

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; AUGUST 15, 2005; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 15, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lee S. Bowers; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chair. Council Member(s) absent: Lisa Ball. Staff present: Sabrena Posey-Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Kevin Byrd, Chaplain, Hampton County, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF AUGUST 15, 2005 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Parker stated that she did not have any changes. Administrator Graham stated that she had an item to add under the Administrator's Reports. She stated that she would like to add a request from Danny Black, Southern Carolina Alliance , for a letter to be written to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) supporting and endorsing the Grant Allendale, Inc. Project Permits. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to adopt the agenda with the revision of adding the request from Danny Black as stated by Administrator Graham. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AUGUST 1, 2005 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Council Member Wilson stated that he had a question regarding page 3 and the contract approval regarding the bid. He asked if it stated that there was the approval of the contract was with the addition of the alternatives which totaled approximately \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) above the bid amount. Chairman Parker and Administrator Graham stated that the alternatives were not approved for the Emergency Services Building. Chairman Parker stated that they were written in there, but it has to come back before Council for them to be included. Council Member Bowers stated that the alternatives were not included nor were they approved and the minutes stated this. Council Member Wilson stated that he just wanted clarification. There were no changes. Chairman Parker stated that the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Parker stated that Council had a special presentation. She asked Ms. Karissa Ulmer, 4-H Agent, Clemson Extension, to come and explain the honor that Ms. Erica Wiley had received. Ms. Ulmer came before Council and stated that Erica Wiley was awarded the Presidential Tray for outstanding public service as a 4-H'er. Ms. Ulmer highlighted some of the activities in which Ms. Wiley participated. Ms. Ulmer stated that she believed that Erica Wiley may be the first Hampton County 4-H'er to receive this award. Chairman Parker asked Ms. Erica Wiley to come forward along with her mother, Kim Wiley, and Karissa Ulmer, 4-H Agent, Clemson Extension. Chairman Parker presented to Erica Wiley a framed certificate of recognition from Council recognizing the honor she received as a 4-H member. Ms. Wiley thanked Council and all involved for the recognition.

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION:

Library Board Chair, Mrs. Laclaire Laffitte, along with other Board Members came before Council and made a request for the County to purchase the property behind the Library for Library use. They outlined the uses for the needed space. Council thanked the Library Board Members for their presentation.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s) scheduled.

ORDINANCES

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FIRST READING (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE 2005-006, AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE MILLAGE BY TITLE ONLY:

Administrator Graham published the figures for the millage for 2005 tax year. The figures were as follows:

HAMPTON COUNTY MILLAGE FOR 2005 TAX YEAR		
	Hampton County District #1 (North)	Hampton County District #2 (South)
General Fund	189 mills	189 mills
County Capital Projects	5 mills	5 mills
County Rural Fire Protection	12 mills	12 mills
School	208 mills	298 mills
School Shortage (Prior Years)	2 mills	10 mills

Council Member Johnson asked how much of the millage would be offset if the school districts were consolidated. Administrator Graham stated that she did not know what it would be. Chairman Parker commended the Administrator for getting the school figures with the schools agreeing to the figures. Administrator Graham stated that she used a 93% collection rate in regards to the millage calculation. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to give second reading to Ordinance #2005-006, an ordinance to set the millage. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Parker stated that when Council approved the budget, they knew that there would be an increase in the millage.

FIRST (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE #2005-004 - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND NEVAMAR COMPANY, LLC:

Administrator Graham stated that Hampton County policy states an ordinance cannot be pending for more than a year. The ordinance for the Nevamar Incentive Agreement started back in March 2004; the County had to start again with the three readings. Council approved first reading by title only on August 1, 2005. Administrator Graham stated that all dates will move forward one year, and the six year window will commence with the 2005 tax year. She stated that budget considerations make it impossible for the County to undertake this process retroactively. Administrator Graham stated that Nevamar has already met the investment and employment requirements.. Ms. Lucas informed Nevamar attorneys that since this matter has been pending for so long, the Council would like an update on the amount of investment since July 1, 2004, projected investment for the term of the agreement, current employment and projected employment. Administrator Graham stated that with the Incentive Agreement, Hampton County agrees to limit the tax liability of Nevamar to \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) for six years with a \$10

