

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; MARCH 19, 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, March 19, 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 Council Member Wilson.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 19, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to add the letter of support for the Hospital's Doctor Office Project to the agenda. Motion carried. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to add the request from SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance to the agenda. Motion carried. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with approved revisions. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Chairman Parker stated that she had an addition to Page 2 of 5 at the bottom. She wanted the words "Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park" added to SCE&G's easement request. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the minutes with the addition. Motion carried. Chairman Gray stated that the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #2007-003, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, WITH APPROPRIATE SERIES DESIGNATIONS, OF HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN DETAILS RELATING TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Administrator Graham stated that the County Attorney has posed some questions. She stated that the amounts may change. She stated that it may be lower than the \$5,000,000. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first (1st) reading to Ordinance #2007-003, An ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$5,000,000 aggregate principal amount Capital Projects Sales Tax General Obligation Bonds. Motion carried.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

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COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:

Chairman Gray stated that he asked that a "Discussion Point" Item be added to the agenda to give council members an opportunity to bring up matters that may have been brought to them. He stated that this is the opportunity for council to share with the other council members. Chairman Gray stated that there would be no action taken on these items, because they would not be listed on the agenda for the meeting in which they are discussed. He asked if council had anything that they wanted to share:

- Council Member Wilson made some comments regarding the brick work at the Emergency Services Building. The Buildings and Grounds Committee (Council Members Parker and Phillips) will look into the matter and report to council.

BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Council Member Wilson reported that the Business License Ordinance Committee met at 5:00 p. m. today and discussed the Business License Ordinance. He stated that it was a unanimous decision of the Business License Ordinance Committee (Council Members Johnson and Wilson) that Council not pass the ordinance. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to accept the recommendation of the Business License Committee and not pass the Business License Ordinance. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Johnson, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Parker voting against. Council Member Parker asked if council would consider the Business License Registration Fee. Administrator Graham stated that the purpose of the Business License Ordinance was to generate revenue. She stated that clearly it would have covered part-time staff to implement the Business License Program. Administrator Graham stated that the Business License Registration Fee is not a revenue generator; its purpose is to keep track of businesses. Council Member Parker stated that she has information from Lexington County regarding the Business License Registration Fee. Council Member Parker stated that she would make a presentation at the next meeting regarding the Business License Registration Fee.

"LITTER ENFORCEMENT IN EDUCATION – SUCCESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA":

Council Member Parker made a presentation regarding litter enforcement in South Carolina. She cited Spartanburg and Anderson Counties and the efforts that they are making in litter enforcement. She stated that they need to get serious about litter whether the Litter Officer is under the Administrator or the Sheriff's office, etc. Council Member Parker stated that there was a reward years ago for litter. Council would like a copy of the resolution regarding litter.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Council Members Parker and Phillips, Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported to council their findings at the Health Department, Council on Aging Building (Yemassee) and the Recreation Department. Administrator Graham requested a copy of their report and will follow up.

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SETTING OF DATE FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WORKSHOP:

Council stated that they will meet on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 5:00 p. m. to discuss the policies and procedures.

**REMINDER TO COMPLETE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST AND
SUBMIT BEFORE DEADLINE OF APRIL 15, 2007:**

Chairman Gray reminded council and all officials to complete and submit their Statement of Economic Interest prior to the deadline of April 15, 2007.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HOSPITAL'S DOCTOR OFFICES PROJECT:

Chairman Gray explained that the new hospital will not have doctor offices in it. He stated that the proposed project will have the doctor offices built near the hospital for approximately \$100 per square feet. Chairman Gray stated that this is just a letter of support for the project, there is no obligation on the county. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the draft letter in support of the Hospital's Doctor Office Project that is written. Motion carried.

REQUEST FROM SOUTHERNCAROLINA REGIONAL ALLIANCE:

Council Member Parker stated that SouthernCarolina Leadership is hosting an Economic Development Summit in which economic development commissions and council members are invited. She stated that each county is asked to share the cost of the meal which would be \$200. She stated that the summit is scheduled for next Thursday at 5:30 p. m., and Jim Rozier of Berkley County will be the speaker. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve \$200, Hampton County's portion, for the SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance Leadership Economic Development Summit meal. Motion carried.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Update on the Courthouse Asbestos Abatement and Approval of a Change Order

Mr. Gene Partin, Consultant, Terracon, stated that after getting into the building, the area for removal was greater and stated that this was the need for the change order. There was discussion. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the change order for the increase of \$17, 835 regarding the asbestos removal.

Council Member Johnson asked Mr. Perrin if they didn't look through the building prior to bidding. He stated that they did, but it was covered. He stated that people were still in the building, so they could not look under the covering. Administrator Graham stated that the funding is in the budget for the asbestos removal and air monitoring, etc.

Council Member Wilson asked if the additional funding is going to take care of all the asbestos removal. Mr. Perrin stated that it would. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Parker, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Johnson voting against.

Southern Carolina Activity Report

Administrator Graham presented SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance's activity report as information.

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UPDATE ON AUDIT RECOMMENDATION:

Administrator Graham stated that on March 13, 2007, they received four bids. She stated that a recommendation was not being made. She stated that this is why she said earlier that the bond may change. She stated that she was pleased to see that the bids came in close to each other. Council Member Parker stated that she would like to ask that former Council Member Lee Bowers be appointed as an ex-officio Buildings and Grounds Committee Member and be allowed to attend their meetings. She stated that he's been involved with this project for twelve (12) years. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to appoint Lee S. Bowers as an ex-officio member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss economic development matter(s) and a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:35 p. m. and ended 8:52 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After** coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council discussed the restructuring of county personnel and a potential new business for Hampton County.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p. m.