

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; MAY 7, 2007; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING
201 JACKSON AVENUE, WEST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman; and Willard E. Wilson. Council Member(s) absent: Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Rev. David Deming, Pastor, Brunson Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

1. Mr. Rodney Hill, Citizen and Carsonite Employee – Mr. Hill came before council to let Council know that they, the employees at Carsonite, have been without insurance since October 7, 2006. He stated that Carsonite said that they had received the agreement from the state and was waiting on the county. Chairman Gray asked Administrator Graham if she knew anything about this. Administrator Graham stated that this was one of the contractual matters that they would be discussing in executive session. She stated that the county just received the information from Carsonite this week.
2. Mrs. Pearline Heyward and Mr. Heyward, Citizens – Mr. & Mrs. Heyward came before council to inquire as to why the Building Inspector refused to issue the permit for their lights to be turned on. She stated that they had completed everything that they were requested to do. She stated that when they requested the inspection in order for the lights to be turned on, the Building Inspector refused and told them that the mobile home could not be placed in that location. She stated that he allowed the other trailer to be placed

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there and told the person not to do it again. Administrator Graham stated that she did not have all the details from staff. Chairman Gray stated that the County Administrator will check and get back to Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE MAY 7, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Deferral of Item #6.2, April 19, 2007 Special Meeting Minutes and (2) Deferral of Item #13.1.8, Quarterly Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray stated that the minutes were approved.

APRIL 23, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of the National County Government Week's 5th Grade Class Project

Chairman Gray presented to Mrs. Solomon's 5th Grade Class from Fennell Elementary School a plaque recognizing them as the first place winners in the National County Government Week's Environmental Protection Theme Project sponsored by Hampton County.

Contribution Agencies Regarding Fiscal Year 2008 Year Budget Requests

The following agency representatives appeared before Council to thank them for what was being considered but also to ask that Council reconsider their submitted 2007-2008 Budget Requests:

Presenter	Agency
Ms. Beth McNeer	AHJ Regional Library
Ms. Sylvia Brunson & Mr. Ray Norris	Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center
Dr. Anne McNutt	Technical College of Lowcountry
Dr. Roy Hollingsworth	Clemson Extension Service
Mr. J. C. Clifton	Community Animal Shelter
Ms. Betty Hodges	Veteran's Affair

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APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 20, 2007 AS PUBLIC WORKS WEEK:

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the proclamation recognizing the week of May 20, 2007 as Public Works Week. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give second (2nd) reading to Hampton County's 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED HAMPTON COUNTY'S RULES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:

Chairman Gray stated that Council had before them the proposed Rules and Procedures Ordinance Amendment. Council Member Wilson stated that he did not think that the council should try to apply stricter conflict of interest rules than the state. He stated that if there is a question, then this is why the State Ethics Commission is there to rule on questionable situations. He stated that the part going far back in your family may cause the county problems, and he did not feel it was right to the taxpayers of the county to exclude them from the bidding process just because they may be a relative of a council member. Council Member Wilson stated that he had problems with page 2, delete the second paragraph; pages 5-6, Paragraphs G, H, I and J and Page 23, Paragraph D. There was discussion regarding the matters as referenced above. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to table the proposed Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance Amendment until the June 4, 2007 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

There were no bids.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:

There were no discussion point(s) by council.

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HAMPTON COUNTY'S CHARRETTE PROPOSAL (COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER):

Council Member Parker stated that she received \$21,000 in contributions from outside sources and \$1,500 from Hampton County to fund the Charrette Proposal. She stated that they had the latest revised copy of the proposal from Clemson Institute for Community Development. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the Charrette Proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Administrator Graham announced that the next budget workshop is scheduled for May 14, 2007 at 6:00 p. m.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Hampton County's Mission Statement

Administrator Graham presented the mission statement to council. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the draft mission statement. Motion carried.

Fire Department's Use of Fund Balance to Repair Fire Truck

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the use of \$16,000 (sixteen thousand dollars) from the Fire Department's Fund Balance to repair the Fire Truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Increase for Fuel in Public Works and Sheriff's Department

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve a transfer of \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) for Public Works and \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) for the Sheriff's Department for a total of \$45,000 (forty-five thousand dollars) from the contingency fund account for the increase in fuel in the public works and sheriff's departments. Council Member Wilson asked what the balance was in the contingency account. Administrator Graham stated that she thought it was approximately \$124,000 (one hundred twenty-four thousand dollars) Motion carried unanimously.

Out of State Travel (Veterans" Affairs Office)

The Veterans Affairs Officer requested additional funds to attend out of state training. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the transfer of \$1,000 or whatever it takes (up to \$1,850) for the Veterans Affairs Officer to attend the National Annual Training Conference and Business Meeting. Council Member Parker stated that she asked that a listing of all the department's travel be given her. She stated that with the approval of the \$1,000 as requested would put the Veterans Affairs Office far beyond the travel budget for departments with more employees. Council Member Wilson stated that there is training required for the Veterans Office. He stated that people are always saying how much they love and care for the Veterans, but when there is an opportunity to get the training for someone to help them, then there's a problem. There was discussion regarding the matter. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Johnson and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Parker voting against.

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Agreement With Community Animal Shelter

Administrator Graham stated that the Agreement has been reviewed by Mr. J. C. Clifton, the County Attorney and Council's Liaison, Council Member Wilson. **Moved by** Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the agreement with the Community Animal Shelter (CASH). Motion carried unanimously.

Lease Agreement with Beaufort County for Alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC):

Administrator Graham stated that the County Attorney has some questions that he would like answered. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to table the execution of the agreement until resolution of the questions regarding the agreement by the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Revised Intersection of Highway 278 and Parking Lot

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the design as presented by Administrator Graham for the Intersection of Highway 278 and the Courthouse Parking Lot. Council Member Parker stated that she would like to study it a little more. Administrator Graham stated that she needed approval for it. She stated that there was not time to study, because it had to be submitted to the Department of Transportation for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Quarterly Financial Report and Audit Update

Administrator Graham stated that Council deferred this matter, because Mr. Meyer, Finance Director, was sick and was not present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to discuss economic development matters and a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council discussed (1) Economic Development Matters and a Personnel matter regarding a Plan of Work.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p. m.