

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; APRIL 2, 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, April 2, 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)**

There were no public comment(s).

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 2, 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 approve the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Addition of Item #6.2, March 26, 2007 Special Council Meeting Minutes and (2) Addition of Item #13.1.5, Report from Moseley Architect (Mr. Robert Smith). Motion carried.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MARCH 19, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the minutes. Motion carried. Chairman Gray stated that the minutes were approved.

**MARCH 26, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the special meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**MS. SASHA WILLIAMS REGARDING STUDENT AMBASSADOR'S DONATION:**

Ms. Sasha Williams, Student, Wade Hampton High School, came before council and requested a donation as a participant of the Student Ambassador Program. Chairman Gray explained to Ms. Williams that county council did not donate to private individuals. He stated that if she contacted the members on an individual basis, then they may donate personally. Ms. Williams thanked council.

**MRS. GRAY HENDERSON, LOWCOUNTRY HOME CONSORTIUM BOARD MEMBER, REGARDING A REQUEST FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:**

Ms. Gray Henderson came before council and asked for the remainder of the funds in the Lowcountry HOME Consortium be allocated to the Habitat Housing program. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the request for Habitat for Humanity Project in the amount of \$31,375 (thirty-one thousand, three hundred seventy-five dollars). Motion carried.

**MR. J. BRUCE MURDAUGH, REQUEST FOR WAIVER REGARDING THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S DENIAL FOR REQUEST FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS:**

Mr. Murdaugh came before council to ask that the denial of his request by the Planning Commission be overturned. He asked that council approve his proposal and accept the streets. Council took Mr. Murdaugh's request for information. Chairman Gray stated that they would research the matter and get back to him.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointment(s).

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**RESOLUTION(S)**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WEEK PROCLAMATION:**

Chairman Gray stated that council was asked to adopt the proclamation recognizing April 22-28, 2007 as National County Government Week. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the proclamation recognizing April 22-28, 2007 as National County Government Week. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

**THIRD (3<sup>rd</sup>) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-002, ORDINANCE TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS (SCE&G):**

Chairman Gray stated that they have second reading of Ordinance #2007-002, regarding easement from South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) to move power lines located in front of the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading to Ordinance #2007-002, the ordinance to grant an easement to SCE&G (South Carolina Electric and Gas). (Located in front of the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park). Motion carried.

**SECOND (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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, 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.**

Chairman Gray stated that this was a General Obligation Bond for the courthouse. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to give second (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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.

**FIRST (1<sup>st</sup>) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-004, HAMPTON COUNTY 2007-2008 BUDGET ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Gray stated that council is in budget time and will be deliberating the budget for the coming year. He stated that any of the citizens that have a question or concern, comment about the way government is run or about any of the departments and how they are run should attend or be heard now before council passes the budget. He stated that tonight council has first reading of the 2007-2008 budget by title only on the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give first reading to the 2007-2008 Hampton County Budget Ordinance by title only. Motion carried.

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**BIDS**

**COURTHOUSE RENOVATION AND ADDITION PROJECT:**  
Administrator Graham asked that this matter be deferred.

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):**  
Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

**COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:**  
There were no discussion point(s) by council.

**REMINDER TO COMPLETE THE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST AND  
SUBMIT BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF APRIL 15, 2007:**  
Chairman Gray reminded all public officials who were required and who had not filed their  
Statement of Economic Interest to do so prior to the deadline.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Overtime Funding For Veterans Affairs Office**

Administrator Graham presented that request for funding from the Veterans Affairs office to cover overtime in the amount of \$5,540 (five thousand, five hundred forty dollars). She stated that the volume of work in the VA office given the status of our country with the activity of war. She stated that the activity has increased substantially so much so that the overtime is over what would be considered normal overtime. She distributed to council information from Mrs. Hodges which was a request for a part-time person to be hired. She stated that Mrs. Hodges talked about the workload and needing some additional assistance in the office to maintain their level of work. Administrator Graham stated that she did not do any research on the part-time request. She stated that she did not receive the request for part-time until Thursday. Administrator Graham stated that she does support the additional need for the funding for overtime. She stated that council may want to consider overtime or may request staff to do some additional calculations, etc. for part-time to see what it equates to. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the request for overtime and to get information on a part-time person. Motion carried.

**Out of State Travel Request from Administration**

Administrator Graham stated that she had an out of state travel request for herself to attend the National Association of Counties (NACO) Conference in Richmond, Virginia, July 14-17, 2007 and the approximate budget is \$1,297 (one thousand, two hundred ninety-seven dollars) which covers lodging, registration, meals and other fees. She stated that she would be happy to answer any questions. Administrator Graham stated that the county is a member of NACO. She stated

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that normally, we are not able to attend the conferences, because they are so far away, but she feels that it would be beneficial with the networking and the training that is provided at the national conference. She stated that Council must approve out of stated travel, so it is being presented for that reason. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the out of stated travel request from the Administrator to attend the National Association of Counties (NACO) Conference in Richmond, Virginia. Motion carried unanimously.

**Capital Projects Sales Tax Receipt Summary**

Administrator Graham provided a Capital Projects Sales Tax Receipt Summary. (See attachment #2)

**Update on Budget/Cost for Capital Projects**

Administrator Graham provided an update on the budget cost for the capital projects. (See attachment #3)

**Report from Moseley Architects (Mr. Robert Smith)**

Mr. Smith of Moseley Architects came before council to answer questions that Council had regarding the brick work and other concerns at the Emergency Services Building. Mr. Smith stated that on March 27, 2007, he and Mr. Richard Madison reviewed the brick and mortar work at they concurred that the brick and mortar style was to be consistent around the whole building. Mr. Smith stated that the mortar was slightly different in some areas. He stated that it could be noticed about five (5) feet away. He stated that in a wet surface, it could be noticed more. He stated that on a rainy day, you could actually see a difference. He stated that Mr. Madison had a concern area in the front of the construction, but the concern could be handled on a maintenance level. Council Members Johnson and Wilson questioned Mr. Smith regarding their concerns. Council Member Parker stated that she was proud of the building. Chairman Gray thanked Mr. Smith for coming.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter, contractual matter and economic development matter(s). Motion carried. Session began 6:55 p. m. and ended 8:34 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After** coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council discussed the study of restructuring of some government offices, contractual matter regarding a courthouse project and an economic development matter.

**REQUEST TO REVISIT MR. MURDAUGH'S REQUEST**

**Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to revisit the discussion of the request from Mr. Murdaugh. Motion carried. Council stated that they would request that Mr. Crews and Mr. Hodge provide an update to council on Thursday at 5:00 p. m. regarding the road request situation, because council will be meeting for budget workshop.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p. m.