

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; MARCH 7, 2016; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Roy Hollingsworth, Vice Chairman; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Isaac Smith and Shedron D. Williams, Chairman. Council Member(s) absent: Christopher B. Haulsee. Staff present: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Administrator and Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Council Member Smith gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 7, 2016 HAMPTON COUNTY CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1.1 December 7, 2015 County Council Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 January 19, 2016 County Council Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.3 February 1, 2016 County Council Meeting Minutes

and the March 7, 2016 Hampton County Council Meeting Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to amend the agenda to include the Item #14.2 Personnel Matter under Executive Session, and Item #15.2 Personnel Matter under Report Out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREA:

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the Ordinance Amending the Boundaries of the Fire Protection Service Area. Administrator Dobson-Elliott asked Mr. Gregg Cook, Hampton County Fire Chief, to give an update regarding the Fire Protection Ordinance. Mr. Cook stated that this ordinance amends the jurisdiction of the Hampton County's fire protection; it expands Hampton County fire protection in the Yemassee area. Hampton County will be taking over the fire protection in that area. There were no other public comments. Chairman Williams closed the public hearing.

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AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF WATERCRAFT SUBJECT TO PROPERTY TAX IN HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ESTABLISH THE ASSESSMENT RATIO OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF SUCH WATERCRAFT:

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding An Ordinance to Provide for the Assessment of Watercraft subject to Property Tax in Hampton County, South Carolina and to Establish the Assessment Ratio of the Fair Market Value of Such Watercraft. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that this was requested by Mrs. Teresa Williams, Hampton County Auditor. , stated that this was allowed by the state some years ago, but each county had to adopt an ordinance to implement. It allows for the watercraft to change from a 10% assessment to 6%. She added that all the surrounding counties have adopted the ordinance changing the assessment on watercraft. There were no other public comments. Chairman Williams closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MR. BAKER REGARDING THE CONDITION OF ROAD:

Mr. Baker came before council regarding his road. Mr. Baker informed council that this is ongoing. He stated that he came before council in June of last year regarding Jokeson Lane and Northern Lane and that no graders had been there in nine months. He called in February and was told that it would be three or four months, because they were on a schedule. He called the Administrator and the graders were out there within a week. Mr. Baker gave the history. He stated that first the county stated that it was not a county road and he proved that it was by providing documentation. Council asked Administrator Dobson-Elliott to research the matter and get back with Mr. Baker.

MS. WILLIAMS REGARDING THE CONDITION OF ROAD:

Ms. Williams came before council regarding the condition of her road. Administrator Dobson-Elliott informed Ms. Williams that the petitions have been given to the CTC (County Transportation Committee). She stated that the next step is for the residents to go to the CTC meeting. Ms. Williams wanted to know when the CTC had a meeting. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that the CTC have not had a meeting, because she stated that she believes that the Chairman has been sick. Administrator Dobson-Elliott reminded Ms. Williams that the CTC is appointed by the Legislative Delegation. Ms. Williams reminded them that the citizens of Pedro Road have sent the petition to the CTC. Ms. Williams stated that they had not plowed the road since the last time that she was there. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth stated that the CTC is appointed by the Legislative Delegation and the legislators are Senator Brad Hutto, Representative Bill Bowers and Senator Margie Bright Matthews. Administrator Dobson-Elliott reported that the road plows had been out there. Administrator Dobson-Elliott will provide to Ms. Williams and council the date of the CTC meeting when she finds out the date.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved under the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATION(S)

LOVE, BAILEY AND ASSOCIATES, LLC AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Representative from Love, Bailey and Associates, LLC came before council and stated that the Hampton County Audit for the 2014-2015 was a clean audit. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to accept the audit as information. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF SMALLS – SUBSTATION IN ESTILL:

Sheriff Smalls came before council and stated that he will be placing a sheriff's substation in Estill. He stated that he will not be using the substation in Varnville anymore. The substation in Estill is about \$1,300 a month and the one in Estill is about \$500 per month. He informed council that the rent is \$500 per month and that the town will take care of all the utilities. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith to accept the Sheriff's proposal and place a sheriff's substation in Estill. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth wanted to know how long it will take to vacate the premises. Sheriff Smalls stated that it will take about two weeks. Council Member Smith stated that he said that he has a new building. Sheriff Smith stated that the buildings were built according to code. Sheriff Smalls also informed council regarding of the new sheriff's office that he will be moving soon.

MS. BETTY HODGES, VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE, REGARDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Mrs. Betty Hodges, Veterans Affairs Office, Regarding Financial Support, sent the information for consideration. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that she did not quite understand it. Council Member Smith reported that he visited Ms. Hodges' office and looked at closet and space is limited, and they are outgrowing themselves. No storage space; the records are stacked almost to the ceiling and someone could get hurt. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth wanted to know if there was any way that they can do anything; he stated that Council Member Smith has seen it and wanted to know if there was anything that could be done. Council Member Smith stated that he was told that the information has to be stored there. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth stated that he is familiar with the outlay of that office. He informed council that maybe they needed to use some of their office space that they are using for themselves. He stated that s it the way that they store the documents now on computers. Council Member Phillips asked if there could be an assessment of what the county could do. Chairman Williams stated that Ms. Hodges was not present, and council did not have clarity so no action would be taken.

APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s).

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RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

PROCLAMATION IN COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF DESEGREGATION OF HAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Moved by Vice Chairman Hollingsworth, seconded by Council Member Smith, to adopt the Proclamation in Commemorating 50 Years of Desegregation of Hampton County Public School System. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Phillips stated that the students who participated in the desegregation were brave and need to be recognized.

