

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; FEBRUARY 6, 2006; 5:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 6, 2006, 5:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball, Lee S. Bowers, Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chairman. 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:

Council Member Johnson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Parker stated that Council was in need of an executive session to discuss a contractual matter. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to go into executive session. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 5:05 p. m. and ended 6:12 p. m. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Parker stated that Council gave directions to the Administrator on two items.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s) scheduled by Council. Chairman Parker stated that Ms. Holly Crews from the Lowcountry Council of Governments held a public hearing at 5:30 p. m. to receive public comments on a planning grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2006 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. The agenda was adopted as published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2006 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AND JANUARY 17, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes, additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. Chairman Parker stated that the minutes were accepted as received.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council voted by secret ballot. The results would be announced later in the meeting.

RESOLUTION(S)

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING AS THE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER FOR THE ELDERLY IN HAMPTON COUNTY:

Administration Graham stated that this was a standard resolution in which the council would adopt to declare the Hampton County Council on Aging as the Transportation Provider for the elderly. She stated that the grant had a \$6,000 match which would be put in next year's budget. She stated that the funds could be used to contract with LRTA (Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority) or to purchase a vehicle. Administrator Graham stated that the Council on Aging applied in both categories. **Moved by** Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to adopt the resolution to declare the Hampton County Council on Aging as the transportation provider for the elderly in Hampton County. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

FIRST (1st) READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-002, FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 MID-YEAR BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt Ordinance #2006-002, Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Mid Year Budget by title only. Motion carried unanimously.

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BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

There were no council briefing(s).

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Funding Request from DSS (Department of Social Services) Director, Bernie Zurenda

Administrator Graham stated that Mr. Zurenda was requesting reconsideration of funding to the DSS budget for general relief and pauper's funerals. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to put \$400, (\$250 for pauper's funeral and \$150 for general relief), and if he needed more, to come back. Council Member Ball asked Mr. Zurenda if there were any programs on the federal or state level that could help people with their medications. Mr. Zurenda said that he did not think so, but he could research it. He stated that he would look for funding anywhere he could find it to help persons in need. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mike Meyer, Finance Director, Presented the Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Meyer came before Council and presented the Quarterly Financial Report. He stated that the expenditures should be at the 50% level. He stated that there were a few departments that were over the 50% level, but there was no need to be alarmed, because some purchases were one time purchases that were needed in the first half of the fiscal year. Council thanked Mr. Meyer for his report.

EMS Delinquent Collections Report

Administrator Graham stated that the EMS staff has completed the review of all accounts and submitted the first batch to ARC for collections. She stated that approximately 1,200 have been identified for submission totaling \$580,832 in value. She stated that some date back to 1995. Administrator Graham stated that EMS is also pursuing collections through the South Carolina Association of Counties Set-Off Debt Collection program. She stated that 1,709 accounts totaling \$628,173 will be submitted to SCAC for possible collection. Administrator Graham stated that this was provided to council as information.

Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) January's Activity Report

Administrator Graham presented the SCA's January Activity Report to council as information.

Hampton County Strategic Plan

Administrator Graham stated that she would like to schedule a public hearing for the Strategic Plan for February 21, 2006. Council agreed to the public hearing for 02/21/2006.

South Carolina Department of Transportation Grant

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Administrator Graham stated that Hampton County received grants totaling \$364,000 for the US 278/Lee Avenue Improvement Project and the DSS Pedestrian Connector. She stated that the \$132,432 match for the US 278/Lee Avenue project will come from donated funds for the capital improvements project and the \$41,000 match for the DSS Pedestrian Connector will be provided by the Hampton County Transportation Committee. She stated that the Town of Hampton was also awarded \$200,000 for the downtown revitalization project. Administrator Graham thanked everyone who was involved, LCOG, DSS, New Life Center, Pastor Byrd, Town of Hampton, Palmetto State Bank, Rick Reynolds, SCDOT, County Public Works and the citizens of Hampton County. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the grants from the South Carolina Department of Transportation for the US 278/Lee Avenue Improvement Project and the DSS Pedestrian Connector Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Workmen's Compensation Horizon Award

Administrator Graham recognized Mr. Dobie Hiers, Risk Manager, for being instrumental in the county receiving the Horizon Award. She also recognized Becky Brunson for completing the required hours to become the third certified Risk Manager in the County.

NACo Prescription Drug Card

Administrator Graham stated that the National Association of Counties has contracted with Caremark to provide a prescription discount card for member counties to offer to their uninsured and underinsured residents. She stated that Hampton County could partner with NACo and offer this program to county residents at no direct cost to the County. She stated that NACo provides the drug cards and marketing materials to the county. Customer care support is provided by Caremark. She stated that the county will partner with the local media and other agencies to advertise the program and distribute the cards. She stated that there is cost to NACo and no cost to the counties participating in the program and no cost to the citizens using the drug card. She stated that there is:

- An average savings of 20%
- Extra savings available through mail service
- No enrollment fees
- No aging requirements, no income requirements
- Over 57,000 participating pharmacies (All in Hampton County)
- Unlimited Family Use, Family Coverage with just one card.

Administrator Graham stated that NACo endorsed the program, and the County Attorney has reviewed the program contract. Council Member Bowers asked what was underinsured. Administrator Graham stated that the pharmacies would determine who is under insured or uninsured. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the NACo Prescription Drug Card Program contract and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the program. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Ms. Helen Pittman, Staff Member for Jasper County Delegation

Ms. Pittman distributed Legislative Manuals to council. She also stated that both Senator Pinckney and Representative Rivers was attending the Jasper County Council meeting in regards to the traffic problems. She stated that in Columbia, they are discussing property tax reforms. She stated that the property tax reforms being discussed are favorable to the property owner who owns expensive property. She stated that any property under the value of \$300,000, the reforms are not favorable.

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Council thanked Ms. Pittman for the update.

Announcement of Results for Board Appointments

Chairman Parker stated that council voted by secret ballot and the following were appointed:

Hampton County Fire Control Board

Lloyd "Tootie" Griffith
George "Dobie" Hiers
Bobby Sullivan

New Life Center Board

Debra Ginn
Durena Marcum
Sarah Jo Whitycombe

Hampton County Library Board

Linda C. Crawford

Lowcountry Community Action Agency

Marcella Brown

Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board

Ronnie Stanley (Business Representative)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p. m.