

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JULY 18, 2011; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING
201 JACKSON AVENUE, WEST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a special meeting on Monday, July 17, 2011, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee, Virgin Johnson, Sr. and Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman and Shedron Williams. Staff present: Michael Meyer, Finance and Human Resource Director, Acting 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:

Pastor Byrd gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1.1 June 20, 2011 County Council's Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 July 11, 2011 County Council's Special Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 Litter Report

and the July 18, 2011 County Council Meeting Agenda with the following revisions: (1) Add Item #7.2, Mr. Jaime Wood, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Regarding Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) Program at Estill High School, (2) Add Item #12.4, Changing Date of August 1, 2011 Meeting, (3) Table Item #10.2.1, Ordinance #2011-012, Rezoning of Parcel #069-00-00-017 from Residential Conservation Development to Industrial Development. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**THIRD READING TO ORDINANCE #2011-008, AMENDMENT TO THE 2010-2011
GENERAL FUND BUDGET:**

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding Ordinance 2011-008, Amendment to the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. There were no comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

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PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MR. JIM BURRIS, REZONING OF THE FLOOD ZONE:

Dr. Burris came before council to make them aware of the effects coming about from the changes in the flood maps issued in 2010 to many residents of Hampton County. Meetings were held with FEMA and Hampton County officials that resulted in changes in the 2010 maps from the 1986 maps. These changes are forcing owners of effected properties to apply to FEMA for an amendment or a revision to the flood map. Property owners are forced to purchase flood insurance till the changes, if approved, are made. He stated that, in some instances, this is considerable if the insurance is forced placed by a financial institution. Dr. Burris stated that on his particular property this amounted to \$4,901.52 per year. Properties that are affected most certainly have a loss in value and need to be reassessed for tax purposes. He asked council to consider the following:

1. "Notification of owners of property in the affected areas. Government should have this responsibility since they were involved in the meetings that brought about these changes and the Guardian Newspaper might be the proper means to do this by printing the 1986 and 2010 maps for residents to see if their property is effected."
2. "County assistance in helping residents with the forms that FEMA requires to fill out in order that amendments are asked for and they are reviewed before being sent by property owners to insure that everything is correct in the application. Since the building department was involved in these meetings with FEMA they would be most informed to do this."
3. "Consider revaluation of property that will not receive an amendment to the flood map. Property in a flood zone will have less value now than before and a procedure for review might be considered."

MR. PAUL HOLMES, CITIZEN, TOWN OF YEMASSEE, REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS):

Mr. Holmes came before council and gave a presentation as to why the base should not close in Yemassee. He cited incidences that happened while the QRV Test was being done.

Others Who Spoke in Opposition to the Emergency Services Base Being Closed in Yemassee

1. Del Davidson, Citizen, Town of Yemassee
2. J. L. Goodwin, Mayor, Town of Yemassee
3. Travis Mixson, Council Member, Town of Hampton

MR. DOUGLAS SMITH, CITIZEN, REGARDING WATER USE, NAMELY IRRIGATION BY FARMERS AND EFFECT IT'S HAVING ON THE SURROUNDING PUMPS OF SURROUNDING RESIDENTS:

Mr. Smith came before council to speak about the use of irrigation by farmers and the effect it is having on surrounding residents. He wanted to know if they would look into the matter and see if there is some solution to the matter. Mr. Travis Mixson who spoke on the Yemassee EMS matter agreed with Mr. Smith and stated that it was not just one area, it was countywide.

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MRS. MAMIE WILSON, NEIGHBORING LAND OWNER, REGARDING ORDINANCE #2011-012, REZONING OF PARCEL #069-00-00-017 FROM RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Mrs. Wilson stated that she understood that the matter was off the agenda. Chairman Gray stated that the person was not going to buy the property again and asked that the request to rezone the property be withdrawn. Council stated that the matter is tabled until a letter is received from the person requesting the rezoning stating this in a letter. Ms. Wilson inquired as to the notification of the property owners when the letter is received. Chairman Gray stated that when council receives the letter, the property owners will be notified.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATION(S)

MR. WES COVINGTON AND MR. KENT LESSENE, SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, UPDATE:

Mr. Wes Covington and Mr. Kent Lessene, South Carolina Association of Counties, came before council and gave an update regarding the services that were provided by the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC), touched on legislative matters coming out of the General Assembly and also asked for any suggestions regarding improvements, etc. regarding the services provided by SCAC. Council thanked Mr. Covington and Mr. Lessene for the update.

MR. JAIME WOOD, LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG), REGARDING THE JAG PROGRAM AT ESTILL HIGH SCHOOL:

Mr. Wood came before council and asked that Hampton County Act as a pass through agency for funds to implement the Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) Program at Estill High School. He funds to implement the program will come from the Rural Infrastructure Funds and Workforce Investment Board. Council agreed to act as the pass through agency for the funds for the JAG Program at Estill High School. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to authorize the County Administrator to submit the application through the South Carolina Department of Commerce to implement the Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) Program at Estill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to accept the recommendation of Administrator Graham, and appoint Otisya Wells, Senior Detention Center Officer, to fill the vacant seat on the Grievance Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCE(S)

**THIRD READING TO ORDINANCE #2011-008, AMENDMENT TO THE 2010-2011
GENERAL FUND BUDGET:**

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to give third reading to Ordinance #2011-008, Amendment to the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**SECOND READING TO ORDINANCE 2011-013, ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE FORM OF A PROMISSORY NOTE FOR \$500,000 FROM
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA):**

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to give second reading to Ordinance #2011-013, Ordinance #2011-013, Acceptance of the General Obligation Bonds in the Form of a Promissory Note for \$500,000 From United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Motion carried unanimously.

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).

CODIFICATION REPORT:

The Codification update was given.

DISCUSSION TO CHANGE TO DATE OF THE AUGUST 1, 2011 MEETING:

There will be a quorum. Council declined changing the meeting date on August 1, 2011.

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REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Report on Quick Response Unit (QRV) Test

Administrator Graham along with Mike Meyer, Finance Director and Chris Altman, made a presentation regarding the ambulance service in Yemassee. Administrator Graham presented the results of the QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) Test. She presented several options for council to choose and asked that a quick decision not be made. **Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to return, restore service in Yemassee. Motion carried with Council Members Haulsee, Johnson, Phillips and Williams voting in favor Chairman Gray voting against. (See Attachment #2)h

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no executive session matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p. m.