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million dollar investment by Nevamar and 400 jobs. She stated that one of the points that was being negotiated was the "Claw Back" Provision. Also, the assignment provision was being discussed. She stated that it was stated that this agreement could not be transferred to another company. The agreement would have to come back before Council. Administrator Graham stated that April said that she is looking forward to hearing from Nevamar by the end of the week. Administrator Graham stated that she will forward the to Council information as soon as it becomes available. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give second (2nd) reading to Ordinance 2005-004, Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Hampton County, South Carolina and Nevamar Company, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG) REPORT - CHAIRMAN PARKER:

Chairman Parker stated that the report was on her kitchen table. She asked that it be placed back on the September 6, 2005 agenda.

RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Chairman Parker stated that she and Council Member Wilson are on the Rules and Procedures Committee. She stated that the committee met, and Council will be receiving a black-lined copy with the proposed changes. She stated that there will be several meetings to discuss the rules and procedures.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE - COURTHOUSE ANNEX:

Chairman Parker stated that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met with the Architects regarding the Courthouse Annex. Chairman Parker asked Administrator Graham if the money figures have not been received yet from the Architects. Administrator Graham stated that the figures that the Committee has; those are the figures. Council Member Bowers stated that you can't get exact figures unless you tell them what you need. He stated that the courthouse project is moving along and it's a question as to whether you want to renovate or build a new building. He stated that there's lead paint and asbestos in the present building. Council Member Bowers stated that you could build a new building and put the facade of the old building on the front and side. Administrator Graham read a letter from Mosely Architects recommending the County build a new building. Council Member Bowers stated that it might be a little more money, but it will provide more space. He stated that if you renovate, you might have 140,000 square feet and if you built new, you would have 160,000 square feet. Council Member Johnson asked why knock down something that is sound and solid. Chairman Parker stated that the Buildings and Grounds

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Committee needs another meeting to make a recommendation. Council Member Johnson asked if the revenues from the 1% sales tax is generating enough to pay for all the projects. Administrator Graham stated that based on what has been collected for this year, yes. Chairman Parker asked that the matter be put down on the agenda for the Buildings and Grounds Committee to meet and bring back a recommendation to Council. She stated that the committee will set the meeting date and time.

ESTILL TOWN COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP MEETING:

Chairman Parker stated that the second (2nd) follow-up meeting with the Town of Estill has been scheduled for September 12, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Training Room, Estill Fire Station, Estill, South Carolina. Chairman Parker stated that the Town of Estill is to be contacted to see if they can meet at this time.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

CAPITAL PROJECTS REVENUE REPORT:

Administrator Graham presented the Capital Projects Revenue Report to Council. She informed Council that collections were up from last quarter.

GIS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

Administrator Graham stated that per South Carolina Department of Revenue Regulations 117-117, counties must update their mapping systems every ten (10) years. She stated that Hampton County has completed this process in 1997 and is due to update again in 2007. She stated that Mr. Lewis Lapine, Chief with S. C. Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistical Services and S. C. Geodetic Survey, met with County staff on August 2, 2005 to encourage the County to consider updating the mapping system this year. Mr. Lapine explained this will be color photography with better resolution and about 1/3 the cost of the last mapping upgrade. Administrator Graham stated that SCGS has offered grant funding of \$18,000 not to exceed \$23,250 for the update. She stated that a memorandum of understanding from SCGS is included in the packet. She stated that these funds may not be available in the future. Administrator Graham stated that there are some overlapping areas in Hampton County and our neighbors Allendale who had a 2004 Aerial Photography done and Colleton who's just completed a 2003 Aerial Photography. She stated that if Hampton does its Aerial Photography now, there is approximately a \$12,000 savings that the county would have by utilizing the Aerial Orthos from our neighbors at no costs. She stated that if Hampton waits until 2007, per SCGS, the Aerial Orthos from our neighbors will be outdated and cannot be used. Administrator Graham stated that SCGS has two other counties they are contacting, and if they agree, SCGS will assist with bidding and awarding a contract for all three projects together which would generate some savings. Administrator Graham stated that the total cost to update the mapping system this year is \$59,400 (fifty-nine thousand, four hundred dollars) less the state share of \$23,250 (twenty-three thousand, two hundred fifty thousand dollars) which she stated would leave a balance of \$36,150 (thirty-six thousand, one hundred fifty dollars). Administrator Graham stated that the savings to the County for updating the mapping system this year is \$35,250 (thirty-five thousand, two hundred fifty thousand dollars) which includes \$23,250

