

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; FEBRUARY 5, 2007; 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, February 5, 2007, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips and Willard E. Wilson. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gray 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 Gray.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

1. Marie Strickland – Mrs. Strickland made comments in support of efforts for clean up of litter in Hampton County. She also inquired about the missing drugs that were never found at the sheriff's department. She stated that the issue of the missing drugs should not be forgotten.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Chairman's Update, (2) 13.1.6 - Courthouse Parking Issue with South Carolina Department of Transportation, (3) 13.1.7 – Charrette Proposal, (3) 13.1.8 – Ambulance Offer from Beaufort County. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the minutes with necessary corrections, if any. Chairman Gray asked if there were any corrections. There were no responses. Motion carried. Chairman Gray stated that the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

APPOINTMENT(S):

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint the following:

Hampton County Council on Aging Board

Neil Sullivan

Hampton County Economic Development Commission

Lamar E. Priester, Jr.

Hampton County Planning Commission

Timothy E. "Ed" Simmons

SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to accept the recommendation to appoint Hugh B. Gray (3 year term), Marjorie Thomas (2 year term) and Terry Wright (1 year term) to the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION(S)

RESOLUTION #R 2007-002, MILITARY TROOPS RECOGNIZED:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the resolution supporting Hampton County military troops and their families and to proclaim February 8, 2007 as "Yellow Ribbon" Day in Hampton County. Motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION #R 2007-003, COUNCIL ON AGING:

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson. to adopt Resolution # R2007-003, the resolution that authorizes the Hampton County Council on Aging of Hampton County to file an application with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) on behalf of Hampton County Council for a grant to assist in providing general public transportation services with the understanding that \$6,000 in matching funds will be needed if the grant is awarded. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-002, SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS RIGHT OF WAY:

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first (1st) reading to Ordinance #2007-002. There was some discussion regarding the width of the right of way, etc. Administrator Graham stated that she will request that SCE&G put the cables/lines underground. There was an inquiry as to the depth that the lines would be buried, etc. Chairman Gray stated that he was sure that there was a law that determined specifications. Attorney Solomons stated that there were regulations. Motion carried.

BIDS

BID #06-06, ASBESTOS AND LEAD BASED PAINT REMOVAL:

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the recommendation as presented by the County Administrator and award the bid to Abate Insulate, the low bidder, for \$25,240 (twenty-five thousand, two hundred forty dollars). Motion carried.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER REGARDING THE LITTER DILEMA IN HAMPTON COUNTY:

Council Member Parker stated that she was concerned with the litter dilemma in the county and displayed a picture board of littered sites around the county. Council Member Parker asked that economic development people, the news media, etc. continue to emphasize the importance of a clean county.

CHARRETTE PROPOSAL:

Administrator Graham asked that council consider approving the Charette proposal from Mr. Ben Boozer, Director of Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development. The proposal is for a countywide charrette for Hampton County to include the county and all the municipalities. Council Member Parker explained that a Charrette was when a small group of professionals / experts come to an area like a county or municipality for a three (3) day period and formulate and develop ideas to brand or market a county or municipality. She stated that at the end of the 3rd day, they will present a report for that municipality or county. Council had

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concerns regarding the timing of the request. They asked if it could not wait and be considered for next year's budget. Council Member Parker asked that Council consider the matter for this budget year. Council stated that if Council Member Parker could find funding for the project, they would consider it for this budget year. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to table the matter until Dr. Parker can come back with some funding sources. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Gray stated that he would like the "Chairman's Update" to be a standard item under Council's Briefings. Chairman Gray gave an update as to what council did and upcoming events, etc. that will happen prior to the next council meeting. (Attachment #1 – Chairman's Update).

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Lease Agreement with Lowcountry Rural Health for the Economic Development Office

Administrator Graham stated that the Economic Development Office is considering relocating to the Harrison Peoples Building and must have a lease to do so. She stated that funds are budgeted to lease space, and the County Attorney has reviewed the lease agreement. She stated that council has a draft of the lease. She did not have the final lease. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to authorize the County Administrator and the County Attorney to execute the lease agreement. Council Member Wilson stated that they need to stay within budget. Motion carried.

Quarterly Financial Report through 12/31/2006 (Mike Meyer, Finance Director)

Mr. Meyer, Finance Director, presented the Quarterly Financial Report through 12/31/2006 to council. He stated that there were no major issues. (Attachment #2 – Quarterly Financial Report Ending 12/31/2006).

Nuisance Ordinance Update

Administrator Graham presented a report to council regarding the Nuisance Ordinance. She provided an overview of the report.

Year End Summary for Fiscal Year 2006

Administrator Graham stated that she did not have it prepared. She stated that she had it in draft form but would present it at the next council meeting.

SouthernCarolina Alliance Activity Report for January 2007

Administrator Graham presented SouthernCarolina Alliance's Activity Report for January 2007. (Attachment #3)

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Intersection and Courthouse Parking

Administrator Graham stated that South Carolina Department of Transportation had some safety concerns regarding the turn about design. She stated that the suggestion was to take out the parking space in front of the courthouse. Council had concerns regarding the elimination of parking space for citizens conducting business at the courthouse. Council asked that the Administrator contact the consultants and ask what alternatives would there be if the parking space in front of the courthouse was eliminated.

Beaufort County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Hampton County Council

Administrator Graham stated that Beaufort County would like to put a satellite EOC in Hampton County. She stated that Hampton County could use the facility unless otherwise needed by Beaufort County during emergencies, meetings, etc. She stated that the center would be connected to the Hampton County EOC but would be owned by Beaufort County. She stated that Beaufort County would pay the electricity for the addition. Administrator Graham stated that they are asking for a twenty (20) year lease. Administrator Graham stated that the agreement would have to come back to council for approval; she just needed council to authorize her to proceed with discussions. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, for the County Attorney and the County Administrator to proceed with the proposal from Beaufort County regarding the Emergency Operations Center. Motion carried.

Purchase of Ambulance

Administrator Graham stated that Beaufort County offered to sell Hampton County two (2) ambulances at a cost of \$2,500 each. She stated that the mechanic has looked at the ambulances, and they are in very good shape. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to accept the offer from Beaufort County and purchase two (2) ambulances at \$2,500 (two thousand, five hundred dollars) each. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to go into executive session to discuss contractual matter(s) and a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:40 p. m. and ended 8:30 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After** coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council discussed two issues, a personnel matter and contractual matters. He stated that the Administrator advised council of contractual matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p. m.