

HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2011 6:00 PM
201 JACKSON AVE. WEST, HAMPTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 1, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the B.T. DeLoach Building. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

Council Present: Mr. Hugh Gray, Chair
Mr. Buddy Phillips, Vice-Chair
Mr. Chris Haulsee, Councilman

Council Absent: Mr. Virgin Johnson, Sr., Councilman
Mr. Shedron Williams, Councilman

Staff Present: Mrs. Sabrena Graham, Administrator
Mr. Mike Meyers, Finance/HR Director
Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Econ. Development Director
Mrs. Connie Schroyer, Stead for Clerk to Council

Staff Absent: Mr. Algie Solomons, County Attorney
Ms. Aline Newton, Clerk to Council

Media Present: Mr. Mike DeWitt, Hampton County Guardian

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm noting that there were enough council members present for a quorum.

2. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.1 **Invocation** – Pastor Kevin Byrd, Hampton County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

2.2 **Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilman Haulsee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1 Consent Agenda

3.1.1 July 18, 2011 County Council's Meeting Minutes

3.2 August 1, 2011 County Council Meeting Agenda

Moved by Councilman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Haulsee to adopt the Consent Agenda and the July 18, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s)

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda.

7. PRESENTATION(S)

7.1. **Mr. Ernie Washington, Sr., Coroner, Hampton County, Regarding Vehicle** – Mr. Washington was not present.

7.2. **Ms. Linda Givens, Chairman, Election Commission, Regarding the Relocation of Precincts Out of Private Homes**- A sub-committee of the Elections Commission and Voter Registration inspected the polling places of Horse Gall and Black Creek which are located in private homes.. The committee found no evidence of hazards

or pets that would inhibit voter participation. These two precincts bring in the highest percentage of voter turnout and there have been no complaints from citizens regarding their locations. Also considered by the committee was cost. There is no cost to use the homes as polling places. Rental cost would be incurred if moved to different locations. It was the decision of the Election Commission that the precincts of Horse Gall and Black Creek remain in their current locations. Mrs. Givens also reported that the Election Commission received an \$18,000 grant to ensure handicap access and general upkeep of polling places located on public property. Chairman Gray thanked Mrs. Givens and the Election Commission for their report.

- 7.3. **Ms. Sandy Fowler, Executive Director, Hampton County Economic Development Commission, Regarding Authorization from County Council for the County Attorney to Write a Letter to Palmetto Electric Cooperative Agreeing to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Concerning the Rural Economic Development Loan's (REDL's) Terms and Conditions** – As part of the USDA loan paperwork for the completion of the spec building, Palmetto Electric Cooperative is required to sign an agreement to the terms and conditions of the loan. Before making that commitment to USDA, Palmetto Electric would like Hampton County to issue a written letter also agreeing to the terms & conditions. Mrs. Fowler requested Council to authorize the county attorney to write an agreement letter to Palmetto Electric Cooperative. **Moved** by Councilman Haulsee, seconded by Councilman Phillips for the county attorney to comply with the request. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Fowler also commended the work of the Public Works Department for their work to create a road from the highway to the spec building site. Economic Development was grateful for the in-house, cost saving service.

8. APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s)

9. RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s)

10. ORDINANCE(S)

10.1 **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE(S)** – There were no third reading(s).

10.2 **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE(S)** – There were no second reading(s).

10.3 **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE(S)**

- 10.3.1. **Rescission of the First Reading of Ordinance #2011-12, Rezoning of Parcel #069-00-00-017 from Residential Conservation Development to Industrial Development** – This ordinance was requested by Mr. Barry Malphrus who was interested in purchasing the parcel for the establishment of storage units. By written letter, Mr. Malphrus has decided not to purchase the property. Subsequently, there is no need to change the current zoning. **Moved** by Councilman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Haulsee to rescind Ordinance #2011-12. Motion carried unanimously.

11. BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

12. COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

12.1. **Chairman's Update** (see attachment 1)

- 12.1.1. Chairman Gray reported that the Planning Commission held their monthly meeting on July 25; the County Municipal meeting was held July 25. The association is developing a set of by-laws for the organization; an area news item reports that Congressman Joe Wilson stated he has stalled the closure of rural post offices in his district; the Economic Development Commission held their bi-monthly meeting on July 19; Council was represented at the Marketing and Tourism Advisory Board on July 26. The group is making great progress in developing their Mission and Vision statements; Council's commendation extended to staff of the Emergency Services Department for their laudatory article in last week's Guardian; Congratulations extended to the Town of Yemassee upon the selection as the site for a television program; the Council

Chairman will continue to make the usual print and broadcast media presentation during the month; none of the County's Commissions or Boards will meet prior to the next Council meeting; reminded the public that the Yemassee Revitalization Corporation is seeking donations to help fund beautification of downtown and renovation of the train dept. The public is urged to support this effort; the next scheduled meeting of Hampton County Council is 6:00 pm on August 15 in Council Chambers.

