

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; SEPTEMBER 29, 2014; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a special meeting on Monday, September 29, 2014, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee, Roy Hollingsworth and Shedron Williams. Council Member(s) absent: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman. 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 Chairman Phillips.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to approve the agenda with the following revisions, Item 3(a), Public Comments and Item 4(a), Resignation of County Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MR. JACK WOODARD, HAMPTON COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION:

Mr. Woodard came before council to speak in opposition of the Car and Drag Show Event that was approved by council. Mr. Woodard stated that he has served on the airport commission for a good many years. He reported that 95% of funding for airports was federal and 2.5% was state. He informed council that the airport commission would like the airport to remain a viable airport. He stated that there were safety issues concerning this event as well. Council thanked Mr. Woodard for his comments.

MR. RUSSELL JONES ON BEHALF OF HIS BROTHER QUINCY JONES:

Mr. Russell Jones stated that his brother Quincy out of town on business in Texas. He stated that his brother located his business near the airport because the greater part of his business depended on access to the airport. He read a letter from his brother opposing the Car and Drag Show Event at the Hampton County Airport.

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**MR. KAQUAN HOUSEY, A & A AUTO REPAIR, REGARDING CAR AND DRAG
EVENT AT HAMPTON COUNTY AIRPORT:**

Mr. Housey came before council and stated that he was checking into the two million dollars liability insurance. He also stated that the observers of the event would be standing behind the direction in which the cars would be traveling; he reported that he has spoken to Sheriff Smalls, Hampton County and Chief Smith, Varnville Town Police and plan to have paid security. He has spoken to SCEG regarding the lighting and has already put flyers out and advertised the event. Mr. Housey reported that he is checking into getting the barriers, etc. Council thanked Mr. Housey for his update.

MR. NAT SHAFFER, MAYOR, TOWN OF VARNVILLE:

Mr. Shaffer came before council and stated that he was asked to be present regarding the event. Mr. Shaffer presented a prepared statement. He informed council that the town has a vested interest in the airport. He stated that any event held in the Town of Varnville had to have a business license and a license has not been applied for the event. Council asked if the town required the license of the Mud Run event. Mr. Shaffer reported that he did not believe so but would check.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS HAULSEE:

Council Member Haulsee stated that he was the person to second the motion to adopt the resolution and has done some long and hard thinking and realized that it was opening the doors for everything just like council writing letters to the CTC for roads to be paved. He reported that he felt that he was breaking procedure. He stated that the airport is to be used for airplanes. Council Member Haulsee stated that not a non-profit event would be held on county property. Council Member Haulsee wanted to know if the county had the authority to close the airport. Attorney Solomons responded that the county could notify the FAA that the airport would be closed on a particular day. Chairman Gray wanted to know if all the set-up for the event, and the event, etc. can be done in one day. It was stated that the Airport Commission said that the hangars are for airplanes.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:

Council Member Hollingsworth wanted to know if anyone has contacted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to be on standby like at the football games, etc.

VICE CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS:

Vice Chairman Phillips stated that Mr. Housey is a good man and have the right and asked if any damages and said that insurance would cover. Vice Chairman Phillips stated that was reluctant to vote for it and made a mistake to approve and truly sorry that he thought it was a good idea to do so

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:

Council Member Hollingsworth stated that he had no reservations about how he voted and the county has allowed many other groups to use county property and have not denied use. Council Member Hollingsworth reported that the National Guard and other entities have used county property for other purposes, and no one has had a complaint, why single out this one business. He stated that the county has a liability with all.

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VICE CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS:

Vice Chairman Phillips stated that the county has denied use of the courthouse grounds to the Watermelon Festival when the courthouse was renovated, and they recommended that no one locate on the grass. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that major work had just been done.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:

Council Member Williams stated that he's been on council for four years and never has seen and up rise like this. He stated that Mr. Housey is a taxpayer like everyone else. He stated that the matter was on the agenda for discussion, not reconsideration of a vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:

Council Member Hollingsworth stated that the request was for a Car and Drag Show. What about the car show?

COUNCIL MEMBER HAULSEE:

Council Member Haulsee stated that this is a business that will be used for profit. He has safety concerns and getting things done in one day. Council Member Haulsee stated that nothing on the list to say that any of this is good.

RESOLUTION(S)

DISCUSSION OF THE CAR AND DRAG SHOW AT THE COUNTY AIRPORT:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Vice Chairman Phillips, to rescind Resolution Regarding Site for Car and Drag Show (Resolution R2014-). Chairman Gray asked for discussion. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that he did not come to reconsider the resolution; he came to have a discussion. Council Member Williams stated that he felt that he was tricked to come and why now. Vice Chairman Phillips stated that he came to discuss. Council Member Williams stated that he did not come to reconsider the resolution; he stated that he asked for the meeting for a discussion. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips voting in favor and Council Members Hollingsworth and Williams voting against.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Resignation of County Administrator

Administrator Graham submitted her letter of resignation and informed council that she was offered and accepted a position of Executive Director with Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG). **Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to ask the Administrator to initiate the advertising process for the County Administrator's position. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Vice Chairman Phillips, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p. m.