

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; OCTOBER 1, 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, October 1, 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: Shellie Murdaugh, 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 gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Master Garrett Ulmer, 4-Her.

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 OCTOBER 1, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the following revision: (1) deletion of Item #12.2. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

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

PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF 4-H STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE WINNER (MS. KARISSA ULMER, 4-H AGENT):

Mrs. Karissa Ulmer introduced the 4-Hers. She stated that Aline K. "Krissy" Newton was a Regional Representative on the State Council and highlighted her leadership qualities and recognitions. She stated that Angelique was the winner in the State Communications Competition. Chairman Gray presented certificates of recognition to Angelique Mole and Aline K. Newton for their accomplishments in 4-H.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH:

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adopt the proclamation recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE(S)

ORDINANCE #2007-012, TO IMPOSE A \$25 MOBILE HOME FEE (BY TITLE ONLY):

Chairman Gray stated that this supports the new state law that allows the counties to implement a \$25 fee to dispose of abandoned and derelict mobile homes. There was a short discussion. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, for a council

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committee be organized to study the ordinance with first (1st) reading by title only of the Ordinance #2007-012. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #2007-013, TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCE BY PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF AIRCRAFT SUBJECT TO PROPERTY TAX IN HAMPTON COUNTY, TO ESTABLISH THE ASSESSMENT RATIO OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF SUCH AIRCRAFT:

Mr. Lee Ellis, Chairman, Hampton County Airport Commission, stated that the ordinance would cut the assessment value from 10% to 4%. There was a short discussion regarding the matter. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to give first reading to Ordinance #2007-013, to amend the code of ordinances by providing for the assessment of aircraft subject to property tax in Hampton County; to establish the assessment ratio of the fair market value of such aircraft. Motion carried with Council Member Johnson voting against because of the 4% rate.

BIDS

VEHICLE PURCHASE (3 TRUCKS – LANDFILL/RECYCLING, ROAD AND BRIDGES AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Administrator Graham stated that Public Works requested the purchase of three new vehicles. Four old trucks will be taken out of service and sold. These trucks are 1990 or 1995 models with more than 200,000 miles on them. The Roads and Bridges fleet will be reduced from six vehicles to four. Funds to purchase the new trucks are available due to the sale of public works equipment on GovDeals.com. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the purchase of three trucks for Public Works via State Contract pricing at \$69,224 (sixty-nine thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars). Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #1)

BIDS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES:

Administrator Graham stated that bids for two 4x4 crew cab trucks were solicited as required through local media. The Emergency Services Director, Fire Chief and Finance Director opened and reviewed the bids. She stated that the trucks are equipped identically, one for Fire and one for Emergency Medical Services. She stated that the vehicles were budgeted in the current fiscal year and the bids are within the budgeted amounts. She stated that funding for one of the vehicles is coming from a Department of Health and Environmental Control grant. Administrator Graham stated that after the review of the bids, the Emergency Services Director and the Fire Chief recommended that Council award the bid for the two emergency vehicles to the low bidder, Kelley Communications. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to award the bid for the two emergency vehicles to the low bidder, Kelley Communications for \$49,350 (forty-nine thousand, three hundred fifty dollars). Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #2)

BIDS FOR REROOFING THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

Administrator Graham stated that bids were solicited as required through the local media. She stated that the shingles on the roof received hail damage from a storm that resulted in leaks. She stated that County's insurance provider will cover the cost of the shingling. She stated that it is anticipated that the County will incur additional costs of approximately \$8,300 (Eight thousand, three hundred dollars) to replace the damaged wood and flashing and upgrade to a 30 year

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shingle. She stated that the bid specified installation of thirty year architectural shingles, 30 pound felt, repair/replacement of structural damage including drip edges and flashing and complete clean up of site. Administrator Graham stated that after a review of the bids, the Building and Grounds Supervisor recommended that Council award the bid for the reproofing to the low bidder, AMR Company, Inc. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to accept the Building and Grounds Supervisor's recommendation and award the bid to the low bidder, AMR Company, Inc. for the amount of \$26,300 (Twenty-six thousand, three hundred dollars). Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #3)

BID FOR AMBULANCE:

