

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; MARCH 17, 2008; 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 17, 2008, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr. and 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: Wayne Knuckles, 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:

Pastor William Borum gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE #2008-005, AMENDMENT TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE – REVISING THE BOARD APPOINTMENT PROCEEDURES:

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding Ordinance #2008-005, Amendment to the Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance – Revising the Board Appointment Procedures. Council Member Johnson wanted to know if this was pertaining only to volunteers. Chairman Gray stated that it only pertained to volunteers on the boards and commissions. There were no public comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 17, 2008 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda with the voiced changes: (1) Item #7.1, Mrs. Mary Ann Sowell will be replaced by Mrs. Mary Eleanor Bowers, (2) Item #12.5, Make Charrette Distribution, (3) Add Items #14.1, Legal Matter and Item #14.2, Personnel Matter under executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2008 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 minutes as written and presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MRS. MARY ELEANOR BOWERS AND Mrs. LaCLAIRE LAFFITTE):

Historical Society Members, Mary Eleanor Bowers and LaClaire Laffitte, updated council regarding plans for events that the Historical Society is working on to hold around the time of the dedication of the courthouse.

LOCAL UPDATE OF CENSUS ADDRESSES (LUCA) PROGRAM (MR. WOODROW HARTER, COUNTY ASSESSOR):

Mr. Harter, Tax Assessor, came before council and gave an update regarding the LUCA Program (Local Update of Census Addresses). He stated that they have completed the updates and have submitted it to the census bureau. Mr. Harter shared with council the statistics for federal funding to Hampton County in regards to having accurate addresses to send the surveys, and he stressed the importance of citizens responding to the surveys also.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SOUTHERNCAROLINA ALLIANCE BOARD:

Chairman Gray stated that Mayor Wright is presently serving on the board, and has a good attendance record. He stated that Mayor Wright has agreed to continue serving, if appointed. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to reappoint Terry Wright, Mayor, Town of Brunson, to the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCE(S)

ORDINANCE #2008-005, AMENDMENT TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE – REVISING THE BOARD APPOINTMENT PROCEEDURES:

Chairman Gray stated that council held a public hearing at the beginning of the meeting. He stated that the Clerk to Council will submit the applications to the boards and commissions for them to review, interview candidates and submit a prioritized list to council. Council will take action on the recommendations. Chairman Gray stated that sometimes council receives applications, and they don't know any of the candidates. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to give third reading to Ordinance #2008-005, Amendment to the Hampton County Rules and Procedures Ordinance – Revising the Board Appointment Procedures. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE #2008-006, ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET (BY TITLE ONLY):

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to give first reading to Ordinance #2008-006, 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget by title only. Motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

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:

There were no discussion points.

APPOINT COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH THE TOWN OF HAMPTON'S RECREATION COMMITTEE REGARDING MUTUAL RECREATION PLANS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Council Members Parker and Wilson agreed and were appointed by consensus to serve on the County's Recreation Committee. They will meet with the Town of Hampton's Recreation Committee.

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KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL (KAB) HAMPTON COUNTY – (COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER):

Council Member Parker updated council regarding the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Program. She stated that Jasper County has a very good program, and she asked council if they would like to hear a presentation by Jasper County's KAB Representative. Council stated that they would like to hear a presentation from Jasper County's KAB Representative. Council Member Parker stated that she would contact Jasper's KAB Representative and ask her to come and give a presentation about Jasper's KAB Program at the next council meeting.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Courthouse Construction Project (Mr. Richard Madison, Courthouse Project Manager)

Mr. Madison presented the change order recommendations regarding Change Orders #4, #5, #6 and #7. (See Attachment #2 – Change Orders)

Change Order #7

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve change Order #7, Fuel tank recommendation. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Parker, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor.

Change Order #6

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the security and data system and not the general conditions in Change Order #6. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Parker, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Johnson voting against.

Charrette Distribution (Council Member Parker)

Council Member Parker distributed the final written report of the Charrette to Council and the media. She stated that they met with Walter Harris, Clemson University's Institute of Community and Rural Development. Council Member Parker stated that the next step is to form a committee to review and implement the plan. She stated that people who need to serve on the committee need to have a vision. Council will put this on the next agenda.

Policy on Waiving Building Permit Fees (Mr. William R. Crews, Jr., Building Inspector)

Administrator Graham stated that Council wanted a policy presented regarding the waiving of building permits. She stated that Mr. Crews, Building Inspector, will make a recommendation regarding the request. Mr. Crews stated that it was his recommendation not to waive the building permit fees. **Moved by** Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adopt the policy not to waive building permit fees effective immediately. Motion carried with Council Member Gray, Phillips and Wilson voting in favor and Council Member Johnson and Parker voting against.

Needs Assessment Prioritization

Council prioritized their list for the Needs Assessment. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to take the suggestion of the County Administration and

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the Economic Development Director and approve the first three prioritized items: (1) Study to address consolidation of small water systems in the County, (2) Improvements to facilities (TCL-Mungin Center) to address job skills training programs for residents to meet the needs of local industries and (3) Housing Study. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to add the other items to the Needs Assessment List but the items are to be equally weighted. Motion carried unanimously.

Needs Assessment Prioritization List

1. Study to address consolidation of small water systems in the County.
2. Improvements to facilities (TCL-Mungin Center) to address job skills training programs for residents to meet the needs of local industries
3. Housing Study
 - Economic Development/Spec bldg
 - Library- not to only provide technology but to assist in site acquisition
 - Health Department improvements
 - Affordable housing and infrastructure to support affordable housing
 - Industrial Park Development to include clearance activities to make a site "shovel" ready.
 - Fire facilities (regional that address service areas that cross county boundaries)

SouthernCarolina Alliance's February 2008 Activity Report

Council accepted the SouthernCarolina Alliance's February 2008 Activity Report as information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 8:25 p. m. and ended 8:49 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously. **After** coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council was updated on a legal matter. Chairman Gray stated that council also discussed a personnel matter. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to hire Lee S. Bowers, Attorney, as Special Prosecutor to handle the case to dispose of the Pit Bulls at the Animal Shelter. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p. m.