AND THAT THE COUNTY WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THAT SPACE. CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. THERE WERE NO COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 3<sup>RD</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND HOME TIME TITLE. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**ANDREW FULGHUM – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2010-2011 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET:**

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT PART OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IS TO PREPARE A BALANCED BUDGET FOR THE COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S BUDGET IS \$1,100,000.00 LESS THAN LAST YEAR. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOTAL FOR THE COUNTY'S OPERATING BUDGET IS \$21,987,174.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE VALUE OF THE MILL DECREASED 2% TO \$115,500.00 AND THE COUNTY OPERATING MILLAGE IS DECREASED BY .5 MILLS TO 125.5 MILLS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE NEW DEBT SERVICE MILLAGE OF 3.0 MILLS IS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECTS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF MR. FULGHUM EXPECTED ANY CHANGES AND MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT THIS IS THE STAFF RECOMMENDED

BUDGET AND THEY DID NOT INTEND TO SUBMIT ANY CHANGES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS WORKSHOPS AND THAT THE FIRST READING TONIGHT WAS TO MEET A TIMELINE TO GET THE BUDGET PASSED. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE DECREASE AND MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED THE CHANGES FOR THE \$4,200,000.00 CUT FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET AND THE \$1,100,000.00 CUT FROM THIS YEAR'S BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM SAID A TOTAL OF \$5,300,000.00 HAS BEEN CUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW THAT THE LEGISLATURE IN COLUMBIA HAS PUT A CAP ON TAXES, THE SALES TAX REVENUE IS DOWN, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FROM THE STATE HAS BEEN CUT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE FELT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO GO BACK TO THE BUDGET AND THEY MAY NEED TO CUT SOME OF THE HIGHER UP PEOPLE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THE BUDGET NEEDED A LOT OF WORK. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO WORK ON EACH LINE OF THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2010-2011 JASPER COUNTY BUDGET. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE RIDGELAND RURAL FIRE CONTRACT AND RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE HARDEEVILLE RURAL FIRE AND CHERRY POINT CONTRACT:**

MR. FULGHUM PRESENTED THE RESOLUTIONS AND EXPLAINED THAT THE CURRENT CONTRACTS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE AND THIS RESOLUTION WOULD EXTEND THE CONTRACTS FOR ONE MORE YEAR. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SECTION OF THE CONTRACT RELATING TO HIRING THE MUNICIPAL FIREMEN IF THE COUNTY DID NOT PAY OR BROKE THE CONTRACT WAS REMOVED DUE TO THE ECONOMY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THAT COULD BE LEGALLY REMOVED SINCE IT WAS IN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. MR. JONES SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION EXTENDS THE CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR AND THAT CLAUSE CAN BE REMOVED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF HARDEEVILLE AND CHERRY POINT CONTRACT WERE THE SAME. MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED THAT HARDEEVILLE COVERS THE RURAL AREA AND THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION COVERS A DIFFERENT AREA. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE SPECIAL TAX COLLECTED FOR FIRE IN CHERRY POINT IS TURNED OVER TO HARDEEVILLE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT AS PROPERTIES IN THAT AREA ARE ANNEXED, THE TAX IS LIFTED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS THE AMOUNT IN THE CHERRY POINT AGREEMENT AND HOW MUCH DID THEY ACTUALLY RECEIVE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF A SPECIFIC NUMBER WAS MENTIONED, JUST THE TAX FROM THE FIRE MILLAGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID NO SET AMOUNT IS LOCKED IN FOR CHERRY POINT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID LAST YEAR IT WAS ABOUT \$360,000.00 FROM THE FIRE TAX. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT AMOUNT COULD INCREASE EVERY YEAR AND THE OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS DO NOT GET AN

INCREASE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE CAN BE A SLIGHT INCREASE DUE TO THE GROWTH IN THAT AREA. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT IS THE AREA OF THE COUNTY WITH THE MOST GROWTH. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF APPEALS FROM THAT AREA. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE SECTION THAT STATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CHANGES. MR. JONES SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CHANGES THAT WILL NOT CHANGE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT AND HE IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT MOVING THE EQUIPMENT. MR. JONES SAID THE MUNICIPALITIES OWN THE EQUIPMENT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT A COUNTY AMBULANCE WAS LOCATED AT CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION AND A COUNTY TANKER WAS LOCATED AT THE RIDGELAND FIRE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE AMBULANCE SERVICE WAS NOT PART OF THE AGREEMENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THIS GIVES THE ADMINISTRATOR THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE CHANGES WITHOUT COMING BACK TO COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE WAS BEING AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CHANGES TO MAKE THE CONTRACT WORK, BUT THE CHANGES WOULD NOT EFFECT THE AGREEMENT. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE WANTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL A MEMO OF ANY CHANGES THAT ARE MADE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION REGARDING ANY CHANGES. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE HARDEEVILLE RURAL FIRE AND CHERRY POINT CONTRACT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN GREGORY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE RIDGELAND RURAL FIRE CONTRACT. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

THERE WAS NO NEW BUSINEES.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF TIMBER BIDS:**

MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE COUNCIL BUDGETED \$250,000.00 IN THE CURRENT BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE \$250,000.00 WAS AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE TIMBER AT SGT. JASPER PARK WOULD BRING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY RECEIVED THREE BIDS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE BIDS WERE FOR FOUR DIFFERENT PARCELS AND BY COMBIING THE BIDS FROM TWO COMPANIES, THE COUNTY WOULD RECEIVE THE MOST MONEY. THE TOTAL OF THE BIDS IS \$207,500.00 WHICH IS SHORT OF THE \$250,000.00 ESTIMATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED HOW MUCH WAS THE APPRAISAL AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE APPRAISAL COST \$5,000.00. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE FUNDS WERE NEEDED BY JUNE 30, 2010. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THERE WAS TIME TO REBID. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO REBID AND HAVE 30 DAYS TO CLOSE ON THE BID. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE STAFF

HAS KNOWN ABOUT THE NEED TO PUT THE TIMBER OUT FOR A YEAR AND WHY DID THEY WAIT UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE TO BID IT OUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THE RAIN CAUSED A DELAY IN GETTING THE TREES MARKED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD DO MUCH BETTER IF THE TIMBER WAS REBID. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT IF REBID, IT MAY COME IN LOWER. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW MANY ACRES WERE TO BE CUT. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED 90 ACRES WILL BE THINNED; THEY WERE NOT CLEAR CUTTING ANYTHING. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED ABOUT A BID TO CLEAR CUT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY COULD NOT CLEAR CUT BECAUSE OF THE HARDEEVILLE TREE ORDINANCE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THEY COULD CLEAR CUT IF THEY WOULD REPLANT. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY NEEDED TO LEAVE 15 TREES PER ACRE BECAUSE OF HARDEEVILLE'S TREE ORDINANCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE BID WAS BASED UPON LEAVING 15 TREES PER ACRE. VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THEY COULD GET BY FOR 6 MONTHS WITHOUT THE \$250,000.00. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY MAY GET BY, BUT IT WILL SHOW A \$250,000.00 DEFICIT IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SINCE THE \$250,000.00 WAS INCLUDED. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID HE KNOWS THEY SAID RAIN HELD THIS UP, BUT IT DID NOT RAIN ALL YEAR, AND HE ASKED WHY DID THEY WAIT SO LONG WHEN THEY KNEW IT NEEDED TO BE DONE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED ABOUT THE \$351,000.00 AMENDMENT THAT WAS MADE TO THE BUDGET. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT CHANGED THE CREDIT FACTOR AND THAT CHANGE IS ALREADY REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED THAT EVEN WITH THE \$351,000.00 CREDIT, WOULD THERE STILL BE A DEFICIT IF THE TREES ARE NOT CUT. MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THE \$351,000.00 WAS USED TO REDUCE THE CASH CARRY FORWARD FROM \$500,000.00 TO \$115,000.00 FROM THE RESERVE FUND. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE TIMING ISSUE AND HE WAS NOT SURE THEY WOULD BE IN ANY BETTER SHAPE IF THEY WAITED AND MR. FULGHUM SAID HE FELT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RECOUP THE \$42,000.00 IN THE BUDGET. COUNCILMAN GREGORY COMMENTED THAT HE FELT THAT THEY WAITED TOO LONG AND NOW THEY STILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL \$42,000.00. COUNCILMAN GREGORY SAID THE COUNCIL WAS TOLD THEY NEEDED THE \$42,000.00 IF THEY GOT IT FROM THE TIMER AND NOW MR. FULGHUM IS SAYING IT IS OKAY IF THEY DIDN'T GET IT. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS TOLD ALL YEAR THAT IT WAS NOT THE TIME TO CUT BECAUSE TIMBER PRICES WERE DOWN. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BRING \$250,000.00, BUT THE COUNTY IS NOT IN THE TIMBER BUSINESS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY DID NOT GET WHAT THEY ESTIMATED, HOWEVER, THEY CAME CLOSE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CLEAR CUT AND DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HARDEEVILLE'S ORDINANCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY ALWAYS LEANED TOWARDS THINNING THE TIMBER SINCE IT WAS A PARK. VICE CHIARMAN BLACKSHEAR MOTIONED AND CHAIRMAN HOOD SECONDED THE MOTION TO TABLE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DECISION UNTIL THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING ON MAY 26, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH CHAIRMAN HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN

BLACKSHEAR, VOTING FOR. COUNCILMEN ETHERIDGE AND GREGORY VOTED AGAINST. THE MOTION DID NOT PASS, IT WAS TIED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE BID AND CUT THE TIMBER. THE MOTION DIED DUE TO A LACK OF A SECOND.

