

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARY GORDON ELLIS EXECUTIVE BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 12, 2007  
10:00 A.M.**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

DR. GEORGE HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
GLADYS JONES, VICE CHAIRMAN  
LEROY BLACKSHEAR, COUNCILMAN  
FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN  
HUBERT TYLER, COUNCILMAN

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ANDREW FULGHUM, ADMINISTRATOR  
RONNIE MALPHRUS, DEP. ADM. ADM. SERV.  
DALE TERRY, DEP. ADM. ENG. SERV.  
STEVE SAGER, DEP. ADM. DEV. SERV.  
JUDITH FRANK, CLERK TO COUNCIL

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA HAVE BEEN 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 10:10 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

CHAIRMAN HOOD LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

**INVOCATION:**

COUNCILMAN TUTEN GAVE THE INVOCATION.

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF THE ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A RELEASE TO HARDEEVILLE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BY TITLE ONLY):**

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE DEVELOPMENT BOARD NO LONGER EXISTS THE COUNTY COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO RELEASE THE PROPERTY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT BOTH ATTORNEY JONES AND ATTORNEY JOHNSON AGREED THAT THIS MUST BE DONE BY ORDINANCE. COUNCILMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY OPPOSITION TO THIS AND MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THIS IS PARK THAT IS UNDER PRIVATE CONTROL AND THE COUNTY HAS TO SIGN OFF AS TO WHAT CAN GO INTO THE PARK. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES MOTIONED AND COUNCILMAN TYLER SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THIS BE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A RELEASE TO HARDEEVILLE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BY TITLE ONL). THE MOTION WAS CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

**DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR ANNEX BUILDING:**

MR. FULGHUM EXPLAINED THAT AFTER THE PLANS WERE ORGINALLY REVIEWED SOME OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS WANTED SOME CHANGES AND MR. SAGER MET WITH EACH DEPARTMENT SCHEDULED TO GO INTO THE NEW ANNEX BUILDING TO GET THEIR INPUT. MR. SAGER SAID HE ASKED EACH DEPARTMENT TO PROJECT WHAT KIND OF SPACE THEY WOULD NEED AND TO PROJECT WHAT THEY WOULD NEED WITH GROWTH. MR. SAGER SAID WITH GROWTH, SOME OF THE DEPARTMENTS WILL NEED SATELITTE OFFICES IN HARDEEVILLE. MR. SAGER SAID SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AND A RECEPTION AREA IN THE LOBBY WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE PLANS. MR. SAGER SAID THE FIRST FLOOR WILL HAVE A ROTUNDA WHICH CAUSED THE ELEVATOR TO BE MOVED, BUT IT HAS CREATED A DRAMATIC EFFECT. MR. SAGER SAID DOCUMENTS NEED TO BE DIGITALIZED SO THAT NOT AS MUCH SPACE IS NEEDED FOR STORAGE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE COUNTY WHILE NOT BECOMING PAPERLESS, IT WILL BECOME PAPER LIGHT. MR. SAGER SAID THAT SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING HE HAS REVISED THE FIRST FLOOR AND THE AUDITOR AND TREASURERS'S SPACE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL THEY HAD PRIOR TO HIS MODIFICATIONS. MR. SAGER SAID THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM WILL ALSO BE A BACKUP COMMUNICATION CENTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN ACCOMMODATED IN A SPACE THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY A CLOSET. COUNCILMAN TYLER ASKED WHAT KIND OF INPUT DID THE DEPARTMENT HEADS HAVE IN THE DRAWINGS AND HAS GROWTH BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. MR. SAGER SAID THEPROJECTION OF GROWTH WAS HARD TO CALCULATE. MR. SAGER SAID HE MET WITH EACH DEPARTMENT AND WORKED ON THE AREAS AND EACH DEPARTMENT WAS MET WITH AND DISCUSSED THE LAYOUT OF THE SPACE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED WHERE THE LOCATION WHERE FEES WOULD BE COLLECTED WAS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THEY WERE WORKING TOWARDS A CENTRAL CASH CENTER WITH MR. MALPHRUS AND MS. GARVIN.

