

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; NOVEMBER 7, 2005; 6:00 P. M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 7, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball, Lee S. Bowers, Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chair. Staff present: Sabrena Posey-Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Kevin Byrd, Chaplain, Hampton County, gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**ORDINANCE #2005-008, AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK:**

Chairman Parker opened the public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance #2005-008, Amended and Restated Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial Parks. She asked Administrator Graham to explain the ordinance. Administrator Graham stated that this agreement simply allowed Jasper County School District a portion of the funds to be used to pay school bonds. She stated that there are no changes for Hampton County. Administrator Graham stated that because Hampton County is a party to the agreement, however, Jasper County needs Hampton County's consent to make the proposed changes to the use of the Jasper County School portion of the payments. There were no public comments. Chairman Parker closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

There were no public comment(s).

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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**ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 7, 2005 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Administrator Graham stated that (1) delete Item # 7.1, (2) add Item #14.2 under Executive Session. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to adopt the agenda with revisions. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the minutes for September 19, 2005, October 3, 2005 or October 17, 2005. There were none. She stated that the minutes were approved as received and read.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**HAMPTON COUNTY LIBRARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004-2005 BY MS. BETH McNEER, DIRECTOR OF ALLENDALE-HAMPTON-JASPER (A-H-J) REGIONAL LIBRARY:**

Ms. Beth McNeer presented the annual report of the library to council. She thanked council for the support of the program over the years. Ms. McNeer thanked council. Council thanked Ms. McNeer for the report.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolution(s).

**ORDINANCES**

**THIRD (3<sup>rd</sup>) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2005-006, AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK:**

**Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give third and final reading to the Amended and Restated Agreement for Development of Joint County Industrial Park between Jasper County and Hampton County. Motion carried unanimously.

**SECOND (2<sup>nd</sup>) READING TO ORDINANCE #2005-008, ROAD SIGN ORDINANCE:**

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Administrator Graham stated that several departments met and agreed that there needed to be some penalty for someone who damaged or destroyed a road sign. Council Member Bowers asked if this is a law that is already governed by state statute. He asked if the ordinance presented deviates from state statute. Council Member Bowers stated that if it does deviate from state statute, then he did not think council could do this. Administrator Graham stated that the county attorney had already reviewed the ordinance. Council Member Bowers asked County Attorney Solomons if he did not think that in regards to the penalty if the ordinance deviated from the state statute, then it could not be done. Attorney Solomons stated that he would research the matter. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to give second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading to Ordinance 2005-008, Road Sign Ordinance, with the condition that the County Attorney look into the matter regarding the county fine being less than that stated in state law and that this is not in conflict with state law and report findings to council at the next meeting. Motion carried with Council Member Ball, Bowers, Johnson and Parker voting “Yea” and Council Member Wilson voting “Nay”.

**BIDS**

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING**

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Chairman Parker gave an update and stated that the Administration and Finance Committee has been meeting and is very close to bringing a black-lined copy for council. Chairman Parker stated that they asked Mrs. Graham to take a hard look at departments and committees. She stated that she hopes that council can have that completed and voted on by the first of the year.

**REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL**

**CONTRACT WITH ARC FOR DELINQUENT EMS COLLECTIONS:**

Administrator Graham stated that Ms. Debra Wolfe, Marketing Director for ARC was present to address specific concerns and questions. She Wolfe addressed the questions by Council. Ms. Wolfe explained that her company would be using the soft approach in collecting for EMS. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to contract with the addition that Council gets a report every ninety (90) days). Council Member Wilson wanted to know if once the contract was signed how many days if council was not satisfied. Ms. Wolfe stated that it was a ninety day written notice. Motion carried with Council Members Ball, Bowers, Parker and Wilson voting “Yea” and Council Member Johnson voting “Nay”.

**MR. JIM DANIEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAMPTON COUNTY ECONOMIC**

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**DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, REGARDING THE ESTILL INDUSTRIAL PARK:**

Mr. Daniel came before council to make his presentation. He stated he has received the Estill Industrial Park site certification report. He stated that he has e-mailed a copy of the Economic Diversification Study and the study will be presented on November 15, 2005 at 11:30 a. m. at Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG). He stated that he needed to know by Thursday what council members planned to attend so that he could give his numbers for lunch. Mr. Daniel stated that at 2:30 p. m., the study will be unveiled to the public. He stated that four (4) members of the commission Sabrena Graham, Bill Hager, Billy Small and Marjorie Thomas. Mr. Daniel stated that there was one opening on the commission. Mr. Daniel stated that he received the site certification report on November 11, 2005. He stated that they are ready to move forward with putting two (2) shovel ready sites; therefore council needs to approve the Master Plan for the Estill Industrial Park. Council Member Bowers stated that he needed time to review the plan. Mr. Daniel stated that this whole process is for future development. He stated that there is a list of recommendations. He stated that the Economic Development Commission has approved request for proposal (RFP) to hire the engineer for the site prep. Council will review the Master Plan for the Estill Industrial Park. Chairman Parker asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Timber Cruising

Mr. Daniel stated that he would like to get the timber cruised in the Estill Industrial Park. He stated that there is no cost for this to be done. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to have approximately 300 acres of the Estill Industrial Park to be cruised at no cost to the county. Motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Bowers wanted to know who is hunting in the park. Mr. Daniel said no one is supposed to be. Council Member Johnson stated that someone is hunting it, because he has seen the deer stands. Mr. Daniel stated that he will check it out.

Commission Vacancy

Administrator Graham stated that council has talked about having a representative from the Estill community on the commission. She stated that she has made aware to the Mayor and Council the vacancy on the commission and has sent an application also.

**AUTHORIZED POSITION:**

Administrator Graham stated that the Sheriff has done some restructuring in his department that resulted in changes in the positions that are authorized in the department. She stated that the changes include eliminating the Major (grade 23) position and replacing it with a deputy (grade 12) position and making the part time office assistant's position full time. She stated that Council must authorize all position so this request is presented for council's approval. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to accept the sheriff's recommendation and approve the changes in authorized position in the Sheriff's department and to delete the position of Major (grade 23) and add the position of deputy (grade 12) and adjust a part time office assistant's position to a full time position. Motion carried unanimously.

Security in Courthouse

Sheriff Brown stated that an incident happened in which a weapon was brought in the courtroom. He stated that he had come earlier to ask for deputies to insure security during court. Chairman Parker stated that Council Members Bowers and Johnson serve on the Jail and Law Enforcement Committee and if the sheriff could schedule a meeting with them to discuss the matter and for the committee to report back to council. The committee members will schedule a meeting.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER AND AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER:**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and an economic development matter. Motion carried unanimously. **After coming out of executive session**, Chairman Parker reconvened the public meeting and stated that council discussed a personnel matter regarding a department of one and received information from the Economic Development Director regarding a project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p. m.