

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; APRIL 4, 2005; 6:00 P. M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 21, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball; Virgin Johnson, Sr., Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chairman. Council Member absent: Lee S. Bowers. Staff present: Sabrena Posey, Administrator and Aline Newton, Clerk to Council. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Tim Latham gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

There were no public hearings scheduled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

There were no public comments.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF MARCH 21, 2005 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

Chairman Parker asked that the agenda be revised to add under Item #12, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) T-21 Grants-(12.2) and the Jasper County Port-(12.3). **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the revisions. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MARCH 17, 2005 EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES AND MARCH 21, 2005 REGULAR**

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**MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes or additions. There were none. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**NOTIFICATION OF PLAQUE RECEIVED FROM THE SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES BOARD:**

Chairman Parker stated that Administrator Posey accepted a plaque on behalf of Hampton County at the Chamber of Commerce and Hampton County Disabilities and Special Needs Board Quarterly Meeting. Chairman Parker stated that Hampton County was recognized for employing individuals with disabilities.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolutions.

**ORDINANCES**

**THIRD (3<sup>rd</sup>) 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.

**BIDS**

There were no bids scheduled.

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING**

**HAMPTON COUNTY'S VISION STATEMENT:**

Council discussed the vision statement. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council

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Member Wilson, to adopt the vision statement. Motion carried. (See Attachment #1)

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S T-21 GRANTS:**

Chairman Parker shared information with Council regarding the South Carolina Department of Transportation's T-21 Grants. Chairman Parker stated that June is the time to submit the application. She stated that she, Ms. Posey and Council Member Bowers are on the committee to apply for the grant. Chairman Parker stated that Hampton County will be partnering with the Town of Hampton in regards to the landscaping for the courthouse renovations. Chairman Parker stated that Russell Laffitte is the Chairman of the committee. She stated that the person over the grant will be down. There will be a \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollar) match for the \$200,000 grant if awarded. She stated that the county is also interested in the grant for a sidewalk for the roadside where the new Department of Social Services (DSS) building is. Council Member Johnson wanted to know if council was thinking about anything that would be available through this grant for the Estill side. Chairman Parker stated that they would look into this. She stated that monies are available to enhance the exist off I-95 in Yemassee. Administrator Posey stated that the Town of Estill had applied and received T-21 grant funds for the Bull Durham project they were doing. Council Member Wilson wanted to know if the county applied, would it decrease the eligibility of any of the towns. Chairman Parker stated that it would not. She stated that she asked that question of the people at the grants workshop.

**JASPER PORT UPDATE:**

Chairman Parker stated that at the last Lowcountry Council of Governments Board Meeting they presented a resolution supporting the Jasper County Port. She stated that the LCOG board adopted the resolution. She stated that it was asked that each county adopt a resolution supporting the port and also each town in the county to show the support. Chairman Parker stated that this will be discussed at the Municipality meeting on April 25, 2005. Chairman Parker asked that the resolution be placed on the next meeting agenda for adoption.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**MR. WALT INABINET, SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE (SCA), REGARDING SCA'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:**

Mr. Inabinet came before Council and stated that Council was sent a report for SCA's March activities. He stated that in the interest of time, unless Council had some questions, he would ask that the written report be accepted as presented. (See Attachment #2).

**MR. JIM DANIEL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REGARDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT:  
Sites Certified**

Mr. Daniel came before Council and stated that the Hampton County has two (2) sites certified. He stated that one was in the Estill Industrial Park and the other in the Multi-County Industrial Park. Mr. Daniel stated that there was no need to do beautification at the Estill Park until word was received regarding the site certification. He stated that they would have to come in and clear property, etc., or they may have declared a portion of it wetlands, etc. He stated that if the county had gone in and completed beautification work, then they would have to disrupt the prior work; therefore he, the Administrator and Council was waiting on word regarding the site certification,

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before taking any action. He stated that the site is certified. Administrator Posey stated that what this means is that the site is shovel ready. Mr. Daniel touched on several issues such as the Economic Development Strategic Plan, Prospects and Cell Phone Coverage for the Estill Area. He also thanked SCANA and Palmetto Electric for a laptop computer, projector and screen for Powerpoint presentations. (See Attachment #3 - Economic Development Activity Report)

**MR. KEVIN FIRSTER, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, REGARDING REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MANPOWER AND VEHICLES:**