MR. SAGER DISCUSSED THE SECOND FLOOR AND ASKED THAT THE CONFERENCE ROOM WAS MADE SMALLER AND SOME SPACE WAS TAKEN FOR HR TO ACCOMMODATE HIS OFFICE BEING ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR WITH THE PEOPLE IN HIS DEPARTMENT. MR. SAGER SAID THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPACE WHEN THEY MOVE IN. MR. TYLER SAID IF THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ROOM WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE SPACE IN FRONT OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE AND GIS OFFICES. MR. SAGER SAID THE CONCEPT WAS 1 DOOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THAT A PERSON COULD BE DIRECTED TO THE VARIOUS OFFICES. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ADDRESSED THE SECOND PRIVATE OFFICE IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND SAID THAT THE DEPUTY ASSESSOR DID NOT NEED A PRIVATE OFFICE. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID IN HR ONLY THE DIRECTOR AND THE GENERALIST NEEDED PRIVATE OFFICES, THE OTHERS COULD HAVE STATIONS LIKE IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THAT HR DIRECTOR HAD ENOUGH ROOM IN HER OFFICE FOR INTERVIEWS AND THAT A CONFERENCE ROOM WAS NOT NECESSARY IN THE HR DEPARTMENT. MR. FULGHUM SAID A CONFERENCE ROOM IS HELPFUL DURING INTERVIEWS. MR. SAGER SAID HE PUT HIS OFFICE ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LEVEL AND MOVED FINANCE BACK TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR. MR. MALPHRUS SAID THAT HE JUST SAW THIS CHANGE AT THIS MEETING. MR. MALPHRUS SAID CURRENTLY THE FINANCE DEPT. HAS TWO PEOPLE AND HE WILL BE NEEDING ANOTHER PERSON SINCE MS. SMITH HAS TAKEN OVER ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, AND THAT HE WILL BE REQUESTING TWO MORE PEOPLE IN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS. CHAIRMAN HOOD COMMENTED THAT HUMAN RESOURCES IS ALSO UNDER MR. MALPHRUS AND HE FELT MR. MALPHRUS AND FINANCE SHOULD ALSO BE LOCATED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID ONLY THE DEP. ADM. NEEDS A PRIVATE OFFICE SO THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH ROOM FOR BOTH MR. MALPHRUS AND MR. SAGER'S DEPARTMENTS ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID SHE WANTED FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, AND THE HR DEPT. ON THE SECOND FLOOR. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO WORK WITH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SHOULD MEET AND BRING THE RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO COUNCIL. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT VICE CHAIRMAN JONES AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SERVE ON THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SAID THEY WOULD REVIEW THE PLANS AT THEIR SCHEDULED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 15, 2007 AND THEY WILL BRING BACK RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL AT THE MARCH 19, 2007 COUNCIL MEETING. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID THE PROBATE JUDGE WAS ALSO REQUESTING ADDITIONAL SPACE. MR. SAGER SAID HE GAVE THE COURTHOUSE PLANS TO JUDGE MALPHRUS AND HE IS WORKING ON GETTING HIM MORE SPACE ALLOCATED IN THE COURTHOUSE. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SAID HE SPOKE WITH MS. BOSTICK AND JUDGE MALPHRUS AND THEY HAD WORKED EVERYTHING OUT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID HE FELT THE THREE BUILDINGS ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE. SHOULD REMAIN AND NOT BE TORN DOWN FOR PARKING SPACE. MR. SAGER SAID THAT THE COUNTY NEEDS TO SHOW ENOUGH PARKING AREA TO GET A BUILDING PERMIT AND THIS AREA IS SHOWN AS FUTURE PARKING AND THE COUNTY MAY BE ABLE TO ATTAIN OTHER PROPERTY IN THE FUTURE TO ACCOMMODATE THE PARKING. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES ASKED ABOUT THE DRAWING DONE BY THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND FOR THE BADGETT HOUSE WHICH SHOWED SUFFICIENT PARKING. MR. SAGER SAID A FEW MORE SPACES WILL BE NEEDED. VICE CHAIRMAN JONES SUGGESTED USING THE LOT WHERE THE OLD JAIL WAS LOCATED AND PERHAPS THE COUNTY CAN ACCESS SOME OF THE PROPERTY THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND HAS FOR PARKING. MR. SAGER SAID THE PARKING NEEDS TO BE SHOWN ON PAPER TO GET THE BUILDING PERMIT. CHAIRMAN HOOD SAID UNITED WAY COULD BE MOVED TO ONE OF THE HOUSES ON 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE. AND PARKING CAN BE PLACED WHERE THE RAPHAEL HOUSE IS LOCATED. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WILL EXPLORE SHARED PARKING WITH THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND MUST APPROVE THE PLANS AND THEY ARE RECEPTIVE TO WHAT IS BEING DONE. MR. SAGER SAID THERE WILL BE SOME OPEN SPACE ON THE THIRD FLOOR SINCE MR. MALPHRUS AND FINANCE WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR. COUNCILMAN TUTEN SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO COUNCIL 120 MEMBERS NEED TO WORK ON THIS BECAUSE THE COUNTY NEEDS TO GET THIS BUILDING BUILT. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE STAFF AND ELECTED OFFICIALS. HAZEL HOLMES, AUDITOR, SAID THAT SHE WILL BE ADDING AN ADDITIONAL PERSON TO HANDLE CARS THAT NEED TO BE REGISTERED IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND STILL HAVE OUT OF STATE PLATES. MS. HOLMES ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLY RELOCATING THE MAILROOM. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED HER TO WORK WITH THE COMMITTEE. JOEY MALPHRUS SAID HE SPOKE WITH MS. BOSTICK AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH HER, BUT HE ALSO ASKED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PUTTING HIS DEPARTMENT IN THE NEW BUILDING OR SOMEWHERE WHERE HE WILL HAVE ADEQUATE ROOM. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED MR. MALPHRUS IF HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SPACE AND WAS IT REQUIRED THAT HE BE IN THE COURTHOUSE OR THE ANNEX BUILDING. JUDGE MALPHRUS SAID HE COULD BE LOCATED ANYWHERE, BUT HE NEEDS TO BE CLOSE TO THE COURTHOUSE. CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED FOR A TIMELINE FOR THE BUILDING. MR. TATE SAID THE FUNDING HAS BEEN APPROVED AND AS SOON AS THE FINAL PLANS ARE APPROVED IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT 3 MONTHS TO PUT TOGETHER THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, 6 WEEKS FOR BIDDING AND 14 MONTHS FOR CONSTRUCTION. MR. TATE PROJECTED THAT IT WOULD BE OCTOBER, 2008 WHEN THE BUILDING WOULD BE READY TO OCCUPY.

CHAIRMAN HOOD ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS READY FOR THE MONDAY COUNCIL MEETING.  
MR. FULHGUM GAVE A SUMMATION OF THE ITEMS THE COUNCIL WANTED ADDRESSED.  
CHAIRMAN HOOD REQUESTED THAT THE COUNCIL REVIEW THE COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PLANS AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION USES FOR THE THREE OTHER BUILDINGS BESIDE THE COURTHOUSE.

**ADJOURN:**

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

THE MEETING ENDED AT 11:25 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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DR. GEORGE M. HOOD  
CHAIRMAN