

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; JUNE 5, 2006; 6:00 P. M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 5, 2006, 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 Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Byrd, County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Wilson.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**HAMPTON COUNTY 'S FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 BUDGET:**

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the fiscal year 2006-2007 budget. The following departments spoke in regards to the funding for their agencies:

- Roy Hollingsworth, Clemson Extension
- Clyde Hinchler, Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Jim Wescott, Lowcountry Tourism
- Rochelle Ferguson, Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA)
- Beth McNeer, AHJ Regional Library
- Ann C. Carmicheal, USC Salkehatchie
- Ron Huber, Hampton Fire Department
- Bobby Sullivan

Chairman Parker closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

There were no public comment(s)

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**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF THE MAY 15, 2006 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested: (1) addition to the Administrator's Report regarding an update on the NACO Prescription Drug Card Program, #13.1.1 **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the requested revision. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MAY 15, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**RECOGNITION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR, DANNY BLACK, CEO AND PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERNCAROLINA ALLIANCE (SCA):**

Chairman Parker on behalf of Council presented a plaque to Danny Black, CEO and President of Southern Carolina Alliance, for being named the Economic Developer of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Economic Developers.

**LeCREUSET ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Administrator Graham stated that she was happy to announce that LeCreuset was expanding at the Multi-County Industrial Park. She read the announcement (see attachment #1). Mr. Troy Shearouse stated that they were happy with the expansion and at the inception of this venture at the Multi-County Park had planned to expand. Council Member Bowers thanked Mr. Shearouse and stated that LeCreuset was one of the first industries to locate in the park. Council thanked Mr. Shearouse for the good news.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Council Member Bowers stated that since there were the exact of amount of candidates as vacancies, he would like to make a motion. He stated that there is one person who made application for the Tax Appeals Board who is a member of the Zoning Board for a municipality. He stated that he would like to appoint with the condition of him resigning from the Zoning Board of that municipality, and if he chooses not to, then the appointment will not stand and the vacancy would be advertised. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Members Wilson, to appoint the candidates to the respective boards with the condition that the candidate for the Tax Appeals Board who is a member of a Zoning Board for a municipality resigns his position from that board. If he does not resign, then the appointment would be null and void and the vacancy

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advertised again. The following were appointed:

**Aging Board**

Lillian Williams

**Planning Commission**

George Knight

**Arts Council**

James Norris, III

Terry Pruitt

**Tax Appeals Board**

Shelia Bowers

Jacob Sullivan

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolution(s) scheduled.

**ORDINANCES**

**THIRD (3<sup>rd</sup>) AND FINAL READING TO HAMPTON COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR  
2006-2007 BUDGET:**

Council Member Bowers stated that he wanted to make a comment. Council Member Bowers stated that he's been there 20 years, and he is sympathetic with everybody, and he would like to give everybody everything they want, but Council has hashed and rehashed this budget. He stated that he was at the Gifford Festival and he saw Chairman Parker on Saturday and the guy had in his pocket a tax bill for a Volkswagon, and the bill was \$2,000 and some odd dollars. He stated that his motion is that they adopt the final reading of this budget as is and let everybody knowing that if they get in an emergency situation they can come to Council, because Council has a contingency fund. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, for Council to give third reading as they did in second reading to the 2006-2007 budget. Chairman Parker asked if there was any discussion. She stated that what she would like to do is consider or discuss some of the other things. She stated that she had some questions about the future and some other discussion about the alliance situation. Chairman Parker stated that they have down there a budget session, if needed, which would be next Monday. She stated that this would still give them the last county council meeting, the 19<sup>th</sup> of the June, the end of the month to pass the budget in plenty of time. She stated that this was her discussion. She asked if there was further discussion. Council Member Johnson stated that he passed out something the other night about the Sheriff having a complexity. He stated that every problem has a solution. He stated that he passed a handout to go to the Administrator, and he would like to look at that before he votes on anything. Council Member Bowers stated that they had a motion and a second. Chairman Parker asked Mr. Johnson if he wanted not right now look at this. He stated that he would like to look at this before Council finalizes the budget. Council Member Ball stated that she is sympathetic also especially with the library, and she thought that the last budget workshop was the last budget meeting. She stated that they had also discussed the purchase of the property for the library and had made some other type contributions. She stated that she thought that Council would consider in the future, especially with next year's budget, to make that additional funding available. She stated that she did agree that if there were emergency situations or if someone runs out of funding, then council could pull from

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contingency or somewhere. Council Member Wilson stated that he, personally, would like to look over a few things like Council Member Johnson was talking about. He stated that he made a statement last year and sometimes this year. He stated that all the line items; he wanted to look at them to be sure

what they were. He stated that he got a package with salaries for this department and salaries for that department and no break out of who gets what. He stated that he had a question about different employees as to why this wasn't considered and why that wasn't considered. He stated that he couldn't answer that, because all he saw was a lump sum. He stated that there may be \$100,000 for this department and \$180,000 for that department, and it would be hard to justify a fair ratio. He stated that he had problems with that. Council Member Wilson stated that he had some concerns about the overtime situation. He stated that he also had problems with some of the funding for some of the departments and wanted it broken out to see what that line item is. He stated that he would like to look at that part; he stated that he has not seen that yet. He stated that he is just seeing blanket figures. Chairman Parker stated that the breakout be in the budget books, the line items. Administrator Graham stated that if there was some additional information that he wanted, then she would be happy to provide it. She stated that she did not receive a request for anything except that which was provided. Administrator Graham stated that she could give him more detail. Council Member Ball stated that she has not been on council nearly as long as he has, but she has not seen an opportunity to have a balanced budget with no millage increase. She stated that she feels that the citizens of Hampton County are entitled to that. She stated that they have waited a long time not to have a millage increase. Chairman Parker stated that she hopes so too but she thinks that they have one more opportunity to be sure and to ask more questions. Chairman Parker asked if there were any comments. There were none. She called for the vote. **The motion** did not pass with Council Members Ball and Bowers voting "Yea" and Council Members Johnson, Parker and Wilson voting "Nay". Chairman Parker stated that a budget workshop which was scheduled, if needed, would be held on Monday, June 12, 2006, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina.

**BIDS**

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING**

**SALVAGE / JUNKYARD ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Council Member Wilson stated that Salvage / Junkyard Ordinance Committee met and suggested some changes. He stated that they have scheduled another meeting. Chairman Parker wanted to know if they would have it in the next two weeks. Council Member Wilson stated that the committee has a meeting scheduled before the next council meeting in two weeks.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

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**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**NACO's Prescription Drug Card Program**

Administrator Graham stated that they issued their first card. She stated that Council Member Johnson attended and so did Mr. Hiers, Risk Manager. She stated that all the pharmacies in Hampton County are participating. Administrator Graham stated that the cards would provide medication assistance to those uninsured and underinsured individuals. She stated that there is no sign up, etc. She stated that the county has cards available in various locations in the county.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Parker stated that an executive session was needed for a contractual matter and an economic development matter. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter and an economic development matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:18 p. m. and ended 7:50 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to come out of executive session. **After coming out of executive session**, Chairman Parker stated that council received an update on an economic development contract and an update regarding an economic development matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p. m.