12.2. Discussion Points (Council Members)

12.2.1. Councilman Haulsee – Councilman Haulsee reported that he had been to the Spec Building worksite in the Southern Carolina Commerce Park and was impressed with the amount of work that had been done. He also commended the Public Works department for the road work done from the park entrance to the spec building; suggested that Council recognize the local Little League teams who participated in the state finals. The four teams will be invited to the next Council meeting.

13. REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

13.1. Administrator's Report

13.1.1. **Water Usage and Dry Wells** – The Administrator has received numerous calls from residents, mostly from the Nixville area, reporting dry wells. Mrs. Graham contacted Mr. Rob Devlin with the DHEC Bureau of Water. Mr. Devlin said that staff from the Water Bureau had been in Hampton County the week prior investigating a complaint that a residential well was dry due to heavy farm irrigation in the area. The DHEC test indicated that the farm irrigation was not the cause of the dry well. Mr. Devlin agreed to host a public meeting for citizens to share their water concerns. He felt certain that large farms were not the cause of residential dry wells and he was going to try and explain that to the public. Council requested the public meeting be held in concurrence with a Council meeting if possible. Mrs. Graham also reminded Mr. Devlin of the Bureau of Water's "Assessment of Groundwater Conditions Report" that was presented to county citizens in 2007. He may try to update that report in preparation for the public meeting.

13.1.2. **B.T. DeLoach Building's Renovation and Staff Relocation** – The architects are currently completing the construction documents. Offices in the BT DeLoach Building are scheduled to move between September 26 and October 7. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-October. Council, Admin, Finance. I.T. and Clemson Extension will move to their new, permanent location in the old Speights & Runyan Office Building. Economic Development will occupy the Speights & Runyan annex beginning January 1, 2012. The Auditor, Treasurer, Delinquent Tax, Public Works and the Building Department will move to the old law office of Peters Murdaugh Parker Eltzroth & Detrick located on First Street East. Once offices move back to their permanent locations, the county will eliminate the need for rental offices.

13.1.3. **Recreation Department Program Planning** - Mrs. Graham has been working closely with the Recreation Staff to assess their current programs and to identify new ones. The director's position will not be filled at this time. The opinion or position of the community has been for the Recreation Dept. to be more involved with outdoor type sports. The department has been meeting with local sports commissioners to learn how their programs operate and to find out what role the Recreation Dept can play; i.e. building use, storage space, help with uniform fittings or host registration. Some commissioners have been receptive to the concept and one declined the offer. A final plan has not been determined. The goal at this time is to assess the options, develop a plan and staff accordingly.

13.1.4. **Old Armory/School Gym, Accept Deed Back form Hampton School District #1** – Hampton #1 is no longer using the Old Armory facility and the school board would like to deed it back to the County. Public Works conducted a quick assessment of the building, reported it was in bad shape but recommended accepting it. Councilman Phillips added that during his tenure as the superintendant, building engineers had deemed it structurally sound. Public works thought that perhaps the building could be used for storage. **Moved** by Councilman Phillips, seconded by Chairman Gray to receive the deed pending Hampton #1's written request. Motion carried unanimously.

13.1.5. **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Efficiency Improvements** – Mrs. Graham thanked Council for allowing the QRV test to take place. The administrator and staff were pleased with what they learned from the test. Minor operational changes have taken place based on the tests findings and statistics. Efforts in efficiency

will continue within the operations of Emergency Services. The ambulance was placed back in service in the Yemassee station on July 20. There may be opportunities to increase the size of the call area or perhaps relocate the station to the center of the call area. Reports to Council will be shared as these and other options are studied. Mrs. Graham wanted Council to be clear that the ambulance service will continue in the Yemassee call area. Also reported was that some improvements to the Yemassee EMS station have been completed, others are still necessary.

13.1.6. **Longevity Pay Plan** – Mrs. Graham asked Council if they would consider a proposal to reinstate the Longevity Pay Plan. Without a plan in place, Hampton County continues to fall further behind the pay scales of our neighboring counties. Mrs. Graham advised Council that reinstating a longevity pay plan will require a funding source; either by identifying a new source or freeing up an existing source. Council agreed by consensus to consider a proposal to reinstate the Longevity Pay Plan. Councilman Phillips requested that wage reports from neighboring counties included in the proposal.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matter(s).

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilman Phillips, seconded by Councilman Haulsee to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm