



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
358 THIRD AVE., RIDGELAND SC. 29936**

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**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JUNE 6, 2012, 3:30 P.M.  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** CHAIRMAN SAMUEL GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN MARTIN SAULS IV, COUNCILMAN HENRY ETHERIDGE, COUNCILMAN LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN THEODUS L. DRAYTON

**STAFF PRESENT:** ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADM. GEORGE HOOD, CLERK TO COUNCIL JUDITH FRANK, **DIRECTOR** OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RONNIE MALPHRUS

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 GREGORY CALLED THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/ MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:30 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – CHAIRMAN GREGORY LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION** – CHAIRMAN GREGORY GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**RONNIE MALPHRUS - APPROVAL OF A-TAX REQUEST** – MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT THEY WERE PROJECTING \$118,000 FROM THE STATE A-TAX FUND. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT \$25,000 PLUS 5% GOES TO THE COUNTY AND 30% GOES TO AN ENTITY THAT PROMOTES TOURISM AND HISTORICALLY THAT HAS GONE TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE AMOUNT HAS BEEN DECLINING OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THIS YEAR THERE IS ONLY \$46,406 TO DISBURSE AND 6 AGENCIES MADE REQUESTS TOTALING \$74,480. MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE A-TAX BOARD. THE A-TAX COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED \$14,000 TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, \$27,480 TO THE POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS, \$1,963 TO TOURISM, \$0 TO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION, \$1,963 TO THE GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL, \$0 TO THE BATTLE OF POCOTALIGO . MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE A-TAX BOARD IS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE A-TAX BOARD AS PRESENTED BY MR. MALPHRUS. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION-** MR. MALPHRUS PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WITH A NEW BUDGET THAT SHOWS THE BUDGET INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT YEAR AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THE INCREASE AND ALSO A LIST OF THE REVENUE DECREASES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE RETIREMENT REFLECTS A 10.5% MANDATED INCREASE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED WHY IT IS SO HIGH AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE TO THE EMPLOYEES, BUT THAT WOULD

NOT AFFECT THE BUDGET. MR. FULGHUM PROVIDED A DIFFERENT PRESENTATION WHICH IS BY LINE ITEM IN TOTAL FOR ALL THE DEPARTMENTS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE BUDGET WAS PRESENTED THIS WAY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOTAL FOR TRAVEL AND TRAINING FOR ALL THE DEPARTMENTS IS \$107,700. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE DEPARTMENTS REQUESTED \$149,950 AND THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RECOMMENDING THE \$107,700. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT WORKS COMPENSATION SHOULD BE BACK TO WHAT IT WAS LAST YEAR AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THE COUNTY RECEIVED ANY FUNDS FROM THE CLERK OF COURT AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT COUNTY'S PORTION AND ALL FINES ARE LISTED. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE STATE GETS A GREATER PORTION THAN THE COUNTY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT WAS CORRECT AND THE COUNTY ONLY GETS 40% OF THE SHERIFF'S FEES AND FINES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THAT SHOULD BE ADVERTISED SO THAT THE CITIZENS KNOW THAT THE COUNTY IS DOING THE WORK, BUT THE STATE GETS MOST OF THE FEES AND FINES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS REQUESTED THAT THEY REVIEW THE AMOUNTS LINE BY LINE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE PROPERTY TAXES ARE UP DUE TO THE INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE MILL. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE LOSS OF FUNDS IN THE FEE IN LIEU AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE WERE TWO FEES IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENTS (SCANA AND COASTAL CAROLINA HOSPITAL) AND THEY WERE BOTH ON A DECLINING SCHEDULE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE ROAD MAINTENANCE FEE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT WAS TO OFFSET THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE ROADS AND IT IS USED TO REPLACE TAX REVENUE THAT THE COUNTY NO LONGER GETS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE BUILDING LICENSE FEES HAVE DROPPED DUE TO THE LACK OF CONSTRUCTION. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THE CHURCHES OWN BUILDINGS THAT ARE RENTED AND THEY NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHURCHES ARE PAYING TAXES ON THOSE BUILDINGS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT THE VITAL RECORDS FEES AND MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THOSE FEES WERE FOR BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND MONEY SENT TO THE STATE FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE SENDS A PORTION TO THE COUNTY. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED MR. MALPHRUS TO CALL SENATOR PINCKNEY AND REPRESENTATIVE BRANTLEY REGARDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS. MR. MALPHRUS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE CLERK OF COURT WILL BE GIVING THE COUNTY \$250,000 FROM THE TITLE FOUR CHILD SUPPORT MONEY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THIS WOULD BE ONE TIME REVENUE AND NOT TO COUNT ON IT IN THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE SRO OFFICERS AT THE SCHOOLS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF A GRANT IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PAY FOR THE SRO OFFICERS. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED WHEN THE WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS LICENSES WAS SCHEDULED. MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE JUNE 18, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED IF THE COUNCIL CAN EXPECT ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM BUSINESS LICENSES AND MR. FULGHUM RESPONDED NOT REALLY, BUT A CHANGE OF WHEN THE LICENSES FEES ARE COLLECTED MAY CHANGE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT THEY NEED TO BE CALCULATED SO THE COUNTY GETS THE CORRECT AMOUNT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY MAY HAVE MISSED A FEW, BUT THEY ARE GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF IT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHY THE COUNTY PAYS SO MUCH OVERTIME AND MR. MALPHRUS EXPLAINED THAT THE OVERTIME WENT DOWN AND THE AMOUNT LISTED ON THE SHEET THE COUNCIL WAS REVIEWING INCLUDED ALL THE OVERTIME FOR ALL THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED FOR A BREAKDOWN AS TO WHO WAS MAKING ALL THE OVERTIME. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID EMS MAKES THE MOST OVERTIME AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE COMMENTED THAT EMS WAS DOWN 5 EMPLOYEES. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS ASKED ABOUT THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY WERE MOSTLY FOR I-T AND MORE COMPUTERS NEEDED REPLACED AND IT INCLUDED THE POSTAGE MACHINE PAYMENT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT HOUSING JUVENILES IN JASPER COUNTY AND CHARGING OTHER COUNTIES TO HOUSE THEIR JUVENILE OFFENDERS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IT IS CHEAPER TO SEND THEM TO COLUMBIA AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE IS NOT MUCH NEED HERE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDER HOUSING.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID IT WOULD JUST BE MORE TROUBLE TO KEEP THEM HERE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT INMATE HOUSING WAS CUT BECAUSE FEWER INMATES HAVE BEEN GOING TO JUST CARE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT WAS ALSO CUT DUE TO THE DECREASE IN INMATES. CHAIRMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT IT COULD BE CUT TO \$80,000 AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THERE IS A POINT WHERE IF IT GOES OVER THE ALLOTTED AMOUNT, THE INCREASE IS HIGHER THAN JUST PAYING FOR A FEW EXTRAS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT HOME DETENTION AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WERE WORKING ON IT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT CREATES A REVENUE STREAM RATHER THAN AN EXPENSE. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY CUT THE FORENSIC AUDIT BECAUSE IT WAS COMPLETE. CHAIRMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT THE AUDITING SERVICES. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THEY HAVE A CONTRACT FOR WORK TO BE DONE MONTHLY AND A CONTRACT FOR THE ANNUAL AUDIT. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON SAID THE AUDIT CONTRACTS NEEDED TO GO OUT FOR BID. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE BUILDING INSURANCE COULD BE CUT BY \$10,000. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED IF ALL THE COUNTY FACILITIES WERE WITH SCE&G. MR. MALPHRUS SAID SOME WERE WITH PALMETTO. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THAT THEY NEEDED THE UTILITIES TO TELL THEM HOW TO SAVE SOME MONEY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY HAS USED A COMPANY THAT AUDITS THE BILLS AND THE THEY ARE PAID A PERCENTAGE OF WHAT THEY SAVE THE COUNTY. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID HE THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE DONE AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WILL DO IT THIS FISCAL YEAR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE ELECTION BOARD WENT FROM \$4,000 TO \$13,500 AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE STATE REIMBURSES THE COUNTY THE \$13,500. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED WHAT THE COUNTY WAS FUNDING FOR THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE NORMAL FUNDING AND THE CAREER CRIMINAL TEAM. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT LEVY FIRE CONTRACT AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE FUNDS ARE TRANSFERRED FOR SALARIES AND THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT WILL BE USED. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE REDISTRICTING NEEDED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE BUDGET SINCE IT WILL NOT BE DONE NEXT YEAR. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE LANDFILL AND MR. MALPHRUS RESPONDED THAT IT IS WHAT THE COUNTY PAYS AND DUE TO RECYCLING THE COSTS HAVE BEEN CUT. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED ABOUT FUNDING THE COUNCIL ON AGING \$100,000. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY PROVIDES THE MONEY TO THE AGENCY, BUT THE COUNTY HAS NO SAY SO ON HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID IT IS THE SAME WITH EVERY AGENCY THE COUNTY FUNDS, AND THE COUNCIL ON AGING IS A WORTHWHILE PROGRAM. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT MR. ROACHE WOULD BE HAPPY TO WORK WITH THE COUNCIL. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID IT SERVES ABOUT 100 PEOPLE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED IF THERE IS A COMPLAINT, CAN THE COUNCIL SAY ANYTHING TO THE DIRECTOR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY IS MANDATED TO FUND THE MIAP, THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND THE PUBLIC DEFENDER. COUNCILMAN DRAYTON ASKED ABOUT THE NEW LIFE CENTER AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE COUNTY FUNDS \$4,000 AND THE REST COMES FROM THE MONEY THE COUNTY RECEIVES FOR MINI-BOTTLE SALES FROM THE STATE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THE COUNTY ALSO PROVIDES OFFICE SPACE AND UTILITIES. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT THE GATEWAY PROJECT AND MR. FULGHUM SAID IT WOULD BE COVERED BY A TIF IF APPROVED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE \$52,000 FOR THE FIRE STUDY WILL ALREADY BE PAID OUT OF THIS YEARS BUDGET. CHAIRMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHAT KIND OF STUDY. MR. MALPHRUS SAID HOW TO IMPROVE THE ISO RATINGS, VOLUNTEERS, AND MUTUAL FIRE AGREEMENTS. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THE STUDY WAS APPROVED IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED IF THERE WAS A FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ONE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE FELT THEY COULD GET THE INFORMATION WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY FOR A STUDY AND HE FELT IT WAS A WASTE OF MONEY. VICE CHAIRMAN SAULS SAID THE MONEY COULD BE USED FOR A TRUCK. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THEY KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND SOMEONE NEEDS TO APPLY FOR GRANTS TO GET THE MONEY TO DO IT. COUNCILMAN

