

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; JUNE 4, 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, June 4, 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.; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman and Willard E. Wilson. 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:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**ORDINANCE 2007-007, DEEDING ROAD TO THE TOWN OF HAMPTON:**

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding Ordinance #2007-007, Deeding Road to the Town of Hampton. There were no public comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

**ORDINANCE #2007-004, HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:**

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding Ordinance #2007-004, Hampton County's 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget. There were no public comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

There were no public comment(s).

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**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 4, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Deferral of Item #10.2.2, Second Reading to the Building Code Ordinance Amendment, (2) Addition of Item #12.3, Charrette Update (Council Member Parker) and (3) Addition of Item #13.1.5, Request from the Animal Shelter. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MAY 21, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**MAY 29, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Introduction – Ms. Elaunda Williams, County Director, Department of Juvenile Justice and Mr. James Lucas, Regional Director, Department of Juvenile Justice**

Ms. Williams and Mr. Lucas came before council to introduce themselves and also give an overview of the programs that the Department of Juvenile Justice offers.

**Dr. William Small, Executive Director, Hampton County Economic Development, Regarding Economic Development Initiatives in Hampton County**

Dr. Small, Executive Director, Hampton County, gave a report regarding the economic development initiatives in Hampton County. (See attachment #1)

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointment(s).

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolution(s).

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**ORDINANCES**

**HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2007-2007, DEEDING OF ROAD, GUESS BOULEVARD (LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF HAMPTON'S INDUSTRIAL PARK) TO THE TOWN OF HAMPTON:**

**Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading to Ordinance #2007-007, Deeding of Road, Guess Boulevard (Located in the Town of Hampton's Industrial Park), to the Town of Hampton. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE #2007-004, HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:**

Administrator Graham stated that the proposed budget calls for a three mill increase. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, to approve the budget with a 2% raise to all employees for longevity and next year after a one year study, an increase for seniority. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to amend Council Member Parker's motion to implement the plan for longevity instead of merit moving all employees with 15 – 24 years of service to the medium level and all employees with 25 years and above to the maximum level of the pay scale to insure equity for those who have been dedicated to Hampton County and even the pay scale in comparison with those who are just starting and making the same or more than those who have 15 to 20 years of service and to transfer approximately \$8,000 from contingency to add to the \$59,000 earmarked for merit to implement the longevity plan. There was some question whether the amendment could be made. County Attorney Solomons, Parliamentarian, affirmed that the amendment had to be voted on first and then the motion. Chairman Gray called for the question on the amendment. The amendment failed with Council Members Johnson and Wilson voting in favor of the amendment and Council Members Gray, Parker and Phillips voting against. Chairman Gray called for the second to the motion as was stated by Council Member Parker. There was no second. The motion died for a second. There was a short discussion by Council. Council Member Phillips stated that he was not really in favor of the merit system but was not comfortable voting on either proposals as presented by Council Members Parker or Wilson. He stated that he would like a little more time. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the budget as is and since the raises would not go into effect until January 2008, Council will have an opportunity to discuss and decide what method is best to distribute for longevity. Council Member Wilson stated that he did not agree with passing the budget as is, because the \$59,000 is earmarked in the budget as merit pay and if the budget is passed, then council is passing a merit increase. Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to amend the motion to state that the \$59,000 be transferred from the line item "Merit Increase / Pay" to the Contingency fund until Council makes a decision regarding the distribution to employees for longevity. Motion carried. Chairman Gray called for the vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORDINANCE #2007-006, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET:**

**Moved** By Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to give second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading to Ordinance #2007-006, Amending the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #2007-008, AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING CODE ORDINANCE:**

Council deferred this matter.

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**ORDINANCE #2007-005, HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES  
ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Gray stated that the next item was council's rules and procedures. He stated that Council Member Wilson asked that the matter be deferred until the next meeting. There was discussion from council regarding the rules and procedures. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to delay discussion of Ordinance #2007-005 until the next meeting. He stated that he would like to see it go back to committee to study issues that are unsettled. Council Members Parker and Wilson disagreed on the wording regarding the Conflict of Interest. Council Member Wilson stated that the section should state that council is bound by the rules as stated under the Ethics Act regarding Conflict of Interest. He stated that the Ethics Commission oversees ethical decisions regarding elected officials and council should not try to create/state rules that may get them in trouble down the road. Chairman Gray asked the county attorney if the State Ethics Commission carried the weight of the law. County Attorney Solomons stated that the State Ethic Commission does. Council Member Parker stated that she felt that the rules should be stated in the ordinance with the wording as proposed that no council member or their family members should be able to conduct business with Hampton County. Chairman Gray called for the question. Motion carried. Council asked that the County Attorney provide a copy of the Conflict of Interest Statement from the state.

**BIDS**

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):**

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #2)

**COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT:**

There were no discussion point(s) by council.

**CHARRETTE UPDATE (COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER):**

Council Member Parker stated that Administrator Graham has not received a contract regarding the charette and will call the people at Clemson tomorrow to see what dates are available for the fall. She stated that council could mark the dates of June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> off their calendars for the charrette.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Status Report for Buildings and Grounds (Mr. Dobie Hiers)**

Mr. Hiers, Director, Buildings and Grounds, came before council and gave presented the status report on the buildings. (See attachment #3)

**Grants Activity Report (Ms. Paula Bishop, Grants Coordinator)**

Ms. Paula Bishop, Grants Coordinator, presented to council an activity report on the grants that

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Hampton County has received, is ongoing and is pursuing. (See attachment #4)

**Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Holiday Calendar**

**Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to approve the 2007-2008 Holiday Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #5)

**Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Authorized Positions**

Administrator Graham stated the next item was the authorized positions for council's approval for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and is included in the budget that council approved. She stated that it lists the positions by department and its grades. She stated that it included two full time clerical positions, one for the Auditor and one for the Treasurer and one part-time for the Veterans Affairs Office. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Authorized Positions List. Motion carried unanimously. (See Attachment #6)

**Request For Funding for Animal Control**

Administrator Graham stated that Mr. Clifton needed additional funding regarding the care of dogs that are being housed at the Animal Shelter in regards to a pending case from the Sheriff. She stated that Mr. Clifton is requesting an additional \$800.00 to get him through this fiscal year. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to appropriate \$800.00 (eight hundred dollars) from the contingency fund to the Animal Shelter. Motion carried. Chairman Gray asked Mr. Clifton if there was any chance that when the case goes to court, and they win the case that the county can recover the cost for housing the dogs. Mr. Clifton stated that he has been communicating with the Solicitor's office, and it's a possibility that the County will recover some of the cost through restitution for housing the dogs.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to discuss the economic development matters. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:50 p. m and ended 8:05 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that the County Administrator brought county council up to date on economic development matters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p. m.