

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JULY 21, 2014; 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, July 21, 2014, 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 and Shedron Williams. Staff present: Sabrena P. Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: 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 Council Member Haulsee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1.1 June 16, 2014 Hampton County Council Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.2 June 23, 2014 Hampton County Council Special Meeting Minutes
- 3.1.3 Code Enforcement Report for Litter and Animal Control

and the July 21, 2014 Hampton County Council Meeting Agenda with the following revision, change item listed 14.1 to 14.2 and item listed under 14.2 to 14.1. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MR. THOMAS OWENS, CITIZEN AND FORMER MAYOR OF ESTILL, S. C.:

Mr. Owens came before council spoke regarding the Hampton School District 2's funds being frozen and the county not getting back to him as stated at the previous meeting. Also, Mr. Owens wanted to know about the back taxes not paid to the school district from Ecogy Biofuel; he stated that if the taxes were received by the school district, the school would not have been in as great of a

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stress that they were. He stated that approximately \$767,000 (Seven hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars) in taxes or fees were not paid by the company that were due to the school district. Council Member Hollingsworth expressed that the county assisted the school district, and if the county had not assisted, the school would have been in a perilous state, because the district had to receive a \$1,000,000 (one million dollar loan from the county) and take out an additional million dollar loan. Mr. Owens stated that the county should have offset the amount owed in taxes from the county regarding the agreement with the county and the company for the amount loaned to the school district instead of having the school to be indebted for the whole million dollars. It would have been only the difference. Mr. Owens stated that if a citizen did not pay his/her taxes, their house would be sold. He wanted to know why the company had not been sold. Council explained that there is a process for this, and it is being handled.

MS. MARY DUNCAN, CITIZEN, BIG MAMA'S ROAD:

Ms. Duncan came before council to thank them for the paving of the portion of Big Mama's Road. She wanted to know what the next steps were to get the 2/10 of the road paved. Council stated that they will discuss the matter in executive session with the County Attorney at the August 18th meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved under the consent agenda.

PRESENTATION(S)

MS. SANDRA LIGON, SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS AND BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING THE PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF CERTIFICATION TRAINING TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL:

Mr. Raymond Buxton, II, Commissioner; Ms. Susan Bowers, Board Member, Mr. Joe Fragale, Board Member; Ms. Sandra Ligon, Senior Community Relations Consultant, South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and Mr. Hugh B. Gray, Chairman, Hampton County Council, presented certificates for certification training to the Hampton County Human Relations Council.

MR. DAVID WALKER REGARDING NORTH DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Mr. David Walker, Alumni, North District Middle School, came before council to explain that the alumni were proposing to erect an illuminated sign in front of the North District Middle School with the E-911 address, etc. He explained that an account was set up at Palmetto State Bank to receive donations for the sign. Mr. Walker requested assistance in the form of a donation. Chairman Gray directed Mr. Walker to Administrator Graham regarding the request.

UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX PROGRESS BY CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FIRM, BRUNSON CONSTRUCTION:

Council received an update on the Capital Projects Sales Tax progress from the Construction Manager at Risk Firm, Brunson Construction. (See Attachment #1 – Update) Council Member Hollingsworth also stated that council received a request from the Town of Estill regarding the recreation project. Administrator Graham will get the update of the project to the Town of Estill.

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UPDATE BY SCHOOL FINANCE CONSULTANT, SCOTT ALLAN, REGARDING THE BUDGET AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT OF HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2:

Mr. Scott Allan, School Finance Consultant, Hampton School District 2, came before council to give a report on the oversight of Hampton School District 2's budget and fiscal matters. (See Attachment #2 – Report)

APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S) /PROCLAMATIONS

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GULLAH/GEECHEE NATION APPRECIATION WEEK:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to adopt the proclamation recognizing Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week in Hampton County from July 28, 2014 through August 3, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE(S)

SECOND READING TO ORDINANCE 2014-007, ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HAMPTON COUNTY 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

Administrator Graham presented the amendments to council. She stated that these were revenues received for the animal shelter, CTC Funds and grants from FEMA that were received and expended that needed to be incorporated in the budget for auditing purposes.

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth to give second reading to Ordinance 2014-007, Ordinance to Amend the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to give first reading to the ordinance to transfer property and infrastructure to the Lowcountry Regional Water System to include the revisions of clarification of the word default and also with the inclusion of the reverser clause. Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

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COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #3)

DISCUSSION POINTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS):

Council Member Hollingsworth

Council Member Hollingsworth asked Administrator Graham about the request for the revenues received from the Town of Brunson in the Sheriff's budget. Administrator Graham reported that she had conversation with the Sheriff, Drug Enforcement Agency and the United States Marshall and will check on some things and will make changes. Also, Council Member Hollingsworth wanted to know where the court security was placed. Administrator Graham reported that it was in the Sheriff's budget.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Inter-Local Governmental Agreement between the Sheriff and the Town of Brunson for Law Enforcement Services

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to approve the Inter-Local Governmental Agreement between the Sheriff and the Town of Brunson for Law Enforcement Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Brunson/Gifford Water Interconnection Grant Award

Administrator Graham reported that a grant was received to connect interconnection with the Town of Brunson and the Town of Gifford Water System and improvements. **Moved** by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to accept the grant award for the Brunson/Gifford Water Interconnections. Motion carried unanimously.

South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) J. Barret Larrimore Competition

Administrator Graham invited council to the presentation by Hampton County in the J. Barrett Larrimore Competition. She stated that Hampton County was entering the Lowcountry Regional Water System as their project. The presentation will be presented at 3:30 p. m. on August 3, 2014 at the SCAC Annual Conference, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Introduction of the New Finance/Human Resource Director, Ms. Christine James

Administrator Graham introduced Ms. Christine James, Hampton County's Finance/Human Resource Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONTRACTUAL MATTER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter, School Support, Inc. with Hampton School District #2 and an Economic Development Matter. Motion carried unanimously.

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REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONTRACTUAL MATTER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Williams, to come out of executive session regarding a contractual matter, School Support, Inc. with Hampton School District #2 and an Economic Development Matter. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray stated that Ms. Fowler, Economic Development Director, presented a conceptual proposal between Colleton County and Hampton County and Council also discussed concerns expressed by Hampton County School District of the oversight by School Support, Inc. Chairman Gray stated that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to adjourn. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:54 -p. m.