

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; AUGUST 21, 2006; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING
201 JACKSON AVENUE, WEST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 21, 2006, 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(s) absent: Lee S. Bowers. 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:

Chairman Parker 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 Chairman Parker.

Chairman Parker stated that since there were a lot of people present to address the Water Capacity Use Issue. Chairman Parker stated that she would like the representatives from the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to give their presentation on the Water Capacity Use Program first, before hearing the citizens' comment(s). She stated that she would like for the meeting to proceed in this manner, because the presentation may answer some of the question(s) that the citizens may have.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

BUSINESS LICENSE:

Mr. Neil Sullivan, Nixville, SC – Mr. Neil Sullivan came before council and stated that he was not against the business license ordinance, but had some concerns regarding the wording. He presented council with some of his concerns. Mr. Sullivan stated that the list was based on the first draft of the ordinance, but since has received a revised version of the ordinance that addressed some of his concerns.

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LIBRARY:

Ms. Emily Hiers, Chairman, Library Board - Ms. Hiers came before council and spoke in support of the need for the additional funds for the library.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 21, 2006 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested: (1) Deferral of Item #10.2.2, Business License Fee Ordinance and (2) Addition of Item #13.1.3, EMS Station in Estill. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the requested revisions. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

WATER CAPACITY USE AREA PRESENTATION BY MR. ROB DEVLIN AND MR. JACK CHILDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:

Mr. Rob Devlin and Mr. Jack Childress of the Department of Health and Environmental Control came before council and did a presentation regarding the Water Capacity Use Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) CONTINUED

WATER CAPACITY USE PROGRAM

Mr. Gary Youmans – Mr. Youmans wanted to know how it would affect agricultural farmers if Hampton County became a part of the Water Capacity Use Program.

Mr. Lin Youmans – Mr. Lin Youmans stated that there were test wells in Hampton County. He provided resources regarding where information could be found regarding water levels in the county. Mr. Youmans stated that the Department of Natural Resources collected information on water levels in the county also.

Mr. Marion Smith – Mr. Smith stated that he has rental property. He was told by one of his residents that they had no water. He had to install a new well. He stated that his mother is in the nursing home, and he depends on the income from the rental property to pay for her care. Mr. Smith stated that all citizens are entitled to basic rights, like air, water, etc.

Mr. Jay Knowles – Mr. Knowles had concerns about his garden. He stated that he had planted a garden but had calcium build up on the tomatoes. He was afraid to water them. He stated that the water levels were going down in the area in which he lived.

Mrs. Teresa Cope – Ms. Cope was concerned about the water levels going down in Hampton County. She stated that in the area of Hwy 3 and Browningsgate Crossroads, etc.

Mrs. Marie Strickland – Mrs. Marie Strickland of Furman stated that they had to install a new pump. Their well went dry.

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Mrs. Eva Penn - Mrs. Penn also stated that she lived across the road where there was a grass farm. She stated that she had concerns about the low water levels also.

BUSINESS LICENSE

Gary Youmans – Mr. Youmans stated that he was opposed to the Business License Fee Ordinance. He stated that the way that the ordinance reads, it would be taxing the input of a business as well as the product of the business.

Mr. Lin Youmans – Mr. Youmans stated that this is more of a sales tax instead of a business license fee. He stated that this fee is based on the gross amount of the revenue of a business. Mr. Youman stated that he feels that this is a sales tax and thought that the State of South Carolina only had the authority to impose a sales tax. Mr. Youmans stated that they chose to do business in Hampton County but own property in other counties. He stated that the roads run out of Hampton County also.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AUGUST 7, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-010, MILLAGE ORDINANCE:

Administrator Graham presented the millage ordinance (See attachment #1). **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give second (2nd) reading to the Millage Ordinance, Ordinance #2006-010. Motion carried with Council Members Ball, Parker and Wilson voting “Yea” and Council Member Johnson voting “Nay”.

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-013, BUSINESS LICENSE FEE ORDINANCE DEFERRED:

Administrator Graham stated that it was recommended by the County Attorney to defer this item until they receive further information.

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SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-014, HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE BY TITLE ONLY:

Chairman Parker wanted to give second (2nd) reading to the Rules and Procedures Ordinance. Council Member Wilson stated that he had several questions about some items in the ordinance and, he felt that council needed more time to review the ordinance. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give second (2nd) reading to the Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance. Motion carried with Council Members Ball, Johnson and Parker voting "Yea" and Council Member Wilson voting "Nay". Chairman Parker asked that council members to meet at 5:00 p. m. on Thursday, August 31, 2006 for a workshop to discuss the ordinance.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

HAMPTON COUNTY'S ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE HOSPITAL'S REQUEST TO WAIVE THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE(S):

Administrator Graham stated that the hospital made the request to waive the building permit fees for Hampton Regional Medical Center's Building Project. Chairman Parker stated that the committee recommended that the request be denied to waive the building permit fees but agreed that the county supports the hospital's building projects in some manner. **Motion** carried with the acceptance of the Administration and Finance Committee's recommendation.

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG) REPORT:

Chairman Parker presented the LCOG Report as information.

THE SENATE'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Chairman Parker stated that Senator Clementa Pinckney had several meetings to inform the constituents of issues that were discussed and passed in Senate. Chairman Parker stated that Senator Pinckney will be coming to a county council meeting to do a similar presentation. (See Senate's Highlights attached.)

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Library Request for Funding of \$5,339

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give the library their request of an additional \$5,339 (five thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars). Motion carried unanimously.

SCAC's Focus Article

Administrator Graham shared a copy of the FOCUS article that outlined events that have taken

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place. She also thanked the Guardian for spotlighting the county officials.

EMS Station in Estill

Administrator Graham stated that she had a request from the EMS Coordinator, Chris Altman. She stated that the EMS Station in Estill is in need of repairs. She stated that the Coordinator has requested that the EMS Station in Estill be moved to the Fire Station. She stated that Estill Town Council has agreed as well as the firemen. She stated that they will share the space, and the county will pay the utilities. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the request. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Parker stated that there was a need for an executive session to discuss a personnel matter, a department of one, and economic development contractual matter(s). **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 8:20 p. m. and ended 8:55 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. **After coming out of executive session**, Chairman Parker stated that council received information on economic development projects.

Economic Development Contractual Matter(s)

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to join the Southern Carolina Alliance when proper contracts are negotiated and meet the approval of council for full membership and also with the understanding that the Lowcountry Alliance is not dropped, but Hampton County will continue talking with them. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Matter (Department of One)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p. m.