

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY; JULY 11, 2023; 12:00 NOON
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88607906825>
MEETING ID: 886 0790 6825
HAMPTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Hampton County Council held a special zoom meeting (**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88607906825>, Meeting ID: 886 0790 6825) on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 12:00 noon. Council Member(s) present: Noah O. Alexander, Chairman; Roy Hollingsworth, Jordan “JJ” Jinks and Camille M. Welch. Council Member(s) absent: Darin Williams, Vice Chairman. Staff present: Heather Simmons Jones, Interim County Administrator, Aline Newton, Clerk to Council. Staff absent: A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Wilson Holland, Hampton County IT was present. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Council Member Jinks gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Welch.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE JULY 11, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Alexander asked for the approval of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to approve the July 11, 2023 Hampton County Council Special Meeting Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There was no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There was no public comment(s).

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to approve the June 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

JUNE 5, 2023 HAMPTON COUNTY MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to accept the 6.2 June 5, 2023 Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING TRIAL IN AUGUST:

Interim Administrator Heather Simmons Jones came before council regarding the upcoming trial. She explained that the trial will be on August 14, 2023 and is scheduled to be at the Hampton County Courthouse. She reported that there are maintenance items; want to look beautiful, safety and the requirements by Court Administration. She explained that there are broken window panes, and there needs to be upgrades to the courthouse projector and system. Courthouse system does not have HDMI capability. Expenses are charge for the theatre, perimeter fencing and window panes that have fallen out of rotted windows. Council Member Jinks reminded Council that when he first got on council, he asked that Brenna Hancock, Grants Administrator, research for the Historical Preservation Grant to help with the courthouse. He explained that Ms. Hancock brought back the information on a Historical Preservation Grant for \$200,000 with a \$40,000 match. Council did not pursue the grant. There was a short discussion as to why the previously approved up to a million dollars technology upgrades for the county which includes the courthouse could not be used. Melissa Harrill, Interim Finance Director, commented that this was not included in the list, but she would check. Council Member Hollingsworth asked for a guesstimate to figure out the cost for the requested operational budget. Interim County Administrator Simmons Jones explained that it could be approximately \$40, 000 to \$80,000. Ms. Jones commented that they needed something to start the work. **Moved** by Council Member Welch, seconded by Council Member Jinks, to approve up to \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) to be used for operational budget for technology upgrades at the courthouse. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR EMPLOYMENT MATTER RELATED TO A POTENTIAL HIRE AND EMPLOYMENT MATTER TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE:

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to go into executive session for an employment matter related to a potential hire and the discussion of prior employment matter to receive legal advice. Motion carried unanimously.

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REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR EMPLOYMENT MATTER RELATED TO A POTENTIAL HIRE AND EMPLOYMENT MATTER TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE:

Moved by Council Member Jinks, seconded by Council Member Welch, to come out of executive session for an employment matter related to a potential hire and the discussion of a prior employment matter to receive legal advice. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Alexander reported that 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.