

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; MARCH 2, 2009; 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, March 2, 2009, 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: Micheal DeWitt, The Hampton County Guardian and Shellie Murdaugh, Lowcountryus.net. 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 Byrd gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Ms. Sandy Fowler was introduced as the newly hired Economic Development Director. Ms. Fowler will start her new position on March 30, 2009.

**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 MARCH 2, 2009 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**  
Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2009 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Gray stated that he reviewed the minutes. He asked for a motion to adopt. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**MRS. MARIE ELLIS REGARDING THE HAMPTON COUNTY BUS TOUR:**

Mrs. Ellis came before council to inform them about the bus tour that was scheduled for May. She stated that the tourism study was presented to council last year. She stated that the expenses for the tour have all been taken care of except for lunch. She stated that this tour will visit the various sites to show what the county has to offer. Mrs. Ellis stated that she would like the county to donate \$500 to cover the lunch. Also, she stated that only fifty- five (55) people can go on the tour. Hampton County has fifteen (15) slots. She would like council to provide 15 names to go on the tour and 55 goodies for the goodie bags (something representing Hampton County). Council thanked Mrs. Ellis for all that she's done and is still doing for Hampton County. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to make a donation of \$500 (five hundred dollars) for Mrs. Ellis' tour. Motion carried unanimously.

**LIBRARY BOARD:**

Chairman Gray presented Dianne Bush, Hampton County Library Board Appointee, with her certificate of appointment.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointment(s).

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolution(s).

**ORDINANCE(S)**

There were no ordinance(s).

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**BID(S)**

There were no bid(s).

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):**  
Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

**COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT(S):**  
There were no discussion point(s).

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**  
**USE OF COURTHOUSE GROUNDS FOR THE 2009 WATERMELON FESTIVAL:**  
Chairman Gray stated that there were concerns about the newly planted SOD at the courthouse. He stated that he was asked to check into the matter. He stated that he contacted Mr. Youmans, Donor of the SOD, regarding concern. He stated that Mr. Youmans said that group activity should be prohibited until the grass is established. Council stated that they felt that Mr. Youmans' recommendation should be followed since he was so generous to make the donation. Chairman Gray stated that council has no objection to the walkway or on the concrete, but until the grass is established, there should be no traffic on the grass. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to prohibit use of the grass areas of the courthouse grounds for group use/activity. Council Member Parker stated that the Watermelon Festival Committee should meet with council the first of the year (2010) regarding the use of the grounds for the festival. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray asked Administrator Graham to advise the Clerk of Court.

**PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL MARKER FOR E. E. "BITSY" JOHNSON:**  
Council Member Parker reported that she and Council Member Phillips, Buildings and Grounds Committee Members, went over and looked at the monument. There was discussion regarding the placement of the marker. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to table action on the matter. Motion carried unanimously.

**HAMPTON COUNTY GOALS 2009-2010:**  
Administrator Graham presented the Hampton County 2009-2010 Goals. She stated that she shared the goals with her department heads so that they could include them in their budgets. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the 2009-2010 Hampton County Goals. Motion carried unanimously. Administrator Graham stated that she will place them on the website. (See Attachment #2)

**OVERTIME (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT):**  
Sheriff Smalls came before council and gave a report. He stated that the calls especially with violent crime has increased and requires personnel that can deal with the situations. Sheriff

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Smalls stated that there has been some turnover in personnel that is posing challenges to his department. He presented council with information that substantiated the use of the overtime. Sheriff Smalls requested an additional \$47,443 (forty-seven thousand, four hundred forty-three dollars) to cover the overage and the remainder of the fiscal year. Council thanked Sheriff Smalls for his presentation. Chairman Gray stated that council will take the request under advisement and will get back with the Administrator.

**HAMPTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BYLAWS  
(MRS. DeTHANE McKENZIE JOHNSON):**

Mrs. Johnson came before council and presented the revised bylaws for the Hampton County Economic Development Commission. Council Member Phillips had questions about the number of members and the length of time for the Ad Hoc Committees. Administrator Graham stated that she would think that when an issue was completed that the committee would no longer be needed. Council Member Parker stated that she did not see where the recommendations/actions of the commission would be approved by council. There was a short discussion. **Moved** by Council Member Parker asked that this statement be placed in the bylaws for clarification. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the bylaws with the interjection /inclusion of Dr. Parker's (Council Member) suggestion. Administrator Graham will provide the revision for the bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CONTRACTUAL MATTER:**

**Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter. Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. After coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray announced that council was apprised of a contractual claim regarding the courthouse. Not action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p. m.