ETHERIDGE ASKED ABOUT MAPPING SERVICES AND MR. MALPHRUS SAID MOST OF IT IS DONE IN HOUSE, BUT THEY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH A COMPANY AND THEY USE IT WHEN NEEDED. MR. MALPHRUS SAID IF THE COUNCIL LEAVES THE BUDGET AS IT IS THERE WILL BE A 1.5 MILL DECREASE, BUT THEY STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND. CHAIRMAN GREGORY ASKED THE COUNCIL TO GO OVER THE BUDGET SO THEY CAN GO OVER IT ON FRIDAY AT 10:00 A.M. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THEY NEEDED TO MAKE SOME CUTS AND THE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDS TO FIND THEM, AND IT IS NOT THE COUNCIL'S JOB TO FIND THE ADJUSTMENTS. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE EMPLOYEES FOR 5-6 YEARS. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE COUNCIL COULD APPROVE MANDATED RAISES FOR SOME EMPLOYEES AND NOT GIVE ALL THE EMPLOYEES A RAISE. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN LOYAL FOR 6 YEARS AND TAKEN ON ADDITIONAL WORK WITHOUT A RAISE. COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE SAID THEY NEEDED TO CUT \$500,000 TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE THE EMPLOYEES A 3% RAISE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND AND IF THE FULL AMOUNT IS FUNDED THAN A RAISE CAN BE GIVEN AND IF THE FULL AMOUNT IS NOT APPROVED THEN NO RAISES. CHAIRMAN GREGORY AND COUNCILMAN ETHERIDGE AGREED THAT THE EMPLOYEES NEEDED TO GET A RAISE AND IT SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND. CHAIRMAN GREGORY SAID THE EMPLOYEES ALL TOOK A DECREASE WHEN THEY HAD TO START PAYING FOR THEIR INSURANCE. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THE CITIZENS ARE GOING TO BE UPSET BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THINK THE EMPLOYEES ARE PAID TOO MUCH.

**ADJOURN-** CHAIRMAN GREGORY ADJOURNED THE BUDGET/WORKSHOP MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, ccc  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

APPROVED BY:

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REV. SAMUEL GREGORY  
CHAIRMAN