

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JULY 20, 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, July 20, 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.; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips and Willard E. Wilson. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Michael 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:

Council Member Johnson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MRS. MARY DUNCAN REGARDING BIG MAMA'S ROAD:

Ms. Duncan was not present.

MR. VINCE VIOLA REGARDING BIG MAMA'S ROAD:

Mr. Viola came before council and read the letter that presented to council in November 2008. Mr. Viola stated that an easement was not obtained for their property for the paving of Big Mama's road and also the telephone company has laid cable on the property in dispute. He stated that he would like an answer by July 27th, Monday, because that is the date in which he is to respond to the telephone company. Chairman Gray stated that council will not be able to provide an answer by the requested date, because Council will not meet again until August 3, 2009. Mr. Viola stated that he will have to notify the telephone company to relocate the cable. (See Attachment #1)

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**MR. CHARLIE CREWS, CHAIRMAN, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE,
REARDING BIG MAMA'S ROAD:**

Chairman Gray stated that Mr. Crew, Chairman, County Transportation Committee, was there but will come back to the August 3, 2009 meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE JULY 20, 2009 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the following revision(s): (1) Delete Item #7.3, Hampton County Fire Rescue 2008 Annual Report (Gene Rushing, Fire Chief), (2) Add Item #9.1, Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission Creation, (3) Add Item # 10.3.2, Declaration of Covenants and Restriction for the Hampton County Mega Park. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2009 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray stated that he reviewed the minutes. He asked for a motion to adopt. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the June 15, 2009 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION TO RETIREES, IRA BROOKS, TAX COLLECTOR AND LORETTA TUTEN, DEPUTY TREASURER:

Chairman Gray presented plaques to retirees, Ira Brooks, Tax Collector and Loretta Tuten, Deputy Treasurer. Council thanked them for their years of service to Hampton County.

**THE COMMUNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD (CHRIS ALTMAN,
EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR (EMS)):**

Mr. Chris Altman, EMS Director, presented to the county on behalf of the citizens of Hampton County the Community Service Excellence Award. EMS has provided CPR training to approximately 3,000 people, etc.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

HAMPTON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD:

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint Carole Ann K. Freeman and Dewise Richards to the Hampton County Library Board.

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HAMPTON COUNTY TAX APPEALS BOARD:

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint Ernie Avant, Jay C. Brunson, Steve Hiers and Elizabeth McNeer to the Hampton County Appeals Board.

NEW LIFE CENTER BOARD:

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint Nancy Drawdy, Mozelle W. Murdaugh, Eric Robinson and Sarah Jo Whitycombe to the New Life Center Board.

RESOLUTION(S)

Administrator Graham stated that it was council's desire to implement the 1% sales tax for capital projects. She stated that the first step is for council to adopt a resolution to create the commission the Capital Sales Tax Commission. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the resolution to create the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE(S)

SECOND READING TO ORDINANCE #2009-006, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES 2009, OR SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SERIES DESIGNATION, OF HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (HAMPTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT), IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,850,000, FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRSCRIBE CERTAIN DETAILS RELATING TO THE NOTE, PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THEREOF:

Chairman Gray stated that this ordinance was for bond notes to purchase and replace fire fighting equipment. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded to Chairman Phillips, to give second reading to Ordinance #2009-006, An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of a general obligation bond anticipation note, Series 2009, or such other appropriate series designation, of Hampton County, South Carolina (Hampton County Fire Protection District), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$1,850,000; fixing the form and details of the note; authorizing the County Administrator to prescribe certain details relating to the note; providing for the payment of the note and the disposition of the proceeds thereof, and other matters relating thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE BY TITLE ONLY TO ESTABLISH THE KEEP HAMPTON COUNTY BEAUTIFUL BOARD:

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first reading by title only to the Ordinance to Establish the Keep Hampton County Beautiful Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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DECLARATION OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE HAMPTON COUNTY MEGA PARK:

She stated that in 2006, Hampton County worked very closely with existing industry Le Creuset on an expansion project. There were wetlands disturbed as a part of the expansion project. The county agreed to mitigate the disturbed wetlands. She stated approval was obtained but the mitigation was never completed. Administrator Graham proposed mitigation that the county needs to complete to include preservation of a wetlands area in the Estill Industrial Park. She stated that 19.22 and 7.35 acres be approved for mitigation in the Estill Industrial Park. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Parker to give first reading to the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for the Hampton County Mega Park. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Parker, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Johnson voting against.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

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

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT(S):

Keep Hampton County Beautiful (Council Member Parker)

Council Member Parker stated that the Keep Hampton County Beautiful group meets monthly and will meet the last Monday of this month, July 27th at 9:00 a. m. and that the group is working on a logo and bylaws.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Approve Wetlands Mitigation Plan for Past LeCreuset Expansion

Administrator Graham stated that Hampton County must preserve wetlands in the Estill Industrial Park and purchase 5.0 restoration credits in the Sweetleaf Mitigation Bank for compensatory mitigation associated with the past Le Creuset expansion. She stated that in 2006, Hampton County worked very closely with existing industry LeCreuset on an expansion project. There were wetlands disturbed as a part of the expansion project. The county agreed to mitigate the disturbed wetlands. She stated approval was obtained but the mitigation was never completed. Administrator Graham proposed mitigation that the county needs to complete include preservation of a wetlands area in the Estill Industrial Park. She stated that this means this area will be restricted and cannot be disturbed. She stated that the county also needs to purchase 5.0 restoration credits from a mitigation bank. The cost of the five credits is \$3,800 (three thousand, eight hundred dollars) per credit for a total of \$19,000 (nineteen thousand dollars). **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the for five (5) wetlands credits. Motion carried unanimously.

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HAMPTON COUNTY GRANTS ADMINISTRATION:

Administrator Graham provided, as information, the award of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) grant for an additional Gang Investigator. She stated that this is the second position being funded.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to hire Sinkler and Boyd as Hampton County's legal representation in the Mega Park negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JUNE 2009:

Administrator Graham provided the SouthernCarolina Alliance's Activity Report for June 2009 as information.

LITTER REPORT FOR JUNE 2009:

Administrator Graham provided the Litter Report for June 2009 as information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

LEGAL MATTER:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to go into executive session. Motion carried unanimously. **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 council discussed three legal issues and authorized the County Attorney to represent the county on these issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p. m.