

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; FEBRUARY 28, 2005; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a scheduled meeting on Monday, February 28, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball; Lee S. Bowers; Virgin Johnson, Sr., Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chairman. Staff present: Sabrena Posey, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian and Mr. Chris Haulsee, Cruise 92 Radio.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Kevin Byrd, County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 7, 2005 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Council Member Bowers asked that Mr. Laffitte, be put under presentations instead of reports. Chairman Parker stated that there was an addition of two personnel matters, the sheriff's department and a department of one person (Items #14.4 and 14.5); the deferral of third reading to ordinance #2004-004 (10.1); the placement of the report from the Emergency Services Committee before action regarding third reading to Ordinance #2004-006 (10.1.2) and the deletion of the report from Council's Briefings (Item #12.1). **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to make the revisions to the agenda as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2004 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

With no objections by Council, Chairman Parker stated that the minutes would be tabled until the March 7, 2005 meeting.

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PRESENTATIONS

MR. JIM MELLEN, EXTERNAL AUDITOR, FISCAL YEAR 2004 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Chairman Bowers stated that Council just got the audit tonight. He stated that he would like to take it for information until he had an opportunity to review the audit report. Chairman Parker stated that Council can listen to Mr. Mellen's presentation, and then contact Mr. Mellen if they have any questions. Mr. Mellen came before Council to present the Fiscal Year 2004 Audit. After his presentation, Chairman Parker asked Mr. Mellen what pages should Council be more concerned about. He stated that they should pay attention to pages 37-39 and pages 56-57. Council thanked Mr. Mellen for the report.

MRS. TERESA WILLIAMS, COUNTY AUDITOR, REGARDING COLLECTION OF OUT OF COUNTY / OUT OF STATE VEHICLE PROPERTY TAXES:

Mrs. Williams, County Auditor, came before Council to give a presentation on Out of County / Out of State Vehicle Property Taxes. Mrs. Williams stated that the collection effort by her office of the Out of County / Out of State Vehicle Property Taxes has brought in approximately 1 mill. She stated that people whose primary domicile is Hampton County and register their cars in other counties or states are tax evaders. She explained how the members of the public were and are instrumental in this effort, and she thanked the Sheriff's department for their help. Mrs. Williams stated that collection of these taxes is law, and by collecting the taxes, she is enforcing the law. Council thanked Mrs. Williams.

MR. CHARLIE LAFFITTE, AIRPORT COMMISSION, REGARDING APPROVAL OF PLANS A AND B FOR LANDSCAPING AFTER TREES WERE CUT AT PROPERTY BORDERING AIRPORT:

Mr. Laffitte came before Council to ask that Project A (\$4,700 - \$5,900) and Project B (\$1,200 - \$1,600) (See attachment #1) as presented to Council be approved. He stated that this request is to clean up, landscape the yards where the trees had been cut. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to accept the recommendation of the Airport Commission as requested for Project A (\$1,200 - \$1,600) and Project B (\$4,700 - \$5,900). Council had some questions in regards to the trees. Council asked Mr. Laffitte if they were able to sell any of the trees.

Mr. Laffitte stated that the trees that were cut were given to the cutter for cutting the trees and the other trees were given to the person for moving them. Mr. Laffitte stated that most sawmills do not want trees from neighborhoods, because the trees may have nails and wires in them that could ruin their saws. Mr. Laffitte stated that there were no trees on the ground. Council stated that at the last meeting Mr. Ellis stated that the trees were on the ground. Council Members went the next day and did not see any trees. Council thanked Mr. Laffitte.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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There were no appointments.

RESOLUTIONS

SHERIFF'S REQUEST:

Chairman Parker stated that there was a resolution from the sheriff to get back the jail. Chairman Parker stated that she would like to move, at this time, to let the jail stay under the County Council and the Administrator. She stated that the Administrator just hired a very experienced Jail Administrator, etc. and the County is working out some things with the Department of Corrections, regarding additions, etc. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, to table the matter until Council has talked to the Sheriff. Chairman Parker stated that she would take her motion off the table. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion made by Council Member Wilson. Motion carried. Chairman Parker stated that the Jail Committee will meet with the Sheriff and bring a report back to Council.

ORDINANCES

THIRD (3rd) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-004 - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND NEVAMAR COMPANY, LLC

Chairman Parker stated that this matter was deferred.

REPORT FROM THE ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (LISA BALL AND VIRGIN JOHNSON, SR.):

Council Member Ball, Chair of the Emergency Services Committee, stated that the committee met on February 8, 2005. She stated that Mr. J. C. Clifton was there and so were some other citizens. Council Member Ball stated that Council Member Johnson believed that they needed a Code Enforcement Officer. Council Member Ball stated that the system in place was working and if there should be an officer, it should be a law enforcement officer. She stated that she believed that if Council decided that one is needed, then who appoints and who is manager of the Code Officer? Council thanked Council Members Ball and Johnson for their report.

THIRD (3rd) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-006, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAMPTON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND DUTIES:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give third and final reading to the ordinance creating the position of Animal Control Code Enforcement Officer and under the guidance of the County Administrator. Motion carried with Council Members Bowers, Johnson, Parker and Wilson voting "Yea" and Council Member Ball voting "Nay".

THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-012, PUBLIC NUISANCES AND UNFIT DWELLINGS ORDINANCE:

Chairman Parker stated that a public hearing was held, and there were no public comments. had to

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be held on the Ordinance. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give third and final reading to the Public Nuisance and Unfit Dwelling Ordinance. Council Member Bowers stated that there were some things in the ordinance that he did not like, and if problems came up, then the ordinance could be rescinded or amended. Council Member Bowers stated that the County had to start someplace. Chairman Parker stated that she wanted to remind the Council and media that people (citizens) will not be bothered or no one will be knocking their doors. She stated that it has to be a condition in which someone could get hurt. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE #2005-004, AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET TO ADJUST FOR MID YEAR CHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CLASSIFICATION COMPENSATION STUDY:

Mr. Mike Meyer, Finance Director, gave an overview of Ordinance #2005-004. He stated that Ordinance #2005-004 was being presented to be given first reading by title only. He stated that it involved the transferring of funds within the 2004-2005 approved budget for the classification and compensation study which involved salary increases. He stated that the net increase was \$168,200 to individual departments. He stated that Section 2-5 was a transfer of funds and adjustment within department budgets as a result of meeting with department heads for the mid-year reviews. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to give first reading to Ordinance #2005-004 in name only. Council Member Johnson asked Mr. Meyer if this would take care of the departments' needs until the end of the year. Mr. Meyer stated that this is what department heads have told him. Motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

There were no bids scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

The report by the Emergency Services Committee was moved to Ordinances.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEES:

Administrator Posey stated that she would like to ask Council to approve a new response fee for non-transport of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) per call. She stated that:

- non transport patients are calls that are dispatched through 911; the unit arrives and they administer treatment and the patient declines transport to the local hospital.
- according to the records from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, there were 784 calls that were not billed.
- she recommended implementing a fee of \$50.00 plus additional charges for whatever supplies are used at the scene.
- surveys of surrounding counties, Colleton, Jasper, Hilton Head/Beaufort charge fees ranging from \$50.00 to \$100 for response fees.

She stated that it will increase revenues from these fees. Council had questions as to if the counties

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were collecting this fee in regards to the patients' ability to pay. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to implement a non-transport fee of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) plus the cost of supplies. Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Administrator Posey stated that Council received a report of the capital projects revenue and would like Council to authorize the Administrator to proceed with bidding of the Emergency Services building. Administrator Posey stated that she gave the Courthouse and Other Facilities Advisory Commission (COFAC) a more detailed report. She stated that:

- the Capital Projects Revenue for the first two quarters this fiscal year total \$611,845 versus last year of \$434,315
- the total capital project expenses from inception to date total \$823,127
- the estimated construction cost for the Emergency services building is \$778,228.
- the plans have been reviewed and modified to save money but also provide required facilities for operations.
- a new bond issue is not required for the Emergency Services building; some funds remain from the first bond issue and capital projects revenue will generate enough.

Council thanked Administrator Posey for the update.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING:

Administrator Posey gave an update regarding the Emergency Services Building. She stated that they reduced the size of the building, changed some materials, etc. to keep within the cost. Administrator Posey stated that the Courthouse and Other Facilities Advisory Commission (COFAC) approved the plans. She asked Council to approve the plans to bid for the Emergency Services Building. Council Member Johnson asked what material was the building going to be built.

Administrator Posey stated that it was going to be brick instead of split face block. Council Member Johnson asked what material changes were made inside. Administrator Posey stated that the building was going to be built out of brick. (See Attachment #2) **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to accept the recommendation of the Administrator and the Courthouse and Other Facilities Commission (COFAC) to authorize the Administrator to proceed with bidding the Emergency Services Building. Motion carried with Council Member Ball, Bowers, Parker and Wilson voting "Yea" and Council Member Johnson voting "Nay".

UPDATE:

Administrator Posey stated that a new website is being designed, and she spoke with Mr. Hamill of the Hampton Regional Medical Center; equipment for the morgue is being bid. She stated that he said that he is trying to stay within the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NEVAMAR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS))

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PROJECT) AND PERSONNEL MATTERS (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND A DEPARTMENT OF ONE):

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to go into executive session to discuss contractual (Economic Development, Nevamar and the Department of Social Services' Project) and personnel matters (Sheriff's Department and a Department of one). Motion Carried. Session began 7:40 p. m. and ended 8:50 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After coming out of Executive Session**, Chairman Parker stated that:

- a contractual matter regarding economic development was discussed. Council was updated concerning several potential prospects. Council gave advice to the Economic Development Director.
- a contractual matter regarding Nevamar was discussed, and Council was briefed on the latest legal information. Council will take this matter up later.
- a contractual matter regarding the Department of Social Services (DSS) was discussed. Council was updated on this project. Council gave the Administrator advice.
- a personnel matter regarding the sheriff's department was discussed. Council referred the matter the Administration/Finance Committee.
- a personnel matter regarding a department of one was discussed. Council referred the matter to the Administration/Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p. m.

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