

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JUNE 5, 2023, 6:00 P. M.
HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Hampton County Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023, 6:00 p. m. Council Member(s) present: Noah O. Alexander, Chairman; Darin Williams, Vice Chairman; Camille M. Welch and Jordan J. “JJ” Jinks. Council Member(s) absent: Roy Hollingsworth. Staff present: Heather Simmons Jones, Interim County Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: None. Wilson Holland, Hampton County IT. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Vice Chairman Williams gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Welch.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 5, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA:**

Chairman Alexander asked for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the June 5, 2023 Hampton County Council Meeting agenda with the deferring of Item 6.1. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**2021 HAMPTON COUNTY PLANNING GRANT CLOSE-OUT PUBLIC HEARING –
PUBLIC HEARING REVIEW PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONDUCTED UNDER A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECT KNOWN AS THE 2020 REGIONAL PLANNING
GRANT, CDBG #4-RP-21-010:**

Chairman Alexander opened the public hearing to receive public comment regarding the 2021 Hampton County Planning Grant Close-Out Public Hearing - Public Hearing to Review Program Performance and Accomplishments Conducted Under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project Known as the 2020 Regional Planning Grant, CDBG #4-RP-21- 010. Ms.

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Michelle Knight came before council and explained the close out planning grant. She reported that the grant will be closed by June 30, 2023. There was no public comment. Chairman Alexander closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

**RONALD WINN REGARDING LAWSUIT AND WATERMELON FESTIVAL
DONATION REQUEST:**

Mr. Winn came before council regarding the lawsuit and the Watermelon Festival request. (See attachment).

**WILLARD E. WILSON REGARDING EQUITABLE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS
FOR COUNTY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD:**

Mr. Wilson came before council to request that the process begin for equitable single member districts for county council and the school board. (See attachment)

**JACQUELINE MUNGIN REGARDING OWNERSHIP OF BUILDING, BUILDING
PERMITS FOR THE CHURCH AND PHONE SERVICE:**

Ms. Mungin came before council to inquire who owned the radio tower building. She reported that her church was interested regarding the use for a youth center. Also, the church is having problems regarding building permits and the phone service is not good since the tornado came through in the Nixville area.

**BARBARA GRAY REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD BREAK INS IN THE POND
TOWN AREA AND BETTER CARE NEEDED AT THE HOSPITAL:**

Ms. Gray came before council and expressed her concern about community break ins in the Pond Town area. She explained that the Sheriff and Captain Ricks were speaking with the community and other communities regarding neighborhood watch. Also, Ms. Gray spoke regarding an elderly renter and the poor care received at the hospital.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MAY 22, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the May 22, 2023 Hampton County Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION(S)

CODE ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

The Fire Marshall came before council and spoke regarding the code enforcement.

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APPOINTMENT(S)

HAMPTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Hampton County Council voted by ballot to appoint Buddy Bullard, Caroline Koger, Ronnie Stanley, Jake Sullivan and Elizabeth Wooten to the Hampton County Economic Development Commission.

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

GULLAH/GEECHEE PROCLAMATION:

Chairman Alexander read the proclamation. **Moved** by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to adopt the Gullah/Geechee Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION OF HAMPTON COUNTY SUPPORTING THE SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICAN REVOLUTION SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMISSION AND RECOGNIZING AND APPROVING OF THE HAMPTON COUNTY 250 COMMITTEE:

Chairman Alexander read the resolution. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to adopt the Resolution of Hampton County Supporting the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission and Recognizing and Approving of the Hampton County 250 Committee. Motion carried unanimously. The 250 Committee (See attachment).

ORDINANCE(S)

YEMASSEE IGA ON SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS:

Moved by Chairman Alexander, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to give first reading to Yemassee IGA on substantial projects. Motion carried unanimously.

MCIP WITH COLLETON COUNTY EXPANSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO INCLUDE PROJECT PALMETTO GREEN:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to give first reading to the Ordinance, MCIP with Colleton County-Expansion of the Industrial Park to Include Project Palmetto Green. Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

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COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

State of the County

Chairman Alexander reported that the council has a State of the County and is posted on the County's Facebook page.

Report on Meeting with School District Board

Council and the Hampton County School Board met and had a very fruitful meeting.

County Council's Participation in Parades

Chairman Alexander explained that council will be participating in the parades.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' UPDATE:

Council Member Jinks

Council Member Jinks reported that big things are happening. The widening of I-95 from Hardeeville to Exit 68.

Council Member Welch

Council Member Welch reported that there will be the beautification of the curve by the courthouse – curve appeal. Also, the clean-up and painting of the annex.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

The County Attorney had no update.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

The Clerk had no update.

FINANCING AUTHORIZATION FOR RADIOS (MELISSA HARRILL):

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, regarding Financing Authorization for communications, top to bottom, 3.3 million dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCING AUTHORIZATION FOR DEBT CONSOLIDATION:

Ms. Harrill commented that debt consolidation will be discussed in executive session.

FINANCING AUTHORIZATION FOR AMBULANCE (MELISSA HARRILL):

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the lease type purchase of the ambulance. Motion carried unanimously.

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AUTHORIZATION TO USE RESERVE ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR SETTLEMENT FUNDS RELATED TO HCRMC (MELISSA HARRILL):

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, for Authorization to Use Reserve Account to Pay for Settlement Funds Related to HCRMC up to \$125,000. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF DONATION TO OPEN ARMS FELLOWSHIP FOR USE BY COA:

Chairman Alexander reported that the Discussion of Donation to Open Arms Fellowship for Use is deferred until the retreat.

REQUEST FOR MATCHING FUNDS (\$11,007.50) FOR EM FIXED GENERATOR (TOTAL GRANT \$44,030):

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to match up to \$3,000 (Three thousand dollars) for the EMS generator. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF ALLOCATION FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE REGIONAL DETENTION CENTER:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks to budget up to \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) for the Regional Detention Center Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously

REQUEST FROM HAMPTON COUYNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR USE OF SPACE TO CREATE A MAINTNANCE OFFICE IN ONE OF THE RECREATION FACILITIES:

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Chairman Alexander, to allow staff to assess space study. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM HAMPTON COUNTY WATERMELON FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

Request for Funding from Hampton County Watermelon Festival Committee will be deferred until the retreat.

REQUEST TO ENGAGE CPA FIRM TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS FOR THE FY 22 AND FY 23 AUDITS:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to get a firm to prepare all documents for the FY 22 and FY 23 Audits. All upstairs have tried but need additional help. Motion carried unanimously.

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AUTHORIZATION TO USE ARPA FUNDS FOR UPGRADE OF IT EQUIPMENT:

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, for authorization to use up to one million dollars of ARPA Funds for the upgrade of IT Equipment. Motion carried unanimously. Council asked that they report back to council.

APPROVAL TO SPEND ARPA FUNDS FOR TECHNOLOGY, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND LANDFILL EXPENSES:

Ms. Jones expressed that this is a duplicate request - Approval to Spend ARPA Funds for Technology, Professional Services and Landfill Expenses. Council took no action.

MAESAWYR'S TASK ORDER FOR OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL:

Maesawyr's Task Order for Obstruction Removal deferred until retreat.

REVISED 2023 BUDGET CALENDAR:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Chairman Alexander, to adopt the revised 2023 Budget Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

HAMPTON COUNTY 2023-2024 HOLIDAY CALENDAR:

Vice Chairman Williams commented that he knew that it could not be done this year but wanted Juneteenth on the holiday calendar for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Holiday added. **Moved** by Chairman Alexander, seconded by Council Member Welch, to adopt the Hampton County 2023-2024 Holiday Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

HAMPTON COUNTY 2023-2024 PAYROLL CALENDAR:

Moved by Chairman Alexander, seconded by Council Member Welch, to adopt the Hampton County 2023-2024 Payroll Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

SRH Contract for healthcare services at HCDC

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams to approve the contract for healthcare services at. Motion carried unanimously.

Performance Evaluations

Interim Administrator Heather Jones reported that there are a lot of vacancies.

Staff Vacancies

Interim Administrator Heather Jones reported that the HR Manager reported that there are a lot of vacancies.

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Consideration of donation of unusable and unsellable equipment to another County

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to donate unusable and unsellable equipment to Allendale county. Motion carried unanimously.

Mural on Recreation Annex Building

Interim County Administrator informed council that Mr. Jack Hutto will pay for the mural on the side of the building for the DoJo.

Summer Youth Work Program

Interim County Administrator Heather Simmons Jones informed council that the summer youth program is covered by the school district and Antioch Educational Center. Youth will be working for some offices.

SC State Tree Planting Project

SC State will be partnering with the county on the tree planting project.

FOIA Point Person

Deferred to retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONTRACTUAL MATTER(S) CONTINUATION IF NEEDED REGARDING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND EXTERNAL AGENCY), LEGAL MATTER(S) ADVICE (CONTINUATION IF NEEDED REGARDING DEBT CONSOLIDATION, FIRE TWO AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION) AND A PERSONNEL MATTER REGARDING A DEPARTMENT OF ONE:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, to go into executive session to discuss Contractual Matter(s) (Continuation if needed Regarding Purchase of Property and External Agency), Legal Matter(s) Advice (Continuation if needed Regarding Debt Consolidation, Fire Two and Potential Litigation)AND A Personnel Matter Regarding a Department of One. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONTRACTUAL MATTER(S) CONTINUATION IF NEEDED REGARDING PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND EXTERNAL AGENCY), LEGAL MATTER(S) ADVICE (CONTINUATION IF NEEDED REGARDING DEBT CONSOLIDATION, FIRE TWO AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION) AND A PERSONNEL MATTER REGARDING A DEPARTMENT OF ONE:

Moved by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Council Member Jinks to come out of

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executive session for discussion of Contractual Matter(s) (Continuation if needed Regarding Purchase of Property and External Agency), Legal Matter(s) Advice (Continuation if needed Regarding Debt Consolidation, Fire Two and Potential Litigation) and a Personnel Matter Regarding a Department of One. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Alexander reported that legal advice was received, contractual matters were discussed and personnel matter of a department of one. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Alexander adjourned the meeting.