

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; AUGUST 20, 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, August 20, 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 Council Member Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**PURBLIC HEARING REGARDING THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE
#2007-010, TOWER AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC
AND GAS AND HAMPTON COUNTY:**

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments on Ordinance #2007-010, Tower Agreement Between South Carolina Electric and Gas and Hampton County. There were no comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE
#2007-011, AMENDMENT TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY UNIFIED LAND
DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments on Ordinance #2007-011, Amendment to the Hampton County Unified Land Development Ordinance. There were no comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

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PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MRS. NEAL MURDAUGH, CITIZEN, REGARDING CRIM IN THE EARLY BRANCH AREA:

Mr. Neal Murdaugh was unable to present, because he had a fire call. Mrs. Neal Murdaugh came before council and read that was supposed to be presented by her husband, Mr. Murdaugh. The Murdaughs and citizens of the Early Branch community requested that council provide more protection to the citizens in the form of more deputies, etc. She stated that there were break-ins happening in the daylight hours. Council informed Mrs. Murdaugh that the Sheriff had approached council regarding more manpower. Council stated that they understand and agree, but a method in which to fund any additions has to be figured out. Council thanked Mrs. Murdaugh for her comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 20, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adopt the agenda with the following additions and deletions as specified: (1) Addition of Item #13.1.6, Sheriff Small and (2) Deletion of Items #10.1.2, Ordinance #2007-010, Tower Agreement Between South Carolina Electric and Gas and Hampton County for Rental of Tower Space on a Tower Near the Town of Gifford and #13.1.4, Courthouse Construction Project Contract and Change Order. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AUGUST 6, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

PRESENTATIONS

WATER CAPACITY USE AREA STUDY (MR. CHUCK GORMAN, DHEC REPRESENTATIVE):

Mr. Chuck Gorman made a report regarding the Water Capacity Use Study. He stated that Hampton County was a good candidate for a Water Capacity Use Area. Mr. Rob Devlin was also present to answer questions.

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APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint the following:

Airport Commission

Jack Harley Woodward

Arts Council

Patricia D. Beard

Fire Board

Julian Edgar Rhodes, Jr.

Library Board

Amy S. Wachowski

Lowcountry Community Action Agency Board

Lawrence Shaw

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-005, AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Moved by Council Member Parker, to give third (3rd) reading to Ordinance #2007-005, Amendment to the Rules and Procedure. Council Member Parker stated that she felt that the conflict of interest statement should remain and council members and family should not be able to bid on projects. She stated that other counties like Greenville, Anderson and Charleston have this in their ordinance. Council Member Wilson stated that he didn't think that it should be the statement, even if it prohibited council members, but it should not include family. Council Member Wilson stated that under Section 3, this ordinance should go in the dead ordinance file because it has not passed in the twelve month period. Council Member Parker stated that she was trying to get it passed. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give third (3rd) reading to the ordinance. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to amend the motion to place the Ordinance #2007-005, Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance in the Dead Ordinance File. Motion to amend did not pass with Council Members Johnson and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Gray, Parker and Phillips voting against. Council Member Phillips stated that he was cautious to voting for the amendment to the whole amendment to the Rules and Procedures as proposed by Council Member Parker, in regards to the limitation of family bidding. Council Member Wilson stated that if council is not going to follow the rules that are in place now, why make them. Council Member Wilson passed a copy of the current Rules and Procedures to Council Member Gray. Chairman Gray reviewed the section of the Rules and Procedures and declared the

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amendment to Ordinance #2007-005 as a dead ordinance, because the amendment did not pass in the required time.

**THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-010, TOWER AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS AND HAMPTON COUNTY
FOR RENTAL OF TOWER SPACE ON A TOWER NEAR THE TOWN OF GIFFORD:**
The matter was deleted.

**THIRD (3rd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-011, AMENDMENT TO THE
HAMPTON COUNTY UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE:**

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give third (3rd) reading to Ordinance #2007-011, Amendment to the Hampton County Unified Land Development Ordinance. Motion carried.

BIDS

CARDBOARD RECYCLING CONTAINERS:

Mr. Mike Meyer, Finance Director, came before council and provided the bids for the Cardboard Recycling Containers. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to award the bid to the low bidder, Baker Waste Equip, Inc., in the amount of \$34,424 (thirty four thousand, four hundred twenty-four dollars). Motion carried unanimously.

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 points by council.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AND COMMISSION TRAINING WORKSHOP:
Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the Boards and Commissions Training Workshop. Motion carried unanimously. The workshop is scheduled for October 9, 2007.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE UPDATE:
Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to accept the Nuisance Update from the Building Inspector, Randy Crews, as information.

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PRELIMINARY 2006/2007 YEAR END REPORT:

Mr. Meyer, Finance Director, presented a preliminary report and stated that General Fund revenues exceeded expenditures by \$756,316 for the fiscal year. Mr. Meyers cautioned that these figures were preliminary figures.

COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONTRACT AND CHANGE ORDER:
The matter was deleted.

SOUTHERNCAROLINA ALLIANCE JULY 2007 ACTIVITY REPORT:

Council accepted the report from SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance as information.

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY (TCL) UPDATE:

The Administrator stated that TCL had enough students for both programs, Rough In Electrician and Computer Class that were being offered at the Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) this semester.

SHERIFF T. C. SMALL REGARDING REQUEST FOR OVERTIME AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:

Sheriff Small provided council with a handout. He stated that he had met with the Jail and Law Enforcement Committee earlier today and discussed the matter. He stated that he was asking for more manpower and overtime for his deputies. Sheriff Small explained how the additional manpower would be used. Sheriff Small stated that the Sheriff's department was the only agency that was in the Hampton County government that did not receive time and half for overtime. He stated that his men were being stretched. He stated that he was elected to do a job and was going to do it, but it is difficult when you're working and don't get but \$2 or \$3 an hour when you're working overtime. Council Member Parker stated that the Jail and Law Enforcement Committee met today, but was not ready to make a recommendation.

Council Member Parker asked that the item be placed back on the next agenda and the committee will give a recommendation or update. Chairman Gray stated that the item will be placed on the next agenda. He stated that everyone wants to fund the request but needs to know what method can be used to fund it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 7:50 p. m and ended 8:12 p. m. **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:

Economic Development Matter(s)

Council deferred this matter.

Personnel Matter(s)

Council discussed a personnel matter.

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Contractual Matter(s)

Council discussed a contractual matter on the courthouse. Council scheduled a special meeting for August 24, 2007, 4:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p. m.