

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY; JANUARY 17, 2006; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball, Lee S. Bowers, Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Margaret S. Parker, Chairman and Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chair. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Mr. Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Kevin Byrd, Chaplain, Hampton County, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE #2006-001 (FORMERLY ORDINANCE #2005-008), SIGN ORDINANCE:
Chairman Parker closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing. Mr. Neil Sullivan asked if a person unintentionally destroyed a sign, like running into one by accident with a car, was the county filing a claim against that person's insurance company. He stated that the destruction was not done intentionally but the sign was destroyed. Administrator Graham stated that they did not, but she would look into the matter. Chairman Parker closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF JANUARY 17, 2006 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Council Member Bowers stated that he spoke to the Sheriff earlier and Sheriff Brown was not coming tonight. He will come at a later date. He stated that he wanted to talk about some of the problems he's having. Chairman Parker stated that Sheriff Brown will not be coming so Item #13.1.1 would be deleted. Chairman Parker stated that she would like to add Item #12.4, the discussion of council to set a workshop to continue their discussion on the strategic plan. Chairman Parker stated that Mrs. Graham would

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like to add 7.1 under presentations - a request for an economic development announcement for Carolina Soya. She stated that Mr. Jim Daniel will give that information along with others. **Moved** by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the revisions. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes, additions, corrections to the minutes. There were none. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes of January 3, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

MR. JIM DANIEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND MR. PAUL HANKEY, CAROLINA SOYA:

Mr. Jim Daniel and Paul Hankey, Carolina Soya, came before Council and made an announcement regarding the Carolina Soya's expansion as a soybean oil refinery. Mr. Hankey stated that there will be the possibility of 40 new jobs over a 3 year period. Mr. Daniel and Mr. Hankey stated that it was a team effort of many people to make this happen. Council thanked Mr. Daniel and Mr. Hankey for the good news.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY ON THE FORMATION OF A LOWCOUNTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE:

Chairman Parker stated that they had before them a resolution to participate in a study on the formation of a Lowcountry economic development alliance. She stated that Hampton County has participated in, for about a year, discussions of forming an alliance with the counties that make up the Lowcountry Council of Governments, which include Hampton, Colleton, Jasper and Beaufort. She stated that discussions were primarily held by the four economic development directors from the counties and the LCOG Director, Chris Bickley. She stated that the group is ready to take the next step to participate in a short-term process to form an alliance. She stated that three representatives will be appointed from each county and will serve on the organizing committee to develop specific mission, structure and funding requirements for an Alliance. She stated that participating in this process is not a commitment to be a member of the alliance. Chairman Parker

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recognized Mr. Chris Bickley, Executive Director, LCOG. Mr. Bickley stated that Chairman Parker had explained it quite well. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the resolution to participate in a study for the formation of a Lowcountry Economic Development Alliance. Council Member Ball wanted to know what other counties had joined. Mr. Bickley stated that Colleton and Jasper had adopted the resolution. Council Member Bowers wanted to know if it included Allendale. Mr. Bickley stated that Allendale was not included; it was only the four counties within the Lowcountry Council of Governments. Motion carried. Chairman Parker stated that they needed to appoint the three members. Council Member Bowers recommended that Chairman Parker, Vice Chairman Wilson and Administrator Graham serve. Administrator Graham stated that she thought it would be good to have the Economic Development Commission Chair on the committee. Chairman Parker stated that she, Administrator Graham and Dr. Small, Chairman, Economic Development Commission would serve on the Lowcountry Economic Development Alliance Committee. Chairman Parker stated that Vice Chairman would take her place if she could not meet.

ORDINANCES

THIRD (3rd) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2006-001 (FORMERLY ORDINANCE #2005-008), SIGN ORDINANCE:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt Ordinance #2006-001, Sign Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Bowers wanted to know who had a list of the missing signs. He stated that he needed to add the sign on his road, because it was missing. Council Member Ball wanted to know who did the signs. She wanted to know if it was the State, etc. Administrator Graham stated that the county did their signs.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT (COURTHOUSE):

