

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; SEPTEMBER 18, 2023; 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
200 JACKSON AVE., E., HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, 6:00 p. m. Council Member(s) present: Noah O. Alexander, Chairman; Darin Williams, Vice Chairman; and Roy Hollingsworth. . Council Member(s) absent: Jordan J. “JJ” Jinks and Camille M. Welch. Staff present: Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: Heather Simmons Jones, Interim County Administrator. 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 Hollingsworth.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA:**

Chairman Alexander asked for the approval of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the agenda with the deferral of Items 13.1.2, 10.2, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

**LINDA KELLY:**

Ms. Kelly commented that when you keep doing the same thing over and over and get the same result – it’s called

**BEN FENNELL REGARDING JUSTICE FOR YEMASSEE – GUN RANGE:**

Mr. Fennell came before council regarding the gun range. He commented that the gun range was established illegally. Mr. Fennell informed council that he did call the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC).

**BARBARA GRAY REGARDING MRB:**

Ms. Gray expressed her desire that council extend the contract of MRB.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**HAMPTON COUNTY MAY 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the deferral of Hampton County Council May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**HAMPTON COUNTY JULY 17, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the Hampton County July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes with the proper corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

**HAMPTON COUNTY SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Council Member Hollingsworth, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to approve the Hampton County September 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes with the proper corrections. Motion carried with Council Members Jinks and Welch abstaining.

**PRESENTATION(S)**

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REZONING (RICO GIANI):**

Rico Giani came before council and presented the Hampton County Planning Commission's recommendation regarding an application submitted by Wise Batten to rezone property. **Moved** by Chairman Alexander, seconded by Council Member Welch, to not approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Rico Giani came before council and presented the Hampton County Planning Commission's recommendation regarding an application submitted by Ron Demers to rezone property. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to pass first (1<sup>st</sup>) reading from RCD to RR. Motion carried unanimously.

**GUN RANGE AT FENNEL HILL:**

Rico Giani gave an update and findings of his research regarding the gun range at Fennell Hill.

**HAMPTON COUNTY TERMS OF AGREEMENT WITH THE HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (HCSD):**

Melissa Harrill came before council and informed council that the Hampton County School District will accept the repayment agreement for the \$500,000 (Five hundred thousand dollars). She explained that the repayment will come from ARPA or the Reserve Account. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to accept the payment plan for

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Hampton County School District. Motion carried with Vice Chairman Williams abstaining.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) PROTOCOL FOR SUPPORT OF MUNICIPALITIES (JOHN LAWSON):**

John Lawson, Deputy Administrator Emergency Services, came before council regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Protocol for Support of Municipalities. He explained to council the services that are provided to the municipalities for festivals, etc. and the schools for athletic events. He explained that he will be putting together a protocol or policy.

**ACCEPTANCE OF TRAUMA FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,344.40:**

John Lawson came before council to request the acceptance of Trauma Funds in the Amount of \$11,344.40. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to accept the Trauma Funds in the amount of \$11,344.40 (Eleven thousand, three hundred forty-four dollars and forty cents). Motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

**HAMPTON COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION:**

Council voted by ballot to appoint:

C. E. "Buddy" Bullard  
John Doig  
Frampton Zehe Ferguson  
Lewis Hardison  
Charles Platts, Jr.  
Lionel Ray Ward  
Jack Harley Woodward

**LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – LABOR REPRESENTATIVE:**

Council voted by ballot to appoint Greg Alexander as Labor Representative for Hampton County on the Lowcountry Council of Governments Workforce Board.

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

**AUTHORIZATION FOR ALBERT PENSKA AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO HAVE SIGNATORY RIGHTS AND VIEWING PRIVILEGES AT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:**

**Moved** Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to adopt Resolution for the Authorization for Albert Penska as Deputy Administrator for Administrative Services to

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Have Signatory Rights and Viewing Privileges at Financial Institutions. Motion carried with Council Member Jinks opposing.

**ORDINANCE(S)**

**SECOND READING TO WASTE MONITORING ORDINANCE:**

Council deferred the matter.

**BID(S)**

**ROOF FOR RECREATION CENTER FOR PARD GRANT**

**Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded By Vice Chairman Williams, to accept the bid for 11.1 for PARD Grant in the amount of \$74,714.99 (Seventy-four thousand dollars, seven hundred fourteen dollars and ninety-nine cents). Motion carried unanimously.

**ROOF FOR DETENTION CENTER:**

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded By Vice Chairman Williams, to accept the bid for roof repair/replacement at the detention center and the sheriff's department and for payment in the amount of \$152,760.83 (One hundred fifty-two thousand, seven hundred sixty dollars and eighty-three cents) come out of the ARPA funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:**

**Hampton County Council Liaison Appointments Revised**

Chairman Alexander presented the updated Hampton County Council Liaison appointments.

**County Administrator's Search**

Administrator's search ad presented.

**Recreation and Use of Three (3) Million Dollars**

The 3 million dollars can be used for recreation without any match. Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones explained that it can be used for soft cost expense.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' LIAISON REPORTS OR UPDATES**

Chairman Alexander presented council with the updated liaison reports.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:**

The County Attorney had no update.

**CLERK'S UPDATE:**

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The Clerk had no update.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Introduction of Albert Penska**

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones introduced Albert Penska, Hampton County's new Deputy Administrator for Administrative Services.

**Animal Control Budget Versus Animal Shelter Budget**

Will meet with the council committee.

**Administrator Ad Approval for NaCo**

**Moved** by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to approve up to \$700 (seven hundred dollars) for the NaCO ad for the administrator's search to be published. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Melissa Harrill, Interim Finance Director, came before council regarding the

- Organizational Chart – Council reviewed the chart handed out by Melissa Harrill. Council Member Hollingsworth commented that the color coding for the Hampton County Veterans Affairs Office and Hampton County Voter Registration and Elections Board needed to be changed, because they were appointed by the Legislative Delegation, not Hampton County Council. Council Member Jinks informed Melissa Harrill and Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones that the County Attorney and Clerk to Council was not listed on the organizations chart. A line from Hampton County Council needed to be added to add both, because they answered to council. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to approve with the two stated corrections. Motion carried unanimously.
- Purchasing Procedures – Moved by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to purchase the new software system. Motion carried unanimously.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 22-23 Audit Update – Monica Wood, CPA will be coming in preparing for the 2022-2023 audit.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT/TERMS OF THE CONTRACT/TERMS OF THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR:**

**Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, regarding the

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**REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT/TERMS OF THE CONTRACT/TERMS OF THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR:**

**Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to come out of executive session regarding the Discussion of Contract/Terms of the Contract/Terms of the Interim County Administrator and the Interim Finance Director and Personnel Matter Regarding Evaluations for Clerk to Council and County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

**Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to extend and amend the contract with Swiftwater Strategies for 90 (ninety) days. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Alexander reported that Item 15.2 was discussed and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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