ADOPTION OF THE FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Vice Chairman Hollingsworth, to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

Moved by Vice Chairman Hollingsworth, seconded by Council Member Smith, to adopt the Non-Discrimination Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK, BY AND BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK, SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IN JASPER COUNTY AS PART OF THE MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to adopt a Resolution to Approve Amendment of the Agreement for the Establishment of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, By and Between Jasper County, South Carolina and Hampton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Jasper County as Part of the Multi-County Industrial/Business Park. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE(S)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREA:

Moved by Vice Chairman Hollingsworth, seconded by Council Member Smith, to give third reading to the Ordinance Amending the Boundaries of the Fire Protection Service Area. Mr. Gregg Cook, Hampton County Fire Chief, stated that this ordinance amends the jurisdiction of the Hampton County's fire protection; it expands Hampton County fire protection in the Yemassee area. Motion carried unanimously.

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Hampton County, South Carolina and to Establish the Assessment Ratio of the Fair Market Value of Such Watercraft. Motion carried unanimously. It allows for the watercraft to change from a 10% assessment to 6%.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)
DISCUSSION POINTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS):**

Chairman Williams

Chairman Williams reminded all that the Arnold Fields Endowment was having the annual dinner Will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 5:00 p. m. and ask that all who can to support. Chairman Williams also thanked the Hampton County employees for doing what you do.

Council Member Smith

Council Member Smith stated that he's been watching across the county, there has been a lot of water problems like in Flint, Michigan. He stated that he hoped that the LRWS was monitoring water and hope that Hampton County citizens were getting adequate and good water supply. There are a lot of communities that are near us that are having water problems. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth serves as our representative and sure that he is looking out for us. Council Member Smith stated that water is a natural resource and citizens are concerned about our water supply.

Council Member Phillips

Council Member Phillips had no report.

Vice Chairman Hollingsworth

Vice Chairman Hollingsworth stated that on Friday evening he attended the Grand Re-Opening of McDonald's. He stated that Tony Myers, the owner, gave them a tour of the facility and showed the new technology that goes into fast foods. Council Member Phillips stated that he went at 4:00 p. m. thinking that was the time instead of 6:00 p. m. Chairman Williams stated that he was sick and had come out for a prior event the evening before and had a relapse.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE PRIORITIZED HAMPTON COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT LIST:

Chairman Williams stated by acclamation, council will defer discussion and approval of the Prioritized Hampton County Needs Assessment List.

ACTION ON LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM PATRICIA PADGETT, LIBRARY BOARD:

Moved By Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to accept the letter of resignation from Patricia Padgett, Library Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DECISION REGARDING THE CREATION OF A RECREATION COMMISSION:

Chairman Williams stated that council got input from Estill, Hampton and Yemassee areas. He stated that a lot of great things came out of those forums; Council gave the citizens the opportunity to give input not only in regards to a specific building in a specific location but to give input as to what they would like to see in the proposed recreation complex. He informed everyone that not only did the citizens give input as to what they would like to see in the facility but also there was a cry for council to create a Recreation Commission. Council Member Phillips stated that all people should be represented from all crevices of the county. Chairman Williams stated that he personally supported a commission. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that she will research ordinances regarding recreations commission and bring back to council. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth stated that he was working on something to bring to council that will be all inclusive; it is in the thought process now. Chairman Williams asked if he would have it by the next meeting; Vice Chairman Hollingsworth stated that if he receives the map by that time, he will. Council Member Smith stated that it was council's idea to have citizens participate and no one was left out.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROGRESS OF CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX (CPST) PROJECTS:

Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that the CPST Project referendum was passed in 2012 with several projects listed. The county paid off two loans, the library project in Estill and the radio system; there are two buildings in process in 2016. Chairman Williams stated that the cost of buildings is going up. He stated that he was going to open the floor up to council members. Vice Chairman Hollingsworth wanted to know as to time wise, where are we with the Hampton County Health Department – Are we on schedule? Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that Mr. Dobie Hiers would give an update regarding the buildings. Mr. Dobie Hiers came before council to give an update of the CPST Projects. He informed council that the Hampton County Library was on track; the Hampton County Health Department was about two weeks behind due to the two weeks of rain that messed up the foundation; he further explained that once they get the building dried in, they can really move. Council Member Smith wanted to know what the plans were for the old health department; Mr. Hiers informed council that it will be torn down and the area will be used for parking. Council Member Phillips wanted to know what other projects were there. Administrator Dobson-Elliott explained that the library came in under, the Administrative Building came in under and looking at completing work, the health department came in a little over about \$30,000 because had to put the generator back in. Chairman Williams stated that the generator is being paid for by DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control). She stated that the numbers given for the jail was a bad number. Council Member Phillips recommended that council come in an hour earlier for the next meetings and hammer some nails in some of these things. He stated that council needed to pull together and tie up some of these loose ends and get on track. Chairman Williams stated thanked Mr. Hiers and agreed with Council Member Phillips.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Dobson Elliott stated that she attended the Grand re-opening of McDonald's and was very nice. She informed everyone that there was a comment made that this was only a McDonald's, but the investment in the community was substantial in regards to fees paid for building permits, etc.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER(S):

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to go into executive session to discuss economic development and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER(S):

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to report out of executive session regarding an economic development and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Williams reported that council discussed economic development matters and the economic development profession to continue to seek industry for the county and received information from the Chief Magistrate and ask the County Administrator to seek information and report back to council.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p. m.