

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JUNE 17, 2013; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 17, 2013, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee, Roy Hollingsworth, Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman. Council Member(s) absent: Shedron Williams. Staff present: Sabrena P. Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Michael DeWitt, 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:

Chairman Gray 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 Phillips, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1.1 May 6, 2013 County Council Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 May 20, 2013 County Council Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.3 Litter Report

and the June 17, 2013 Hampton County Council Meeting Agenda with the following revision, move Items #7.1 and Item 7.2 to Items #13.1.1 and 13.1.2. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MS. ALBERTHA GARVIN:

Ms. Garvin posed the question to council if they were there to serve or be served. She stated that she attended the last two council meetings. She stated that council can no longer think in regards

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to the 50s and 60s. She stated that council needs to start working together. She stated that the fog is there and council is not seeing it. Council needs to treat everyone alike. Council needs to contact other counties and see what they are doing. She reported that she believes that the problems lie in between council and the administration.

MR. JIM BURRIS:

Mr. Burris came before council stated that he was not in favor of the proposed budget. He stated that the report was very well done that the Administrator put together. He stated that some things needed to be addressed. He stated that you need to make it, before you can take it. He stated that there needs to be no more taxes, and we need to live within our means. Mr. Burris reported to council and Mr. J. C. Clifton, Animal Control, that his wife left some money for the animal shelter in her will. He stated that the shelter should be receiving it. Mr. Burris stated that he knows that it is a tough task and wish the best to council. He stated that he has faith in each council member, because they, too, are paying taxes.

MR. VARN CUMMINGS:

Mr. Varn Cummings stated that he wanted to talk about taxes. He stated that he wanted to talk possibly about a reduction of taxes. He stated that the data says that there are about 21,000 citizens in Hampton County. He stated that the people that have more are the ones that employ the most. He stated that big government crept in our small community. When he was younger, the sheriff's department only had 6-8 people, and there were more people in the county. There was a twenty-five (25%) reduction in the budget across. He stated that there has to be a reprieve in taxes. Hampton County in the race for being the highest on taxes in millage rates. He suggested that council lay off some people in some departments, No increase in the budget, a 25% reduction in the budget across the board and stop stiffing small business.

MR. J. F. CUMMINGS, III:

Mr. Cummings came before council. He stated that he is not a citizen of Hampton County now but still engaged in business in the county and pay taxes in Hampton County. He stated that the position in the state as how we make half of the budget and tax rate. He stated that it was close to 50%. He stated that council should eliminate 2011 millage rate; there is one county that has a higher millage rate than Hampton County and that is Allendale County. He stated that Hampton County used to be a thriving community. It was a wonderful place to grow up. He stated that it is disheartening to drive through small towns. They are drying up. Growth of government is being unabridged. He stated that the citizens have come to talk to you regarding a solution.

LAURA CUMMINGS BULGARVIA:

Mrs. Bulgarvia stated that she has recently moved back to Hampton County from New York and New Jersey in which she lived. She stated that New York and New Jersey have the highest tax rate up north. She stated that she is frugal and speaking as a loyal Hampton County citizen, she hates to see Hampton County become a town like the one she moved in which 20% of the citizens were paying 100% of the taxes.

MS. MARCIA WOOD:

Ms. Wood came before council and stated that she is retired and has a fixed income. She stated that council needs to control the purse strings. She stated that she has been communicating with Mike Meyer. She stated that the budget should not exceed revenue. There needs to be no mill increase, and council can take the time and look at the budget again; council can operate on last year's budget, Continuing Resolution, until there is a solution for no mill increase.

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MR. JIM VINCENT:

Mr. Vincent came before council and stated that most of businesses have to live within their means. He stated that he owns a few pieces of property. He stated that he would be most appreciative if council would hold the millage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATION(S)

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCE(S)

THIRD READING TO ORDINANCE 2013-009 TO INCREASE THE EXISTING ROAD MAINTENANCE USER FEE FROM \$20 TO \$25:

Chairman Gray stated that two readings had been given. Vice Chairman Phillips stated that it would have been nice if people were here when they started the budget process and had some input. He reported that council started with a forty mill increase and got it down to seven. He stated that council has to take care of the people. Mr. Varn Cummings had a great request. Marcia said could continue on a Continuing Resolution, but council can look at all these things for next year's budget. Chairman Gray stated that before council even started looking at anything there was were unfunded mandates that caused increases. There would be consequences if the county was not compliant. Council Member Phillips stated that state and federal taxes don't go down. We get less back from the Source. There has been a lot lost in local government revenue. Council Member Haulsee stated that the decrease in funding for local governments from the state has put a burden on small counties. He stated that he was not one for raising taxes. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that he liked the comments and come this fiscal year, council will take these comments in consideration. He stated that he appreciated the comments. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to give third reading to Ordinance 2013-009 to Increase the Existing Road Maintenance User Fee from \$20 to \$25. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips voting in favor and Council Member Hollingsworth voting in opposition.

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RECONSIDERATION OF THE THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE #2013-006 FOR THE 2013-2014 FISCAL BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Gray, to reconsider third reading of Ordinance #2013-006 for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Budget. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips voting in favor and Council Member Hollingsworth voting in opposition.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE #2013-006 FOR THE 2013-2014 FISCAL BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to give third reading to Ordinance #2013-006 for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Budget. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips voting in favor and Council Member Hollingsworth voting in opposition.

ORDINANCE #2013-011, ORDINANCE TO AMEND 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first reading to Ordinance 2013-011, Ordinance to Amend 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 90-02, ARTICLE 1-A:

Chairman Gray stated that there are nine (9) seats on the Planning Commission, and they would like to reduce the number to seven (7). Council Member Hollingsworth if demographics were the reason. Chairman Gray stated that he serves as council's liaison on the Planning Commission, and they have not been able to have a quorum. They feel that with seven members; they would be able to move forward. **Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first reading to the Amendment to Ordinance 90-02 Article 1-A. Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

DISCUSSION POINTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS):

There were no discussion points.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Approval of Financial Policies Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to approve the Financial Policies for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

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Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Authorized Positions Approval

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to approve the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Authorized Positions. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Observed Holiday Schedule Approval

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the Holiday Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Overtime Pay Regarding the Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Smalls came before council and stated that he and Administrator Graham met and have put into place some mechanisms, like placing time clocks in various locations, to avoid any manipulation of time. He presented a plan will allow for accountability. The sheriff stated that he will be receiving a report from Mr. Meyers every thirty days regarding time, and what is happening. Sheriff Smalls asked that council not change his deputies to fluctuating overtime. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that if the sheriff department goes on fluctuating overtime, then everyone should go on fluctuating overtime. **Moved** by Council Member Hollingsworth to approve the sheriff's plan. Motion failed for the lack of a second. Council Member Phillips stated that he would like to look at the first quarter. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee to look at the first quarter with the Sheriff's plan. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips in favor and Council Member Hollingsworth voting in opposition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting.