

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; MAY 4, 2015; 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, May 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Shedron Williams, Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee; Roy Hollingsworth, Vice Chairman; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, and Isaac Smith. Staff present: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Interim Administrator; and Jo Ann Lamprecht, Economic Development. Media present: The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Council Member Smith gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Phillips.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Smith to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Smith, to come out of executive session at 6:48 p.m. regarding a personnel matter and move forward with items on agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE 2015-003, ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE 2014-010, ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK (LRIP) TO THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM (LRWS):

Chairman Williams opened the public hearing to receive public comments on Ordinance 2015-003, Ordinance to Rescind Ordinance 2014-010, Ordinance to Transfer Property and Infrastructure in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park (LRIP) to the Lowcountry Regional Water System (LRWS).

MR. EARL FREEMAN came before council concerned that if the county transfers the property in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park to the Lowcountry Regional Water System and it loses money, the customers in the system will have to share the loss and bills will increase.

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MR. RONALD "BREEZE" WINN addressed council with a list of questions and concerns pertaining to the Lowcountry Regional Water System.

MR. BILL HAGER, CHAIRMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, stated he is in favor of transferring the property and infrastructure to the Lowcountry Regional Water System because the equipment is a liability to the county. He further stated it will be easier for LRWS to receive grants to maintain the system if they own it.

MR. HENRY TUTEN, COUNCIL MEMBER TOWN OF VARNVILLE, confirmed the Town of Varnville is a member of the Lowcountry Regional Water System and he said joining was a good decision for the town.

MR. "J. J." JINKS, COUNCIL MEMBER TOWN OF YEMASSEE, confirmed the Town of Yemassee is a member of the Lowcountry Regional Water System and he said they joined because on paper the town's system looked good, but it was in trouble.

MS. BARBARA GRAY, stated that people in the country are not in favor of the Lowcountry Regional Water System because in the future they would be required to tie into the system if water/sewer lines are run in the rural areas.

MR. BRIAN BURGESS, MANAGER, LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM, stated he wanted to bring the discussion back to the issue at hand, which is transferring the property and infrastructure in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park to the Lowcountry Regional Water System. He addressed the concerns voiced by citizens and ended by saying that the Lowcountry Regional Water System is part of the team in Hampton County and they are not demanding to tie on or take over system assets.

DANIEL ANDERSON, COUNCIL MEMBER TOWN OF YEMASSEE, shared the same concern as Mr. Freeman and Mr. Winn about water bills increasing to support the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park.

SHERYL DELOACH, EMPLOYEE AT LE CREUSET OF AMERICA, responded to a concern from a member of the public about the future of LeCreuset of America in Hampton County relative to water service in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park. She stated the company is vested in Hampton County.

Council Member Phillips stated transfer of property and infrastructure in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park to the Lowcountry Regional Water System is a great opportunity for Hampton County to grow and work regionally. If this is not taken advantage of now, it will set the county back.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

MS. MARY ANN DUNCAN REGARDING BIG MAMA'S ROAD asked when the .2 mile of road will be condemned so it can be graded. Interim Administrator Dobson-Elliott told Ms. Duncan she will call her Wednesday.

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PRESENTATION(S)

PRESENTATION BY CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS AND BILL HAGER, CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, TO MS. SANDY FOWLER, FORMER HAMPTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:

Chairman Williams and Mr. Hager came before council for Presentation of Service Award to Ms. Sandy Fowler, Former Hampton County Economic Development Director, in appreciation of her service to Hampton County.

THE HONORABLE CAROLYN WILLIAMS, HAMPTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE, REGARDING JURY:

The Honorable Carolyn Williams came before council to request authority to pull a jury countywide. Hampton County was formerly one district, but the Legislature divided the jury pool into two pools by district. Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Smith that a case must be heard in the district where the offense occurred unless requested from the entire county. Council Member Phillips abstained.

MS. JYNEECE FRYAR, HYPE (HEALTHY, YOUNG, PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT) PROJECT:

Ms. Jyneece Fryar, HYPE (Healthy, Young, People Empowerment) Project appeared before Council regarding the organization and their plans. In attendance with Ms. Fryar were Jasmine Ellis, Latifah Davis, Darien Mikell, Kennedi Mikell, Kiara Mikell, Dekiyah Doctor, Alasia Powell, Joya Singletary, Jada Singletary, and Jorya Singletary. Council congratulated the students on the outstanding work they are doing.

APPOINTMENT(S)

ACTION ON APPOINTMENT TO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT BOARD:

A letter was received from Hank Amundson, Workforce Development Director at Lowcountry Council of Governments, with nominations for Board appointment. They are Caroline Koger, Oakwood Products; Glynis Avant, Spencer Industries; Christine Seabrook, Coastal Technologies; Brenda Jamison, National Association of Letter Carriers Branch #6113 and Lynn Bowers, Hampton Regional Medical Center. Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Moved by Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Haulsee to appoint Vice Chairman Hollingsworth to serve as a Commissioner on the Lowcountry Regional Water System replacing Hugh Gray. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 17, 2015 AS VIRGIN JOHNSON, SR. DAY:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Smith to recognize May 17, 2015 as Virgin Johnson, Sr. Day in honor of his lifetime of outstanding leadership and public service to Hampton County. Motion carried unanimously.

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ORDINANCE(S)

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE(S):

No third reading(s) scheduled.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE FOR RENEWAL OF BOND WITH HAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2:

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Vice Chairman Hollingsworth to give second reading to the Ordinance for Renewal of Bond with Hampton School District 2. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE(S):

No first reading(s) scheduled.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Williams stated he did not have an update.

DISCUSSION POINTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS):

There were no discussion point(s).

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Greg Cook, Hampton County Fire Chief, attended council meeting at the request of Interim Administrator Dobson-Elliott to give an update on construction of the Miley Fire Station. He reported the concrete is poured, plumbing is set and the steel went up today. Work is in progress and completion depends on the weather. A ribbon cutting is planned at completion.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Smith to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting.