

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; FEBRUARY 5, 2018; 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, February 5, 2018, , 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Roy Hollingsworth, Chairman; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman; Isaac Smith; Shedron D. Williams and Ronald G. "Breeze" Winn. Council Member(s) absent: None. Staff present: Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Administrator. Media present: Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hollingsworth called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Chairman Hollingsworth gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2018 HAMPTON COUNTY MEETING AGENDA
AND CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chairman Hollingsworth stated that there were changes to the agenda as follows: Items #9.2, 9.4, 9.5 are to be removed. Item # 14.1 to be moved after Item # 6.1 and then will hear from Mr. John E. Parker of Item # 7.3. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams to adopt the February 5, 2018 agenda with the changes as stated. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Betty Ruth Crews explained that council should have heard her before going into executive session; because she could not stay late; she asked to be moved to the next meeting. Council stated that they would do so.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**THIRD READING TO THE ORDINANCE FOR LEASE EXTENSION WITH AIR
METHODS:**

Chairman Hollingsworth opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding third reading to the Ordinance for Lease Extension with Air Methods. All the information was the same except the date was changed to June 30, 2018. Chairman Hollingsworth closed the public hearing.

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG) 2018 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Chairman Hollingsworth opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the Lowcountry Council of Governments 2018 Needs Assessment Public Hearing. Ms. Michelle Knight presented the information to council regarding the 2018 needs assessment. There were several comments from council regarding the Promise Zone and Economic Development. Dr. Wilcox, Hampton County School District #1, wanted to know if the school districts could be an

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applicant. Ms. Knight stated that the school districts could not be an applicant but could partner with an applicant for workforce development not a joint youth program. Council Member Williams expressed that he would like to see anything to do with economic development to attract quality teachers and additional programs. She reminded council that they needed to rank/prioritize their needs assessment. Council thanked Ms. Knight. Chairman Hollingsworth closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONDUCTED UNDER A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECT KNOWN AS THE BRUNSON GIFFORD WATER
INTERCONNECTION PROJECT CDBG #4-CI-14-009, WHEREIN HAMPTON COUNTY
WAS AWARDED \$1,000,000 IN CDBG FUNDS IN JUNE 2014 TO CONSTRUCT A NEW
10" WATERLINE TO CONNECT THE TOWNS OF BRUNSON AND GIFFORD TO
PROVIDE UNINTERRUPTED SERVICES AND BACKUP. THE PROJECT PROPOSED
TO BENEFIT APPROXIMATELY 969 PEOPLE OF WHICH 633 (65%) WERE
LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME:**

Chairman Hollingsworth opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the Public Hearing to review program performance and accomplishments conducted under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project known as the Brunson Gifford Water Interconnection Project CDBG #4-CI-14-009, wherein Hampton County was awarded \$1,000,000 in CDBG funds in June 2014 to construct a new 10" waterline to connect the towns of Brunson and Gifford to provide uninterrupted services and backup. The project proposed to benefit approximately 969 people of which 633 (65%) were low-to-moderate income. There were no public comments. Chairman Hollingsworth closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MS. KAYE GUTY REGRDING PLIGHT OF COST TO LIVE REGARDING TEACHER'S SALARY:

Ms. Guty came before council to share the plight of teachers' salaries and the cost to live. She informed council that she has been teaching for 20 years but is being paid on the level of a teacher for 18 years because the lack of having the funding to pay the teachers for the steps in experience. Ms. Guty asked council for any help that they can assist the school district in funding for teachers' salaries. Council Member Williams stated that he is a fighter for education and is in favor of helping if can do without increasing taxes. Council Member Winn stated that they let the train start moving; they need help. Chairman Hollingsworth informed the teachers present that the county does provide a budget but do we provide enough and education takes a great percentage of the budget and will take a great increase. Vice Chairman Phillips asked what the supplement, \$2,000 is. No step increase until 23 years. Council Member Williams, not since 1982 did the county provide additional funding.

DR. RONALD WILCOX, SUPERINTENDENT, HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 1:

Dr. Wilcox came before council and said what he was going to say was said by the teachers who spoke before him. He informed everyone that he did not know that they were coming. Dr.

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Wilcox expressed that in order to attract teachers; the district has to have an equitable pay system. He explained to council that when the state cuts your money, but you make cuts to bring your budget in line – would make cuts in teaching programs, athletics, etc. It would take \$109,000 to get Step 1, \$135,000 to get to Step 2 and \$90,000 to catch up to others. Chairman Hollingsworth thanked Dr. Wilcox for the information and will consider for budget workshop.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Winn, to approve the January 8, 2018 Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

LEGAL MATTER:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

LEGAL MATTER:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Winn, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hollingsworth reported that Council heard from John E. Parker and Associates regarding Opioid.