Administrator Graham stated that the bids were solicited as required through local media. The Emergency Services Director and Finance Director opened and reviewed the bids. She stated that the ambulance was budgeted in the current fiscal year and the bid is within the budgeted amount. Administrator Graham stated that one bidder responded, Custom Trucks and Body Works, from Woodbury, Georgia. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to award the bid to the only bidder, Custom Trucks and Body Works, Inc. for \$92,500 (Ninety-two thousand, five hundred dollars). Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #4)

HAMPTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS) SIDEWALK PROJECT:

Administrator Graham stated that the County received a South Carolina Department of Transportation Grant for the Hampton County Sidewalk Project (US Hwy 601 from Locust Street to Ginn Altman Road). She stated that Civil Engineering Consulting Services is the firm managing this project. Administrator Graham stated that bids were solicited as required through the local media. She stated that bids were opened on September 25, 2007 in the Council Chambers of the B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the recommendation from Civil Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. and award the bid to 3-D Transport, Inc. of Varnville for the amount of \$91,778.66 (Ninety-one thousand, seven hundred seventy-eight thousand, sixty-six cents). Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #5)

BID FOR REPAIR OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE ANNEX BUILDING:

Administrator Graham stated that bids were solicited for repair work at the Health Department and Annex Building as a result of the list from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She stated that bids were solicited to replace the entrance roof on the Health Department, install gutters on the Health Department Annex, replace the first 24 inches of the flat roof due to rotten wood on the Annex Building, install new heavy duty drip edge and seal into gutter on the Annex Building and install a new flat roof strip on the Annex Building. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to accept the recommendation of the Building Supervisor, Dobie Hiers, and award the bid to QRS, Inc in the amount of \$5,125 (Five thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars) for the repair work at the at the health department and the annex building. Council Member Phillips asked if the money was budgeted for this. Administrator Graham stated that it was. Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #6)

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

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Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #7) Chairman Gray also announced that the Estill Fall Festival was on Saturday, October 6, 2007, and he was planning to participate. He stated that he will have his car available for anyone who wanted to ride with him in the parade to represent Hampton County Council.

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:

There were no discussion points by council.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Timber Removal Agreements

Mr. Ellis, Airport Commission, came before council and updated council on the progress of the Airport Commission's requests. He presented the agreements to have the timber cut that are located in the flight path of the airport. He stated that agreements are for the purchase of 30 trees at \$100 per tree. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the agreements for \$100 per tree for 30 trees for a total of \$3,000 (Three thousand dollars). Motion carried unanimously.

Reclassification of Positions – Detention Center

Administrator Graham asked Council to consider the reclassification of these positions at the Detention Center. She stated that the request is for the Operations Administrator to be upgraded from a grade 15 to a grade 18 and for the Senior Detention Officer be upgraded from a grade 12 to a grade 15. She stated that Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual requires that reclassification of positions to be approved by County Council. She stated that the increases including benefits would total \$7,230 (Seven thousand, two hundred thirty dollars).

Administrator Graham stated that funds are available to cover these upgrades within the Detention Center salaries budget due to an unfilled clerk position within the department. She stated that a copy of MGT's recommendation is included for your review. Council Member Phillips asked if they don't plan to add the clerk's position back. It was stated that it was not. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to reclassify the requested positions. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay Increases for Employees

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the three percent (3%) pay increase to all County employees of record effective the first payroll in January 2008 and to bring the pay of 30 (thirty) employees to a new minimum wage and approving and additional \$32,000 (thirty-two thousand dollars) from contingency to fund the increases. Motion carried unanimously. Administrator Graham stated that the salary pay scales will also be adjusted by the three percent.

Training for Boards and Commissions

The Boards and Commissions training is scheduled for October 9, 2007 at 6:00 p. m. at the Hampton Fire Station, Hampton, South Carolina.

Upcoming Meeting Reminder (DHEC's Capacity Use Declaration in Hampton County Public Hearing)

Administrator Graham stated that DHEC will be conducting a hearing on October 2, 2007 at the

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Hampton Fire Station regarding the Water Capacity Use Declaration in Hampton County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray announced that Council discussed a personnel matter regarding an evaluation and an economic development matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p. m.