

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JUNE 18, 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, June 18, 2007, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman 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 Kevin Byrd, County Chaplain, Hampton County, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Phillips.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s) scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 18, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Ms. Sarah Robinson, Palmetto Pride, (2) Addition of Item #10.3.2, Amendment to the Unified Land Development Ordinance, (3) Item 13.1.3, Water Capacity Use Program Update and (4) Item #13.1.4, Request to cancel the July 2, 2007 County Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Sarah Robinson, Palmetto Pride Representative

Ms. Sarah Robinson, Palmetto Pride, updated council on the Palmetto Pride Grant Program and the benefits of affiliation.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint the following:

Council on Aging Board:	Melvin Mathais
Arts Council:	Becky Peebles Young
LRTA Board:	William Small

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

**HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2007-008, AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING CODE
ORDINANCE:**

ORDINANCE #2007-008, AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING CODE ORDINANCE:

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give second reading to the amendment to the Hampton County Building Code Ordinance to adopt recommendations of the Building Inspector regarding the updating of the building codes to include the National Electrical Code and the 2003 International Building Codes and to make changes to the fee schedule within the ordinance. Motion carried with Council Members Parker, Phillips and Gray voting in favor and Council Member Johnson voting against. Council Member Wilson abstained, because he was a contractor.

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ORDINANCE #2007-005, HAMPTON COUNTY'S RULES AND PROCEDURES AMENDED

Chairman Gray stated that the second reading for the amendment to the Hampton County Rules and Procedures were next. County Attorney Solomons stated that he mailed council the information that was requested of him to each council member regarding the Conflict of Interest. Council Member Wilson stated that the statement to be included in the Rules and Procedures should state that "All council members should abide by the rules as set by the State Ethics Commission." He stated that the State Ethics is the body in which sanctions elected officials regarding violations of ethics. Council Member Parker stated that she felt that the statement should remain as is regarding council members doing business with the county. **Moved** by Council Member Parker for the conflict of interest section to state: "(1) If any member of council and his family member is an owner of a business or establishment for profit or has a controlling interest therein such a business or establishment for profit shall not be granted a contract or franchise with the County of Hampton. Public utilities are excepted.

- a. Family member means an individual who is (1) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild of the council member or county employee; or (2) an individual claimed by the council member, county employee or his spouse as a dependent for income tax purposes.

(2) No member of council shall solicit, receive or accept any money or other thing of value in addition to that received in official capacity for advice or assistance given in the course of employment as a member of council, other than compensation received in his official capacity. (Conflict of Interest, S. C. Code 1976, Sec. 4-9-180)." Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Parker and Phillips voting in favor and Council Members Johnson and Wilson voting against. Council Member Phillips stated that he would second it for the purpose of discussion. There was a discussion regarding the matter. Council Member Phillips asked if a ruling could be gotten. Council Member Wilson stated that you could get one from the Ethics Commission. Council Member Parker stated that maybe County Attorney Solomons could contact the Association of Counties. The County Attorney will contact the Ethics Commission regarding the requested information for Council.

ORDINANCE #2007-010, TOWER AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS AND HAMPTON COUNTY FOR RENTAL OF TOWER SPACE ON A TOWER NEAR THE TOWN OF GIFFORD:

Administrator Graham presented the agreement from South Carolina Electric and Gas regarding the rental of tower space on a tower near the Town of Gifford. Administrator Graham stated that she does not know the actual rate for rental of the tower space. She stated that they want to negotiate the rate. She stated that the renewal will be for five (5) years with the option to renegotiate for five (5) years. **Moved** By Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give first (1st) reading to Ordinance #2007-010, Ordinance #2007-010, Tower Agreement Between South Carolina Electric and Gas and Hampton County for Rental of Tower Space on a Tower Near the Town of Gifford. Motion carried unanimously.

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AMENDMENT TO UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE:

Ms. Lawton O'Cain, Chair, Planning Commission, stated that she would like council to sit down with the Planning Commission and discuss the requested amendments in detail. She stated that the Planning Commission will meet on the fourth (4th) Monday. Administrator Graham stated that she would like Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) to review the proposed amendment before giving second reading. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first (1st) reading to the proposed amendments to the two sections of the Unified Development Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

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

Emergency Operations Center Hearing

Chairman Gray stated that Council Member Parker will conduct the public hearing on June 28, 2007 at 10:00 a. m. in the Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina.

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:

There were no discussion point(s) by council.

CHARRETTE UPDATE (COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER):

Council Member Parker stated that Administrator Graham has not received a contract regarding the charrette and will call the people at Clemson tomorrow to see what dates are available for the fall. She stated that council could mark the dates of June 11th and 12th off their calendars for the charrette.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Revised Budgetary Policies and Allowances

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the Budgetary Policies and Allowances for 2007-2008. Council Member Wilson stated that he did not agree with the authorization of the Administrator to transfer up to \$5,000 between departments. He stated that he did not have a problem to transfer within departments, but requests to transfer between departments should come before council. Council Member Johnson stated that he would agree if the departments are aware of the transfer and agree to it. Council Member Parker stated that they discussed the matter in budget workshop, and everyone agreed.

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Council Member Wilson stated that they discussed it in budget workshop, but he did not agree to it then. The motion carried with Council Members Gray, Johnson, Parker and Phillips voting in favor and Council Member Wilson voting against.

Update on Joint Meeting with Delegation (Clerk to Council)

The Clerk to Council updated Council on the proposed joint meeting with the Legislative Delegation. It is scheduled for June 25, 2007.

Water Capacity Use Update

Administrator Graham updated Council regarding the Water Capacity Use Program. She stated that she received information from DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) today, and they would like to come late July or early August to give a report.

Request to Cancel July 2, 2007 Meeting

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to cancel the July 2, 2007 county council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel (Sheriff's Department)

Sheriff Small came before council regarding an appeal for additional personnel and requested that his department be paid overtime at the rate of other departments, time and a half. He stated that his department is being overwhelmed and to keep the people and take the burden off being overworked from them; he needs additional deputies. Council will study the matter and get back to the sheriff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss an economic development matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 8:15 p. m and ended 8:45 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that the County Administrator brought county council up to date on an economic development matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p. m.