

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; OCTOBER 16, 2023; 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVE., E., HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, 6:00 p. m. Council Member(s) present: Noah O. Alexander, Chairman; Darin Williams, Vice Chairman; Roy Hollingsworth; Jordan J. “JJ” Jinks and Camille M. Welch. . Council Member(s) absent: None. Staff present: Heather Simmons Jones, Interim County Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: None. Robert Chasse, IT, was present. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:01 p. m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Vice Chairman Williams gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hollingsworth.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA:**

Chairman Alexander asked for the approval of the agenda. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the October 16, 2023 Hampton County Council Meeting agenda with the deferral of Items 6.1-6.6 and 9.1. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**THIRD READING TO YEMASSEE IGA ON SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS
ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Alexander opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the third reading to the Yemassee IGA on Substantial Projects Ordinance. There was no public comment. Chairman Alexander closed the public hearing.

**THIRD READING TO MCIP WITH COLLETON COUNTY-EXPANSION OF THE
INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE PROJECT PALMETTO GREEN ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Alexander opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the third reading to MCIP with Colleton County-Expansion of the Industrial Park to Include Project Palmetto Green Ordinance. There was no public comment. Chairman Alexander closed the

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public hearing.

THIRD READING TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEASE:

Chairman Alexander explained that there would be no public hearing, because the county is not moving forward with the lease. The public hearing was left on the agenda for the courtesy to explain to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MAGGIE KNOX REGARDING COUNTY BOARDS:

Maggie Knox commented that the website with boards need to be updated.

BEN FENNELL REGARDING THE GUN RANGE IN YEMASSEE:

Ben Fennell came before council and reiterated the seriousness of the gun range being in close proximity of residence, and the projectiles coming into citizens' homes. Citizens should not have to fight this.

LARRY HUFFMAN:

Larry Huffman commented that the statement made about going to the governor should not have been said. The county is in debt – Reported that 47% of citizens cannot pay their taxes -how is the loan to be paid?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were deferred.

PRESENTATION(S)

ANIMAL CARE DUND OF HAMPTON COUNTY AND THE TNR (TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN) PROGRAM (KELLY BROWN):

Kelly Brown was not present due to an illness but will reschedule.

HEATHER BRUEMMER, FRIENDS OF THE ARTS, REGARDING THE RIVERS BUILDING PROJECT AND THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND (LATCF):

Heather Bruemmer, Friends of the Arts, came before council to report that the project stalled out due to the funding. Council and Heather Bruemmer had a discussion regarding the Rivers Building Project and the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF).

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**OPIOID SETTLEMENT UPDATE AND THE COUNTY DRUG COALITION
UPDATE (TOM WATSON):**

Tom Watson came before council and gave an update regarding the Opioid Settlement, the County Drug Coalition, and the discussion of the implementation of a Crisis Management Team.

APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

HANGAR FEES:

The item was deferred.

ORDINANCE(S)

**THIRD READING TO YEMASSEE IGA ON SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS
ORDINANCE:**

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to approve third reading to 10.1.1. Motion carried unanimously.

**THIRD READING TO MCIP WITH COLLETON COUNTY-EXPANSION OF THE
INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE PROJECT PALMETTO GREEN ORDINANCE:**

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to approve third reading to 10.1.2. Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING TO REZONING ORDINANCE – DEMERS FISH FARM:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to accept second reading to the Rezoning Ordinance – Demers Fish Farm. Motion carried unanimously.

GARY MOLE LEASE:

Moved by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to accept second reading to the Gary Mole Lease. Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

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There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Report from Retreat

Chairman Alexander reported that council had a retreat at 5:00 p. m. to discuss the CPST (Capital Project Sales Tax) and the Clyburn Grant. No action was taken.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

The County Attorney reported that he sent out his report earlier and had no update.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

The Clerk had no update.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

CPST (Capital Projects Sales Tax)

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones commented that the Chair added this to his report.

PRTC Agreement Update

Will reprint and sign.

Comparison of third party v FTE Building Official (Chris Inglese)

The report from Chris Inglese was reviewed by council.

Financial Update

Albert Penksa, Finance Director, came before council regarding the financial update. Reported that there was \$920,000 (Nine hundred twenty thousand dollars) in outstanding expenditures - spending needs to be prioritized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**LEGAL MATTER REGARDING A SETTLEMENT (GEL ENGINEERING),
EMPLOYMENT MATTER REGARDING UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH,
LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING THE YEMASSEE GUN RANGE:**

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Moved by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Welch, to go into executive session concerning the Legal Matter Regarding a Settlement (GEL Engineering), Employment Matter Regarding Update on Administrator Search and Legal Advice Regarding the Yemassee Gun Range. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

**LEGAL MATTER REGARDING A SETTLEMENT (GEL ENGINEERING),
EMPLOYMENT MATTER REGARDING UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH,
LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING THE YEMASSEE GUN RANGE:**

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to come out of executive session concerning the Legal Matter Regarding a Settlement (GEL Engineering), Employment Matter Regarding Update on Administrator Search and Legal Advice Regarding the Yemassee Gun Range. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Alexander reported that Item 15.1 was discussed and no action was taken; Item 15.2 was discussed and no action was taken and Item 15.3 was discussed and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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