Council Member Bowers, Chairman, Buildings and Grounds Committee, reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee (Council Members Bowers and Parker) met this morning. He stated that they are ready to meet with the courthouse officials and come back in 30 days with a recommendation. He stated that they will meet with the architects. The architects said that they would report back in 7 – 10 months with designs, etc., but the committee would like to see that time reduced. Council Member Bowers stated that he would like to see the bid let by mid summer. Building and Grounds Committee Member Parker stated that they would like to receive a financial plan with a timeline from the Administrator. Building Committee Chairman Bowers stated that the estimates are for the two buildings without the stairs. He said that they have asked for a cost estimate to show the courthouse with the stairs, but now the design is without the stairs. He asked that the Guardian make the public aware, because all the designs

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that have been shown previously include the stairs on the front of the courthouse. He stated that he just wanted the people to be aware. Also, Mr. Bowers stated that the recommendation will be coming back to them, and the Building and Grounds Committee will make a recommendation to Council.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Chairman Parker stated that the Administration and Finance Committee met and discussed the Rules and Procedures. She stated that they will have to meet again.

CANCELLATION OF THE MARCH 6, 2006 MEETING DUE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL SUMMIT MEETING:

Chairman Parker stated that the March 6, 2006 county council meeting will be canceled due to the South Carolina Rural Summit meeting.

SCHEDULING OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP:

Chairman Parker asked Council to check their calendars to come up with a date. She stated that they could possibly meet on a Saturday. Council Member Ball stated that a week day was best for her. Council will check their calendars and give available dates.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Request From Sports Car Club of America SCCA's to Hold a Solo 2, One Day Race, at the Hampton-Varnville Airport

Moved Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the date of September 30, 2006 for the Sports Car of America Race providing all paperwork is in order. Motion carried unanimously.

Funding Request from DSS (Department of Social Services) Director, Bernie Zurenda

Administrator Graham came before council and stated that Mr. Zurenda, Director, Department of Social Services, requested as a part of their budget request, funding for general relief and pauper's funeral. She stated that in November, they submitted a request to council for the pauper's funeral and general relief. Administrator Graham stated that she did not think that these requests were a function of county government. She stated that other counties did not fund these requests. Mr. Zurenda stated that he felt that they were functions of government. He stated that he checked with Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper, and they all fund pauper's funerals. He stated that the only difference in a few is that the coroner makes the request to council. He stated that the Hampton County DSS handles all the assessments as to verify that there is a need. Mr. Zurenda stated that sometimes there is a need for a child to be buried, and the family does not have the resources. He stated that everyone deserves to be buried with some dignity. Council asked Mr. Zurenda how it worked. He stated that DSS would make the assessment, if there were a need, they would refer it to the County Administrator and the county would pay the \$250 to the funeral home for the burial. Mr. Zurenda stated that there is also a need for general relief. He stated that at times

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there are those who desperately need their medication and do not have the money; they provide assistance to purchase the needed medication for them. He stated that in the past council provided \$1,000 for pauper's funerals and \$1, 00 0 for general relief. Council Member Ball wanted to know if he had spoken to someone in Colleton, Mr. Zurenda stated that they funded the pauper's funeral. Council Member Wilson asked if they ever had a carry over. Mr. Zurenda stated that they would have from last year. Mr. Wilson stated that if council provided the funds, and they all were not used, then they could carry over from the prior year. Council Member Bowers stated that he did not have a problem, but did not want to add a budget item in the middle of the year. He stated that if there was a need, he would like it to be taken from contingency. Chairman Parker stated that she would like to study it a little more. She stated that she would like it added on the agenda for the next time.

Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) December's Activity Report

Administrator Graham presented the SCA's December Activity Report to council as information.

Presentation of the New Hampton County Website

Administrator Graham did a visual presentation of the Hampton County website to council.

Mr. Lee Ellis, Hampton County Airport Commission

Chairman Parker informed Mr. Ellis that they had already voted on the matter with the race. Mr. Ellis apologized for being late. He stated that the airport commission's concern with the race was the possible destruction to the 30 year old runway. Council Member Bowers stated that if they damage it, they will have to fix it. Mr. Ellis thanked council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Parker stated that Council was in need of an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter of a department of one. Motion carried. Session began at 7:20 p. m. and ended 7:42 p. m. **After coming out of executive session**, Chairman Parker stated that a personnel matter was discussed regarding a department of one, and Council gave directions to the Chairman.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p. m.