



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

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**TRAINING ROOM  
APRIL 29, 2013, 3:30 P.M.  
BUDGET WORKSHOP/MEETING  
MINUTES**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Clark, Councilman Theodus Drayton, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV

**STAFF PRESENT:** Administrator Andrew Fulghum, 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.

**CALLS TO ORDER** – Chairman Etheridge called the Budget Workshop to order at 3:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Councilman Drayton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION** – Vice Chairwoman Clark gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to go into Executive Session for the discussion of 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- Personnel Matters. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** - Councilman Drayton motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

No action was taken as a result of executive session.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION AND REVISIONS** – Chairman Etheridge asked for an explanation of the pie charts from the previous meeting and Mr. Malphrus explained that they detailed the revenue and the expenses by department. Chairman Etheridge asked about the revenue from the 911 fees and Mr. Malphrus said the money comes directly from the phone companies and the cell phone money is remitted quarterly from the State. The Council discussed the Business License Fees and the reduction in projected revenue because they fell short this year. Mr. Malphrus said they brought in \$295,000. Mr. Malphrus said they base the new year’s numbers on last year’s numbers. Mr. Malphrus said he did not like to take chances. Mr. Malphrus said he would look at all the revenue and he may be able to bump it a little. Mr. Malphrus said the EMS amounts are just through Feb. or maybe March. Mr. Malphrus said he may be able to bump it to \$655,000 after he reviews the numbers. The Council discussed the SRO officers and that the school district pays for one and a grant covers two. Mr. Malphrus said the grant expires this year. Mr. Malphrus said the grant goes to the school and the school reimburses the sheriff and the sheriff reimburses the County. Vice Chairwoman Clark said that she would like to see the School Board Meetings televised and for the Council to fund it. Councilman Johnson said he did not think the School District could bar it from being televised. Mr. Malphrus said the Clerks and the Magistrates fines are down and Chairman Etheridge asked about the fees for the Election Commission and Mr. Malphrus said that is money that is reimbursed to the County for the board members. Mr. Malphrus provided a copy of the Hampton and Colleton Counties election commission/voters registration office budgets. Councilman Sauls said Jasper County’s voter’s registration/election commission budget is \$247,000 and Mr. Malphrus said that \$15,000 can be cut from the poll workers line and the maintenance contract line can be cut. Mr. Malphrus said the part-time can be cut from \$55,000 to \$40,000. Chairman Etheridge said they won’t be having an election and it can be transferred if needed at that time. Mr. Malphrus said he leaves it in there and if they take it out they will be looking for it next year. Mr. Malphrus said the maintenance line can be cut from \$20,000 to \$5,000. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked about the money people pay for copies and information. Mr. Malphrus said that money should be turned over to the treasurer. Vice Chairwoman Clark told Mr. Malphrus to find out where that money went. Mr. Malphrus said that with the deductions discussed that would bring the election commission/voters registration office budget down to \$217,000. Chairman Etheridge asked how much the state reimbursed the County for the election commission members and Mr. Malphrus said \$12,000. Mr. Malphrus said they get paid \$300 per quarter. Chairman Etheridge asked about the road maintenance fees and Mr. Fulghum said it did not bring in what they thought it would and it is currently bringing in about \$450,000. The Council discussed the fee for the Alliance and Mr. Fulghum said that \$80,000 of the fee is for our representative and the balance is used in marketing. Councilman Johnson asked if it would be better to have our own person and Mr. Fulghum responded that the Dept. of

Commerce prefers to work with the Alliances not the individual counties. The Council agreed that they wanted to meet with the Sheriff, the Chief Magistrate and the VA officer. Councilman Johnson asked if the Solicitor was making an additional request. Mr. Malphrus said that the Solicitor's additional request is not funded in this budget. Chairman Etheridge asked about the Public Defender's request and Mr. Malphrus said it was included. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked that Mr. Fulghum get an estimate as to what it would cost to televise the School Board meetings and Mr. Fulghum said he would get in touch with Mr. Brodie. Councilman Drayton said that if the School Board does not want it televised then he is against it. Mr. Fulghum said that a new website was needed and then it could be mainstreamed on the website. Councilman Johnson asked the administrator to see if to cost of upgrading the website could qualify for A-Tax funding. Chairman Etheridge asked about the offices that were to be moved. Chairman Etheridge said that the United Way was moving to the EMS building, Judge Malphrus was moving to the building previously occupied by the United Way, the VA office would move to the Mary Gordon Ellis Building and the Delegation Office would move to the Mary Gordon Ellis Building. Mr. Fulghum said that when the Election Commission was told that they would have to share space at the Mary Gordon Ellis Building with other agencies, they decided to stay in their current location. Chairman Etheridge said these moves would eliminate all the rent payments being made by the County for office space and would save about \$18,000 per year. Councilman Johnson asked about moving Judge Malphrus to the building that was her father's old office and Mr. Fulghum said the building was currently occupied by Kathy Langford. Councilman Sauls motioned and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconded the motion to the United Way to the EMS Building, the Delegation Office to the Mary Gordon Ellis Building and Judge Malphrus to either the office previously occupied by United Way or the office building previously occupied by Judge Malphrus' father. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor. Councilman Johnson asked about putting the Delegation in the office space occupied by the Solicitor. Chairman Etheridge said the Solicitor needed to be close to the Courthouse and he asked the administrator to see if most County's provide office space for the solicitor. Councilman Sauls suggested moving the County attorney into the suite currently occupied by the Solicitor in the Government Building. Councilman Johnson said that made more sense. Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to move the VA offices to the Mary Gordon Ellis Building. Councilman Drayton said he did not think the VA office should be moved as the people are used to going there and the rent is not that much. Chairman Etheridge said he cannot see paying rent when the County has space for the office elsewhere and there is good parking and the office would be on the first floor. Councilman Drayton said there is not a parking problem at the current location and the building has an elevator. The motion carried with Chairman Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Clark and Councilman Sauls voting for; Councilman Drayton and Johnson voted against.

Chairman Etheridge asked the public if they had any comments. Todd Harvey said he was concerned about a third party handling EMS and asked the Council to thoroughly look at the services currently being provided and what would be provided by the third party to make sure the services were not cut. Mr. Harvey said 4 ambulances were needed and he hoped services were not cut to save dollars. Vice Chairwoman Clark said they would not go below 4 ambulances.

**ADJOURN** - Vice Chairwoman Clark motioned and Councilman Sauls seconded the motion to adjourn the budget workshop/meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in favor.

The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved by:

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Judith M. Frank, ccc  
Clerk To Council

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Henry Etheridge  
Chairman