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR COURTHOUSE FURNITURE CONTRACT:**

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR PEW SEATING FOR COURTHOUSE:**

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT PROPOSALS WERE SOLICITED FOR THE FURNITURE FOR THE COURTHOUSE AND PEWS FOR THE COURTROOM. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY SOLICITED PROPOSALS FROM THREE COMPANYS ON THE STATE VENDOR LIST. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE WOULD LIKE MS. BOSTICK TO WALK THE COUNCIL THROUGH WHAT FURNITURE IS ACTUALLY BEING APPROVED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE APPROVED FURNITURE IS MARKED WITH AN ARROW. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE WERE NO COMPANIES THAT SOLD PEWS ON THE STATE CONTRACT. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF THE FURNITURE WAS FOR ALL THE OFFICES. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE PRESENTATION WAS SUBMITTED BY ROOM NUMBER. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED TO DELAY THE DECISION UNTIL THE WEDNESDAY BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING. MS. BOSTICK SAID SHE COULD PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH A FLOOR PLAN AND DESCRIBE WHAT WAS GOING IN EACH ROOM ON WEDNESDAY. COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO TABLE THE DECISION AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE FURNITURE AND THE BIDS FOR THE PEWS UNTIL THE WEDNESDAY BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD DISCUSSED THE MEETING WITH THE GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDED. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE MEETING WAS EVERY INFORMATIVE. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THE STATE COMPACT DID NOT GO TO THE SENATE FLOOR, BUT ONCE THE STATE COMPACT IS AGREED AT THE STATE LEVEL, THEN IT GOES TO WASHINGTON. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THAT THERE ARE 40 NEW JOBS AT THE SAVANNAH PORT TO BE POSTED. GARY HODGE SAID THAT A PACKAGE WAS DELIVERED TO SENATOR CLAYBURN AND MR. HODGES SAID HE SPOKE TO 2 STATE SENATORS AND HE WAS TOLD THE HOLD UP IS IN COLUMBIA. MR. HODGES SAID THE CITIZENS NEEDED TO WORK ON THAT.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT HE ATTENDED A MEETING IN HAMPTON REGARDING THE PORT AND HE RECEIVED BASICALLY THE SAME INFORMATION AT A MEETING IN SUN CITY. MR. FULGHUM REVIEWED INCOME STATISTICS FOR JASPER COUNTY AND THAT JASPER COUNTY'S PER CAPITA INCOME WAS \$26,965.00. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT 31 COUNTIES HAVE HIGHER CAPITAL INCOMES AND 16 HAVE LESS CAPITAL INCOME. MR.

FULGHUM SAID HE ATTENDED THE I-95 CORRIDOR SUMMIT AND HE WOULD PREPARE A WRITTEN REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY DISCUSSED FORMING A GROUP TO EXPLORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALONG I-95. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE STATE RECOGNIZES 17 CITIES ALONG OR WITHIN 30 MILES OF I-95.

**OPEN FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER INDIVIDUAL):**

CHAIRMAN HOOD OPENED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC. MAYOR HODGES SAID THAT THE INFORMATION BEING WRITTEN ABOUT THE TRAFFIC CAMERAS ON I-95, THAT THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND PLANS TO INSTALL HAS BEEN INCORRECTLY REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS. MAYOR HODGES SAID THERE IS NO LAW TO OUTLAW THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS. MAYOR HODGES SAID HE FELT THE CAMERAS WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE TRAVELING I-95. MAYOR HODGES SAID THE CITIZENS ARE PAYING FOR THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY I-95 AND THE TICKETS GENERATED BY THE CAMERA WILL HELP COVER THOSE EXPENSES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHAT WAS NEEDED. MAYOR HODGES SAID THERE WILL BE 2 CAMERAS, 1 VEHICLE AND 2 OFFICERS. MAYOR HODGES SAID THE SYSTEM WILL OPERATE 5 DAYS A WEEK FOR 16 HOURS PER DAY. MAYOR HODGES SAID THE THRESHOLD FOR TRIGGERING THE CAMERA WILL BE SET A GOOD BIT HIGHER THAN THE SPEED LIMIT. MAYOR HODGES SAID ONLY VEHICLES GOING OVER THE THRESHOLD WILL HAVE A PICTURE TAKEN. MAYOR HODGES SAID THERE ARE 7.5 MILES OF I-95 IN THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE CITY LIMITS EXTENDED TO COOSAWHATCHIE. MAYOR HODGES SAID THE CITY LIMITS DO NOT EXTEND TO COOSAWHATCHIE. COUNCILMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE RIDGELAND POLICE CAN GO OUT OF THEIR JURISDICITON. MAYOR HODGES SAID IF THE INFRACTION HAPPENED WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION, THEY CAN GO UNTIL THEY CATCH THEM. BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN HOOD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

**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;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:**

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS 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 AND FOR A DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPEN-SATION, 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. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**RETURN TO REGULAR 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 DISCUSSED MATTERS AS IT RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONNEL MATTERS.

COUNCILMAN GREGORY MOTIONED AND VICE CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JASPER COUNTY IN THE BEAUFORT COMMERCE PARK AND INSTRUCT THE STAFF TO ARRANGE FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL TO CONDUCT A SITE VISIT AND TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC NETWORK TO EXPLORE THE FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND COSTS OF THE PARK. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**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 10:15 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

---

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

---

DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN

