

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; DECEMBER 16, 2019; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Clay Bishop, Chairman; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman; Roy Hollingsworth, Ronald G. "Breeze" Winn, and Darin Williams. Council Member(s) absent: None. Staff present: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: None. Media present: Mr. Michael DeWitt, Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bishop called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Council Member Williams gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hollingsworth.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 HAMPTON COUNTY MEETING AGENDA
AND CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chairman Bishop asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda and the agenda with the changes of removing Item 6.2, typographical errors. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to approve the December 16, 2019 county council meeting agenda and consent agenda with the stated changes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**MR. DARRYL RUSSELL, TOYS FOR TOTS COORDINATOR, RECOGNITION OF
PERSONS WHO HELPED WITH TOYS FOR TOTS:**

Mr. Russel came before council to thank them for all their help. He asked if he could recognize a few people. He asked Representative Shedron Williams, Mr. Kelly Pittinger, Mr. Quincy Jones, Ms. Suzanne Peeples and Mr. Lee from Lee's Furniture to come up and presented certificates to each for their contributions to the Toys for Tots. He presented a special award to Chairman Bishop from 2018 for Carroll's Auto Body Shop for their contribution.

COUNCIL MEMBER WINN REGARDING CONCERNS:

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Council Member Winn expressed that these were his opinions to reduce the cost to the county. Council Member Winn wanted to know who owns the Arts Council Center; needs to know before continuing to invest money. Do we involve schools and PTAs? He feels that the criteria are not met with sewer and water. He explained that there is a petition going around that is requesting the county to become a single-member district with 7 members. He commented that county council is asked to sign the petition.

MR. RAY WARD OF CUMMINGS:

Mr. Ward came before council to remind council that the County Administrator was given the charge of renovating the airport without raising taxes. Mr. Ward reported that the commission members have contributed 270 hours or more of hard work to make the airport successful without adding more taxes. He commented that the hangar will be parallel to the county collecting taxes on the planes and the rent on the hangars will pay for the loan.

MR. LEWIS HARDISON REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Hardison commented that they have said what he was going to say. A vote to improve economic development and provisions for high school kids to learn how to fly and work in the area and recreational use.

MR. WILLIAM KOGER:

Mr. Koger came before council and reported that he worked about 40 years for USDA. He told council that government planes have flown in and out of the Hampton County Airport. Mr. Koger also reported that he was instrumental in the Lightsey Family donating an acre of land for the expansion of the airport.

MR. JACK BRODERSEN REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Brodersen came before council and commented that he was going to discuss all the upgrades but that has been done. He explained that if the county wants to stop losing revenue and want to bring businesses in the county. If you want businesses, you need to bring infrastructure like the airport.

MR. NIGEL ALEXANDER:

Mr. Alexander commented that the upgrades to the airport of cutting the trees were a disservice to the residents because stumps were left in the yard. Mr. Alexander reported that residents in the area of the airport have concerns about the planes flying over their homes. If the planes are going to increase, this is a concern. Also, he expressed the fact that he would never incur debt that his son or daughter will have to pay. He feels that the time is not right to take out a loan.

REPRESENTATIVE SHEDRON WILLIAMS:

Representative Williams reported that the Legislative Delegation acquired 10 million dollars to help with the consolidation efforts as decided by Hampton One and Hampton Two School Districts. He also expressed concern about the loan that was taken out in 2016 for airport hangars. Mr. Williams informed council that Title 55, Chapter 1, Section 55-1-80 allows for the appointment of a

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member to the county aviation commission. He reported that he will be appointing Mr. Nigel Alexander.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the minutes was deferred.

PRESENTATION(S)

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENT(S)

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE:

Chairman Bishop along with members of council presented Mr. Jacob Brodersen his certificate of appointment to the Hampton County Airport Commission.

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

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

ORDINANCE(S)

**THIRD READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND
SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,666,620 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOT
EXCEEDING \$2,666,620 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF
HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEFRAYING
THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING AND CONSTRUCTING THE HAMPTON COUNTY
AIRPORT HANGARS AND OTHER PUBLIC USES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
PAYMENT THEREOF AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:**

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to give third reading to the Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$2,666,620 General Obligation Bonds and Not Exceeding \$2,666,620 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes of Hampton County, South Carolina for the Purposes of Defraying the Costs of Acquiring and Constructing the Hampton County Airport Hangars and Other Public Uses; To Provide for the Payment Thereof and Other Matters Relating Thereto. Chairman Bishop asked for questions, Council Member Winn expressed his disagreement with the ordinance. Council Member Winn commented that approximately 1.6 million was borrowed in 2017 for other items and airport hangars and wanted to know where the money went for the hangars. Administrator Dobson Elliott responded that the note was done in 2016 and a majority of council voted to allow the revenue went in fuel farms. Chairman Bishop asked Council Member Winn and Administrator Dobson Elliott to address the chair and not each other so it won't be any back and forth. Council Member Winn commented that this loan of 2.6 million is benefiting only 5-7 wealthy people and feel that it is out

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of order because there are other needs like recreation. He explained that he met with Ms. Toomes and was informed that the USDA would only approve 35% of the loan. Council Member Winn explained that he did not agree with what the county was doing to borrow this money for the airport hangars. Council Member Hollingsworth addressed Council Member Winn's question regarding pesticides at the airport. Council Member Hollingsworth reported that he is a former Clemson Extension Agent and DHEC does not regulate pesticides; Clemson University's Department of Pesticides Regulation is the agency that regulates pesticides. He also reported that he has his license and is a certified pesticide trainer. Council Member Winn reiterated that he does not agree with the county borrowing the 2.6 million for airport hangars and commented to council to "let their conscience be their guide". Motion carried with Council Members Bishop, Hollingsworth and Phillips voting in favor and Council Members Williams and Winn to oppose.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR EMERGENCY BACKUP SUCCESSION PLAN:
Moved by Council Member Hollingsworth, seconded by Council Member Williams, to give third reading to the County Administrator Emergency Backup Succession Plan. Motion carried with Council Members Bishop, Hollingsworth, Phillips and Williams voting in favor and Council Member Winn voting to oppose.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Bishop reported that the Gullah Gee Chee Gala was successful. There were citizens, citizens from other counties, people from the political and business arena and students from both school districts. Chairman Bishop commented that he did private sponsorship of students from Estill High School. Also present were Victoria Smalls, John Wright, and Heather Bruemmer. He stated that Mr. Wright and Ms. Bruemmer were members of the Hampton County Arts Council.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

The County Attorney reported that he filed the answer and sent a message to council that he was doing so.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

The Clerk had no update.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Dobson Elliott reported to council that she was proud of the staff that worked with Mr. Russell, Toys for Tots and on the Bake Sale that raised \$800 (Hampton County Department of

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Social Services Fill the Stocking). Administrator Dobson Elliott thanked everyone and reported that everything was a success. She also thanked council for their support.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no matters for executive session.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no executive matters to report out.

ADJOURNMENT

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