

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; MAY 1, 2023, 6:00 P. M.  
HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Hampton County Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023, 6:00 p. m. Council Member(s) present: Noah O. Alexander, Chairman; Darin Williams, Vice Chairman; Camille M. Welch and Jordan J. “JJ” Jinks. Council Member(s) absent: Roy Hollingsworth. Staff present: Heather Simmons Jones, Interim County Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: None. Wilson Holland, Hampton County IT. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION:**

Council Member Welch gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Jinks.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF THE MAY 1, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA:**

Chairman Alexander asked for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the May 1, 2023 Hampton County Council Meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

There were no public hearing(s).

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

**MS. GWEN ELLIS:**

Ms. Ellis came before council to ask that lights be put up in Varnville, South Carolina to I-95.

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**MS. BARBARA GRAY:**

Ms. Gray came before council to ask for help in Pond Town for a road that was in need of repair, but she informed council that she found out that they were state roads, Prince Williams Road and Pond Town Road. Council Member Jinks asked for her contact information.

**DR. ZANE OSBORNE:**

Dr. Osborne commended council on the hard work they're doing. He commented for them to keep their eyes on the ball.

**MR. QUINCY JONES REGARDING THE AIRPORT:**

Mr. Jones wanted to know if there was any progress made to get the two items on the agenda regarding the airport. Chairman Alexander explained that they are getting information and working on it.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**APRIL 17, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to approve the April 17, 2023 Hampton County Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION(S)**

There were no presentation(s).

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

**HAMPTON COUNTY FIRE CONTROL BOARD:**

Hampton County Council voted by ballot to appoint Kenny Harrison, David V. Johnson and Tom Watson to the Hampton County Fire Control Board.

**HAMPTON COUNTY LIBRARY:**

Hampton County Council voted by ballot to appoint Elizabeth Haynes, Sharon K. Robinson and Sarah Williams to the Hampton County Library Board.

**RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)**

There were no resolution(s)/proclamation(s).

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**ORDINANCE(S)**

**AMENDMENT TO THE MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION FEE ORDINANCE:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to defer amendment to the Marriage License Application Fee Ordinance, Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING TO THE FIRE CODE ORDINANCE BY TITLE ONLY:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to give first reading by title only to the Fire Code Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

**BID(S)**

There were no bid(s).

**COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:**

Chairman Alexander reported that council is planning on a state of the county address by next Friday.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' UPDATE:**

**Council Member Welch**

Council Member Welch reported that they will have another clean up this Saturday at the Nature Trail starting at 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon. Council Member Jinks came out and cleared some of the area before the Earth Day clean up. She invited citizens to come out and help.

Chairman Alexander reported that they had a prayer walk through of this building.

**Vice Chairman Williams**

Vice Chairman Williams reported that he is the liaison for council on Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission. They have a ten million dollar grant to extend off Highway 68 to Yemassee and even around the loop where they will be building the new high school He commented that they are doing great things and infiltration system is the key.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:**

The County Attorney had no update.

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**CLERK'S UPDATE:**

The Clerk had no update.

**POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REQUEST FROM THE TOWN OF YEMASSEE  
REGARDING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to enter into the agreement. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks to give first reading. County Attorney Solomons stated that it was not listed on the agenda for first reading. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks to rescind his motions. It was the consensus of council to add first reading to the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones explained that she had asked that the Intergovernmental Agreements for 911 and animal control be added for the next meeting. Chairman Alexander commented that it was by consensus that the agreements are added for the next meeting, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**BUDGET SCHEDULE:**

**Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**PETTY CASH POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones reported that it was not a favorable recommendation for the Petty Cash Policy. She commented that she had a policy.

**ASSESSMENT RATIO FOR AIRPLANES:**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones explained that the county ordinance regarding the Assessment Ratio for Airplanes was presented to her by Ms. Newton; she commented that she will check with the Auditor's office regarding the timing of the assessment for the new planes.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR PALMETTO SITES (ESTILL  
INDUSTRIAL PARK):**

Mr. John Fleming, SoutherCarolina Alliance, came before council and explained Palmetto Sites. He commented that it was a designation checked for readiness. The site would be certified. He explained that the deadline had passed for funding for this round. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to wait for the 2023-2024 Hampton County Council Budget cycle to move on this project. Motion carried unanimously..

**DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GOVERNMENTAL  
AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN ESTILL AND HAMPTON COUNTY ON FIRE  
STATION USE:**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones will engage with Dr. Cooks to review all agreements. She explained that she will review all agreements with all municipalities and

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will work with the County Attorney on that.

**REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Regional Planning Grant**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones commented that Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) will be running the planning grant through Colleton County.

**HUD Grant**

The HUD Grant will have a sunset date of 2031. There will be a lot of opportunity and draw down of funds and letter of intent in full force.

**911 Addressing/Zoning and Planning Update**

Mr. Ricardo Giani, Interim Planning Director. Allendale County reached out for GIS services. And addressing services. The \$750 monthly and \$1,000 quarterly for \$13,000 per year. Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones commented that Mr. Giani is plan review; Mr. Giani is not a certified building official. SafeBuild is handling active permits. Mr. Giani is working on policy and procedure and information brochures. She explained that she wanted to be transparent.

**Codification of Ordinances**

Interim County Administrator Heather Jones commented regarding the codification of ordinances and getting them uploaded to be available online. It was restated that it was the recodification of ordinances.

**Brownsfields Grant**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones reported that they are working with Sabrena Graham, Executive Director, Lowcountry Council of Governments(LCOG), regarding this project with the school district.

**Financial Update**

Ms. Melissa Harrill, Interim County Finance Director, came before council to give a financial update. She explained that the budget was about 46% personnel and 47% operations and maintenance. She commented that Chanel had a good worksheet that broke everything out. She explained that they have not done the audit, but the state helped out struggling counties and released the state funds. She reported that the county has been given an extension for the CPST audit. The county has hired a CPA firm that is communicating with the auditors on the county audit (FY 2022-2023).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matter(s).

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**REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matter(s).

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Welch, to adjourn.  
Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Alexander adjourned the meeting.