

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JUNE 18, 2012; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 18, 2012, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administration Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee, Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman and 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 Vice Chair Phillips.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to adopt the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1.1 June 4, 2012 County Council's Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 Litter Report

and the June 18, 2012 County Council Meeting Agenda with the following revision(s): (1) Add 4.2, Public Hearing for the Close Out of Planning Grant, Ms. Michelle Knight, Lowcountry Council of Governments, (2) Delete Item #10.2.2, Second Reading of Ordinance to Sell Land in the Estill Industrial Park to Project E and (3) Delete #14.1, Executive Session Regarding and Economic Development Matter. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams to include approval of the minutes in the motion to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously

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PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ORDINANCE #2012-006, AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #2001-0716-002:

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the amendment to the E-911 Ordinance. Mr. Crews, Building Inspector, came before council to state that this was a public hearing to amend the E-911 Ordinance to require the posting of the addresses in the county; he reported that some small changes were made and were highlighted to reflect typographical errors but not change the ordinance. There were no public comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing. Chairman Gray thanked Mr. Micheal Dewitt for the in-depth reporting of this issue in last week's guardian.

MS. MICHELLE KNIGHT, LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG) REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CLOSE OUT OF THE PLANNING GRANT:

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the Close Out of the Planning Grant. Ms. Michelle Knight came before council and explained that the public hearing was being held to review program performance and accomplishments conducted under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project known as the 2010 Regional Planning Grant, CDBG # 4-RP-10-010, wherein the following activities were undertaken: The activities were designed to assist local governments in developing plans and building project planning and management capacity. By implementing the activities, staff will be able to effectively determine community needs, long-term goals and short-term objectives, and develop plans for carrying out effective strategies to address community needs. She reported that the public hearing and the matters to be discussed were subject to the provisions of the County's Citizens Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of Hampton County in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds. There were no comments. Chairman Gray closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

Mayor Risher came before council and stated that he could not be here at the last meeting but wanted to follow up on the letter that he received. Mayor Risher explained that the town had a donor who donated some money to start repairing equipment, etc. in the park. He stated that the letter said to wait until November, but the old saying is "Strike while it's hot." He stated that it is hot for the Town of Gifford while some wants to donate money, etc. He stated that in November the people who are in positions now may not be positions and the donor may not want to donate. He asked that council donate the property to the Town of Gifford. Chairman Gray asked that Mayor Risher's request be added to the July 16, 2012 agenda for consideration.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved under the Consent Agenda.

PRESENTATION(S)

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO THE HONORABLE VIRGIN JOHNSON, SR., RETIRED HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER:

Chairman Gray presented to the Honorable Virgin Johnson, Sr. a plaque on behalf of council for years of dedicated service.

APPOINTMENT(S) TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SITE FOR THE MUD RUN:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to adopt the Resolution regarding the Site for the Mud Run. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TOWN OF GIFFORD TO JOIN THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM AS A FULL MEMBER:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to adopt the resolution approving the Town of Gifford to join the Lowcountry Regional Water System as a full member. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE(S)

THIRD READING TO ORDINANCE 2012-004, HAMPTON COUNTY'S 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

Finance Director, Mike Meyer, presented the balanced budget to council. Council Members discussed the matter. There was much discussion regarding the need to pass a balanced budget and also some discussion regarding a need to find revenue to maintain the employees with benefits in the Council on Aging and not decrease hours in the Soil and Water Conservation. Council asked that staff try and find revenue for the matters discussed. Councilman Haulsee proposed that the outside agencies be cut like Technical College of the Lowcountry, University of South Carolina and Lowcountry Council of Governments be cut until the Local Government Funds monies were received; when the monies are received, then the line item for those agencies would be brought back up to the original amount proposed. There was much discussion. Council Member Phillips voiced his concern that council had approached the organization named to provide additional training programs in Hampton County, and they have done so. He stated that he could not see the county cutting these agencies' funding after they had stepped up in regards to providing

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programs for training to assist with economic development. Chairman Gray encouraged council members to come to some resolution, because they only had twelve days to come up with a balanced budget. **Moved** by Council Member Williams to accept the budget with changes, adjustments with decreases to the outside agencies, contingency transferred to the Council on Aging and the Soil Conservation to bring the employees back to the level of hours and the line items is which money is transferred will be reimbursed when the Local Government Funds are received. Council Members Haulsee and Williams voted in favor and Council Member Gray and Phillips voted against. Chairman Gray announced that the motion failed for a lack of a majority. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Chairman Gray, to adopt the budget as presented by the Administrator. Council Members Gray and Phillips voted in favor, and Council Members Haulsee and Williams voted against. The motion failed for the lack of a majority. Chairman Gray asked Attorney Heizer if she knew what the penalty was for not passing a balanced budget by June 30, 2012. Mrs. Heizer responded that she did not think there was a penalty per se. County Attorney Solomons stated that he concurred with Attorney Heizer. Council agreed to hold a special meeting on June 25, 2012 at 5:00 p. m. to discuss the budget.

THIRD READING TO ORDINANCE #2012-006, AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #2001-0716-002, E-911 ORDINANCE:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give third reading to Ordinance #2012-006, Amendment to Ordinance #2001-0716-002, E-911 Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX SUBJECT TO THE REFERENDUM'S APPROVAL:

Mr. Chad Westendorf came before council and presented the project list with revisions after receiving updated estimates from the architects. Council discussed the projects. Council Member Phillips asked Mrs. Heizer, Legal Consultant Regarding Capital Projects Sales Tax, if the figure for a particular project is not enough for the project, then what would happen. Mrs. Heizer responded that the list of projects, it would postpone from the bottom up, but there is flexibility to scale a project down to the cost, etc. Council thanked the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission for their time and work and Mrs. Heizer. **Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams to give second reading to the Ordinance to Impose a One Percent Capital Projects Sales Tax Subject to the Referendum's Approval. Motion carried unanimously. (See Attachment #1)

ORDINANCE #201-007, AMENDMENT TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to give first reading to Ordinance #2012-007, Amendment to the Hampton County Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

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

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT(S):
There were no discussion point(s).

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Special Meeting

Administrator Graham reminded council of the Special Meeting scheduled for June 25, 2012 at 5:00 p. m.

Update Regarding Reimbursable Funding from Sheriff Smalls that was Authorized on February 6, 2012

Administrator Graham reported that the balance in regards to the reimbursable funding from Sheriff Smalls that was authorized on February 6, 2012 is \$201,583 (Two hundred one thousand, five hundred eighty-three dollars).

Change Order #2 for B. T. DeLoach Project

Administrator Graham stated that a change order approval was needed for the B. T. DeLoach Building Construction Project. Administrator Graham informed council that the additions total \$6,756. Council Member Phillips asked if the funds for the changes were in the budget. Administrator Graham responded that they were. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to approve Change Order #2. Motion carried unanimously. (See Attachment #3)

Application for SC Department of Transportation (DOT) Encroachment Permit

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to approve the application for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) Encroachment Permit. Motion carried unanimously. (See Attachment #4)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p. m.