Special Representation Agreement for Opioid Class Action Suit

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Winn to authorize the County Administrator to enter into a contingency fee contract with Marc Bern and the local firms associated with him, including John E. Parker's firm to act as local counsel at a contingency fee of 25% to file suit, relative to the opioid epidemic, including manufacturers, distributors, and/or doctors involved. Motion carried unanimously. Council asked that updated be given to County Administrator including the County Attorney.

PRESENTATION(S)

MS. BETTY RUTH CREWS, CITIZEN, REGARDIN THE OLD NATIONAL GUARD

ARMORY:

Chairman Hollingsworth explained that Mrs. Betty Ruth Crews, Citizen, Regarding Old National Guard Armory will be placed on the March agenda.

**MR. BRANTLEY STRICKLAND, PROJECT MANAGER FOR HAMPTON COUNTY,
SOUTHERNCAROLINA ALLIANCE QUARTERLY UPDATE;**

Mr. Brantley Strickland, Project Manager for Hampton County, SouthernCarolina Alliance, Came before council and gave SouthernCarolina Alliance's Quarterly Update. Council thanked Mr. Strickland for his update.

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APPOINTMENT(S)

CLERK TO COUNCIL:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Smith, to reappoint the Aline Newton, Clerk to Council. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hollingsworth expressed that the appointment is from January 2018 until January 2020. Ms. Newton thanked council for the reappointment.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Winn, to reappoint the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hollingsworth expressed that the appointment is from January 2018 until January 2020. County Attorney Solomons thanked council for the reappointment.

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

HAMPTON COUNTY RESOLUTION REGARDING THE APPROVAL TO THE EXPANSION OF THE MCIP TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT CLEAR PROJECT SITE (MR. BRANTLEY STRICKLAND, PROJECT MANAGER, SCA (SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE) :

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith, Hampton County Resolution Regarding the Approval to the expansion of the MCIP to include the Project Clear Project Site. Motion carried unanimously.

INDUSTRIAL PARK EXTENSION – ACCEPTANCE OF ROAD INTO COUNTY SYSTEM:

Moved by Council Member Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Phillips, to approve the Industrial Park Extension – Acceptance of Road into County System. Motion carried unanimously. (See description attached)

ORDINANCE(S)

THIRD READING TO THE ORDINANCE FOR LEASE EXTENSION WITH AIR METHODS:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Smith to approve third reading to the Ordinance for Lease Extension with Air Methods. Chairman Hollingsworth stated that all the information is the same except the date was changed to June 30, 2018. County Attorney Solomons said that was correct. Motion carried with Council Members Hollingsworth, Phillips and Smith voting in favor and Council Members Williams and Winn not voting. There was a question that a letter was sent to citizens for \$65 membership fee, Ms. Suzanne Peeples informed council that that was another company and there is another company out there; it was not Air Methods.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

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COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

County Attorney Solomons informed council that he will have clarifications regarding airport and Pittman Lawsuit not scheduled and will get continued from 2/5/2018 and have not been scheduled. Council thanked County Attorney Solomons for his update.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

The Clerk reported that Ms. Sandra Ligon, Human Relations Council, would like to meet with council. Council will meet with her at 5:00 p. m. on March 19.

COUNCIL MEMBER WINN:

Council Member Winn expressed his concern regarding citizens' credit ratings dropping because of Equifax's breach of trust with the data.

HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S RETREAT:

Chairman Hollingsworth expressed that he will be present at the next retreat.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

No report

**COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
REPRESENTATIVE CLYBURN'S TOWN HALL-TEACH IN:**

Council Member Williams announced that United States Congressman Jim Clyburn will be in Hampton at the Huspah Educational Center (Formerly the Parker Union Hall) on January 15, 2018 from 3:00 – 4:15 p. m. to update citizens/public on issues at the Town Hall-Teach In.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERSONNEL MATTER:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERSONNEL MATTER:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Vice Chairman Phillips, to come out of executive session regarding a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hollingsworth reported that Council reviewed citizen's complaint regarding animal control; the following were present in executive session: Code Enforcement Officer, Sheriff, Magistrate's Assistant and Animal Shelter Assistant. Chairman Hollingsworth reported that they heard from the departments listed and everything was done in line with policy and is satisfactory to council.

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ROSE'S BROTHER:

County Attorney Solomons update council to let them know that they have moved County Administrator Rose Dobson-Elliott's brother to hospice. He asked that we keep them in prayer. Council thanked County Attorney Solomons for the update and stated that they will do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Winn, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p. m.