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from SCGS and \$12,000 from our neighboring counties overlay. Administrator Graham stated that this is not a budgeted item, but the savings is too significant to ignore. She stated that the aerial flying would occur in February. Administrator Graham stated that SCGS will make their funds available immediately. She stated that Hampton County needs to provide a minimum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) this fiscal year and budget the remaining \$21,150 (twenty-one thousand, one hundred fifty) next fiscal year. Administrator Graham stated that the memorandum of understanding from SCGS clearly states that if for some reason SCGS does not award the County the stated funds, Hampton County is under no obligation to complete the project this fiscal year. Administrator Graham stated that the recommendation is that Council approve the memorandum of understanding between South Carolina Budget and Control Board Office of Research and Statistical Services , the South Carolina Geodetic Survey Section (SCGS) and Hampton County to update the County mapping system with partial funding for the project of up to \$23,250 from SCGS and that Council authorizes \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) of revenue to be transferred from the contingency fund for this project and budgets the remaining \$21,150 next fiscal year. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the Agreement and \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) from the contingency fund for the GIS Aerial Photography. Motion carried.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

Administrator Graham stated that a request came from the Sheriff's department for approval of out of state travel for the three staff from the Narcotics Division at the Sheriff Department to attend training. She stated that the request is to provide meals for Narcotics staff to attend ROCIC Training in Alabama. She stated that the departure date is August 29 and the return date is September 2, 2005. Administrator Graham stated that per the request, there is no registration fee and no request to cover lodging. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Bowers to approve the out of state travel from the Sheriff's department. Motion carried.

REQUEST FROM DANNY BLACK, SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE, FOR HAMPTON COUNTY TO ENDORSE GRANT ALLENDALE, INC. PROJECT AND SUPPORT THEIR PERMIT REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:

Administrator Graham stated that Hampton County received a request from Danny Black, Southern Carolina Alliance, for a letter of support from Hampton County to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) endorsing and supporting the Grant Allendale, Inc. Project. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to write the letter to DHEC endorsing and supporting the permits for the Grant Allendale, Inc. Project. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters and a personnel matter. Motion carried. Session began 7:25 p. m. and ended 7:48 p. m. **Chairman Parker** stated that Council was reconvening into the public meeting. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Parker stated that the a contractual matter regarding the library was discussed in executive session and Council would like

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to take action.

DECISION REGARDING THE LIBRARY'S PROPOSAL:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to purchases the block building behind the Library in the amount of \$35,500 (thirty-five thousand, five hundred dollars). Mr. Boyles who stated that he was the real estate agent for the property stated that the property was listed a little higher. Administrator Graham stated that the appraised value was what they (she and Mr. Boyles) had agreed on. Council Member Bowers stated that he would amend his motion. Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to make an offer of \$35,500 (thirty-five thousand, five hundred dollars) for the block building behind the Library. Motion carried.

Chairman Parker stated that the following were discussed in executive session:

- Contractual Matter (Economic Development Office) - Council gave the Administrator directions.
- Contractual Matter (Town of Hampton) - Council gave the Administrator directions.
- Personnel Matter (Department of One) - Chairman Parker stated that she could not divulge the name, because it was a department of one.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p. m.