

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY; SEPTEMBER 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 Tuesday, September 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; and Willard E. Wilson. Council Members(s) absent: Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman. 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:

Council Member Johnson 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)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:
Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the following additions and deletions as specified: (1) Deletion of Items #7.2, Recognition of 4-H State Representative and State Winner (Ms. Karissa Ulmer, 4-H Agent) and #14, Executive Session, Personnel and Contractual Matters. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AUGUST 20, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND AUGUST 24, 2007 SPECIAL 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 both sets of the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING FORMER ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chairman Gray presented plaques to former Hampton County Election Commission Members, Clyde A. "Jack" Elzroth, Jr., Richard Sinclair and James "Jimmie" Wooten for their dedicated public service to Hampton County.

PRESENTATION OF APPOINTMENT CERTIFICATES TO BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPOINTEES:

Chairman Gray presented to Amy Wachowski, Library Board, a certificate of appointment.

MR. CHARLIE CREWS, CHAIRMAN, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REGARDING THE ROAD PAVING PROCESS:

Mr. Charlie Crews, Chairman, Transportation Committee, made a presentation regarding the creation and duties of the Transportation Committee. He cited several projects that the committee approved and also gave the criteria for paving a road. Council informed Mr. Crews that a citizen had come before council at a previous meeting and inquired as to why their road had not been paved. Mr. Crews stated that he would have to check records regarding that specific road, but stated that the criteria for paving a road is: (1) Condition of the road, (2) Number of houses on the road, (3) Connection of the road to other paved road and (4) School bus route. He stated that they also considered people with handicap. Council thanked Mr. Crews for his presentation. The citizens from Big Mama's Road asked to speak. Chairman Gray asked if they had signed in. They stated that they did not. He asked that they sign in, and they would be allowed to speak after the other business was finished.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s) scheduled.

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ORDINANCE(S)

There were no ordinance(s) scheduled.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

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. Information for the Charrette was passed out.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

URS Agreement

Mr. Mike Meyer, Finance Director, made the presentation. He stated that Utilities Reduction Specialists, Inc. (URS) was founded in 1991 and had assisted over 130 city and county governments with reviews of their phone and electrical billings to identify opportunities for refunds and cost reductions. Mr. Meyer stated that a list of URS's city and county clients were attached to the report. He stated that neighboring counties such as Colleton and Jasper and the City of Beaufort had and still has good experiences with URS. He stated that the compensation to URS is 45% of savings identified from the audit. He stated that Compensation is not due to URS until the savings are received by Hampton County. Mr. Meyer stated that the County Attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement and his suggested modifications are reflected in the agreement. Mr. Meyer stated that it is requested of Council to approve the agreement with URS to conduct an audit of the county's telephone and electric bills. Council Member Wilson asked if the bills had a spike for a month, and they realized a savings, would they continue to receive the percentage from that savings for the 24 month period. Mr. Meyer stated that he did not believe that would be the case. Chairman Gray wanted to know if URS filed for the savings. Mrs. Meyer stated that they will file for the savings. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the URS Agreement in accordance with the County Attorney's review and approval. Motion carried unanimously. (See attachment #2)

Capital Projects Sales Tax Summary

Administrator Graham updated Council on the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Receipts. (See Attachment #3 CPST Report). **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips to accept the report as information. Motion carried unanimously.

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Courthouse Project Budget

Administrator Graham presented the Courthouse Project Budget. (See Attachment #4). **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the report as information. Motion carried unanimously.

SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance August 2007 Activity Report

Administrator Graham presented the SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance's August 2007 Activity Report as information. Administrator Graham requested authorization from Council to write a letter to SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance to find out the status of the revenue sharing agreement with Hampton County. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to write a letter requesting the status of the revenue sharing agreement with Hampton County and SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

Chairman Gray asked if it was council's pleasure to add the public comments to the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to add the citizens to the agenda for public comment(s).

Ms. Mary A. Duncan and Mr. George K. Youmans

Ms. Duncan and Mr. Youmans, Residents of Big Mama's Road, made comments and inquired again about the paving of Big Mama's Road. Ms. Duncan stated that they met all the requirements that were stated by Mr. Crews, Chairman, Transportation Committee, for a road to be paved. She wanted to know why Big Mama's Road had not been paved. She stated that they were told that the road would be paved in previous years before the last Public Works Director left. Chairman Gray asked Ms. Duncan if she had it in writing. She stated that she didn't. She stated that it was a verbal communication. Ms. Duncan and Mr. Youmans were referred to the Transportation Committee regarding their inquiry about the status of the paving the road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council deleted the economic development and contractual matters scheduled for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p. m.