Major Firster came before Council and stated that the Sheriff's department needed additional manpower. He stated that the deputies are being overworked. Major Firster stated that they have had 1,077 incident calls for the year so far. He stated that they are overloaded with work. He stated that with the recent things that are going on in court, the judges are requesting more deputies in the courtrooms. Chairman Parker wanted to know why the sheriff was not there. Major Firster stated that he was supposed to be there, but he got a call and said that the Sheriff could not make it and asked that he come. Major Firster stated that with the increased manpower on patrol, they could eliminate some of the overtime. Council Member Wilson asked Major Firster if he could do with three (3) deputies. Major Firster stated that he needed six (6), but they would take what they could get. Administrator Posey stated that there was no funding in the budget. Major Firster stated that the additional manpower will offset the overtime. He stated that the deputies do not receive time and a half. They receive Chinese overtime. Council Member Johnson stated that he did not agree with part of the county getting time and a half and other receiving half time. She stated that there is not enough information. She stated that the request is approximately \$300,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) for six deputies and equipment, etc. Chairman Parker stated that this is by far, the largest request that Council has ever received. Chairman Parker stated that there is only about \$200,000 (two hundred thousand) in the contingency. She stated that it is Council's policy to wait until budget time for such requests. Chairman Parker stated that there are only three more months left in this year's budget. Council Member Wilson asked stated that if it is a necessity, then Council needed to give the Sheriff's department some relief. He asked Major Firster how many deputies could they get by with. Major Firster stated that they needed six, but they would make do with whatever Council gave them. Council Member Wilson asked Administrator Posey if there was enough in the contingency for one deputy. Administrator Posey stated that there was not enough to outfit a vehicle and an individual. Chairman Parker stated that with the Sheriff not being there, and there was not enough information regarding what the courts required; she would like to wait and get more information. Council Member Wilson asked Major Firster to check and see what the fines would be and to get back Council. Chairman Parker asked to see if the Sheriff could be present at the next meeting.

**THE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**  
**TOWN OF YEMASSEE'S REQUEST:**

Administrator Posey stated that the Town of Yemassee is requesting assistance from Hampton County in the amount of \$9,000 (nine thousand dollars) to assist with a local cash match for a Community Development Grant awarded to the town to extend water lines in areas directly adjacent to the town. She stated that the Town of Yemassee was awarded a \$360,000 (three hundred sixty thousand dollars) CDB Grant. She stated that the grant will be used to upgrade and extend water

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services to residents in an area just outside town limits. She stated that it involves the installation of transmission lines as well as connections to LMI homes in the target area. The project area includes approximately 46 occupied homes of which 60% are LMI. She stated that included in the project are Cohran, Dot, Oliver, Solomon, John, Riley, Well, Willis, O'Banner and Osborne. Administrator Posey stated that there is a \$38,000 (thirty-eight thousand dollars) match, and the Town of Yemassee is requesting \$9,000 (nine thousand dollars) from the County. She stated that Council previously approved funds not to exceed \$8,650 (eight thousand, six hundred fifty dollars) to the Town of Yemassee for a grant match to upgrade the WWIF. The town was successful in securing these funds from another source and did not need County funds. Council Member Wilson stated that what he is hearing is approval for an additional \$350.00 (three hundred fifty dollars) because the previously approved funds were not used. Administrator Posey stated that this was correct. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to grant the Town of Yemassee \$9,000 (nine thousand dollars) to assist with a local cash match for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded for the extension of water lines to County residents. Motion carried.

**HAMPTON COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Administrator Posey stated that Hampton County Council adopted the first Hampton County Strategic Plan in May 2001. She stated that the plan was updated in June of 2002. Administrator Posey stated that the June 2002 plan needed to be updated. She stated that the Department of Commerce staff facilitated the last planning sessions and will facilitate this planning session. She stated that the Mayor from each precinct will serve. She stated that the project categories were Economic Development, Infrastructure, Quality of Life and Community Development, Workforce Readiness and Education. Administrator Posey stated that she assigned the council members to their area of interest. (See attached Suggested Chair and Proposed Committee Breakdown). She stated that the goal is to have representation from all areas of the county. She stated that Hampton County is broken into eighteen (18) precincts for voting purposes. She stated that the Mayor and Council for each community will be contacted for a representative to serve on the committee. She stated that where there is no mayor and council, the county will ask the precinct clerk to serve as the representative. Administrator Posey stated that professionals in the area of Infrastructure, Quality of Life and Community Development, Workforce Readiness and Education will be asked to work with each committee and serve as an information resource. She stated that Hampton County management staff person will also serve as a resource to the committees. Administrator Posey stated that Dr. William Small, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Commission, has consented to serve as Chairman of the Steering Committee. Administrator Posey stated that the public has three opportunities to give input by attending committee meetings and speaking during public input, mailing input to Hampton County Strategic Plan Process and giving input to committee members. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to accept the Strategic Plan. Motion carried.

**WATERMELON FESTIVAL COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR MUD PIT:**

Administrator Posey stated that the Watermelon Festival Committee is requesting use of County property at the airport to hold a mud run on June 26, 2005. She stated that the County Attorney prepared the resolution that spells out the terms of the agreement for use of the Airport property for the mud run. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

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(Council Member Wilson had to leave.)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS (Economic Development, Library and the McSweeney Building), LEGAL MATTER (County Attorney) AND A PERSONNEL MATTER (A Department of One):**

**Moved** by Council Member Ball seconded by Council Member Johnson, to go into executive session. Motion carried. Session began 6:30 p. m. and ended 8:59 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After coming out of Executive Session**, Chairman Parker stated that:

- Contractual Matter (Economic Development) - The Economic Development Director updated Council on a potential company.
- Contractual Matter (Library) - Council received information from the Administrator.
- Contractual Matter (McSweeney Building) - Council received information from the Administrator.
- Legal Matter (County Attorney) - Council was updated.
- Personnel Matter (A Department of One) - Council received information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson to adjourn. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p. m.