

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; JANUARY 3, 2005; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 3, 2005, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Lisa Ball; Lee S. Bowers; Virgin Johnson, Sr., Margaret S. Parker, Chairman Willard E. Wilson, Vice Chairman. Staff present: Sabrena Posey, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Kevin Byrd, County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Parker.

CHAIRMAN WELCOMED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Parker stated that before council moved to the next item, she wanted to welcome the new the brand new council member, Mr. Willard Wilson. She stated that for those who were here earlier, they were sworn in about fifteen minutes ago, and Mr. Virgin Johnson who is an incumbent back on council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker as Chairman for two years. (Margaret S. Parker - 3 votes and Willard E. Wilson - 2 votes). Chairman Parker thanked Council. She stated that they will be publishing accomplishments for the last six months, and she stated that the Administrator would agree that there will be many more good solid accomplishments in economic development and the way Council handles meetings, etc. in the future.

ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN:

Council voted by secret ballot to elect Willard E. Wilson as Vice Chairman. (Willard E. Wilson - 3 votes and Lee S. Bowers - 2 votes).

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF:

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Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to reappoint Sabrena Posey as Administrator and Aline Newton as Clerk to Council and to rehire part-time, County Attorney, Algernon Solomons, Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

REVISIONS:

Chairman Parker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Administrator Posey stated that she had an update on an executive session regarding a contractual matter with the library (15.3) and one other item, a resolution from the Disabilities and Special Needs Board regarding their transportation program (14.1.5)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2004 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Parker asked Council if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. She stated that the minutes would stand approved as they received the.

DECEMBER 20, 2004 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Parker asked Council if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. She stated that the minutes were approved as received.

PRESENTATION

There were no presentations.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions scheduled.

ORDINANCES

THIRD (3rd) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-004 - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND NEVAMAR COMPANY, LLC

Chairman Parker stated that the Nevamar Ordinance, Ordinance #2004-004 was deferred

THIRD (3rd) AND FINAL READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-006, ESTABLISHMENT OF

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THE HAMPTON COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND DUTIES:

Chairman Parker stated that Ordinance #2004-006 will be referred to the appropriate committee when the new committees are appointed. She stated that when it is appointed then that committee will take that up.

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2004-012, PUBLIC NUISANCES AND UNFIT DWELLINGS ORDINANCE:

Chairman Parker this ordinance was also discussed back in December and will be discussed at the second meeting in this month. If you could, if you don't have the latest copy, council received a copy back in December that was the copy of the last draft, if you don't have that She stated that she wanted to set by this Friday for members to please write on there your concerns, anything that you want to express and then they will bring another draft back that will be on the agenda for the next meeting

BIDS

There were no bids.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING

SELECTION OF COMMITTEES:

Chairman Parker asked that Council fill out the forms regarding the committees in which they would like to serve and getting them back to her.

SCHEDULING OF A COUNCIL WORKSHOP:

Chairman Parker stated that there is a need for a council workshop. She stated that she and Ms. Posey discussed this today. Chairman Parker stated that Ms. Posey will see if she can get someone assigned from the university who will conduct this workshop. She stated that Council will look at the policies and procedures and the way that Council conducts itself and goals and objectives before Council starts the budget process. Chairman Parker stated that Administrator Posey stated that maybe the workshop could be held on a weekday starting at 4:00 p. m. Administrator Posey stated that maybe starting at 4:00 p. m. and going until about 8:00 p. m. or a Saturday morning, spending a half day on Saturday, whatever was Council's preference. Council Member Bowers stated that you would probably do better getting people coming at 4:00 p. m. in the afternoon. Council Member Johnson stated that 4:00 p. m. in the afternoon is not good for some people who may have jobs. Administrator Posey stated that Council could start as late as they like and do it over two or three days. She stated that if they would like to start later and do it two nights, then that would be fine. Chairman Parker wanted to know what day was more preferable. Council Member Bowers asked that it not be done on a Monday, because meetings were held on Monday. Council Member Johnson stated that Wednesday is not good, because prayer meetings are on Wednesday. Chairman Parker stated that Tuesday would be a good day since they did budgets on Tuesday. Chairman Parker asked that the Tuesday for off weeks of council meetings, second or fourth Tuesday. Administrator Posey will get the dates of the meeting for Council.

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REPORTS TO COUNCIL

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR RENTAL PROPERTY THE COMMUNICATION'S TOWER:

Administrator Posey stated that this is retro approval, because the tower is now up and placed on property of Wilson and Susanne Peeples. She stated that it is 11.328 acres that they have agreed to lease to the County to locate the tower on. She stated that the lease agreement was prepared by the County Attorney for twenty (30) years commencing on November 1, 2004. She stated that the agreement stipulates the rental amount is \$800 (eight hundred dollars) per year for the first four (4) years and shall increase thereafter by 10% (ten percent) every four (4) years for the remaining sixteen (16) years. She stated that the tower was funded through the Homeland Security Grant that houses the equipment for Fire, EMS and Sheriff Departments. She stated that she was asking for the approval of the eight hundred (\$800) dollars for the lease. Council Members Bowers wanted to know if you would pay from contingency. Administrator Posey stated that it would come from within the department's budget. Council Member Johnson wanted to know if the renewal of the lease was after twenty (20) years. Administrator Posey stated that this was correct. She stated that the lease would renew after twenty (20) years, but the rate will increase after four (4) years. Chairman Parker stated that it would increase by 10% (ten percent). She wanted to know why twenty years. Administrator Posey stated that she would defer to the County Attorney. She stated that if probably is just a reasonable time in terms of not having to come back. She stated that it's a tower there that the County plans to have there for a very long time. The County Attorney stated that the only thing he can say is that this is what Gene Rushing agreed on. He stated that twenty (20) years is reasonable for that structure. Chairman Parker wanted to know if this is something that the County gets through the Homeland Security Grant. She asked if the County knows that the grant is going to be for that long. Administrator Posey stated that the funding for the lease is not through the Homeland Security Grant. She stated that the grant paid for the tower, but the funding will be budgeted annually. Administrator Posey stated that she believed that Council was informed about this under Mr. Klugh where the original site was not appropriate for the tower, and the County had to find a new location. She stated that this was the location. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Ball, to accept the lease as prepared by the County Attorney for the communication tower property rental lease. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FROM THE SHERIFF:

Administrator Posey stated that this comes as a request because it is a part of the County's policy that all out of state travel must be approved by County Council. She stated that she hopes in the future that Council can review that policy such that department heads and Administration can review out of state travel and if the travel is within the department's budget and the authorized travel is work related, then that policy can perhaps be reviewed. She stated that it is the policy that Council approve out of state travel. She stated that the Sheriff has submitted information regarding this travel to the National Sheriff's Association Mid-Winter Conference to be held in Washington. She stated that the dates for the conference is February 28, 2005 - March 6, 2005. She stated that he has supplied all the documentation and travel pre-authorization form. Administrator Posey stated that the approximate cost for the trip is \$1,990. She stated that funds are budgeted and available for this

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trip if Council so agree to approve. Chairman Parker wanted to know if he took the trip that there will be money left for training for deputies, etc. Sheriff Brown stated that he wished he could answer that question but he can't. He stated that Major Firster is the budget person. Major Firster stated that there will be funds left for training. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to grant approval for the Sheriff to attend the National Sheriff Association's Mid-Winter Conference. Motion carried unanimously.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN:

Administrator Posey stated that this plan was developed by the Finance Director per a request from the Detention Center Grant. She stated that the County must have an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan in place in order to continue to receive that funding. She stated that this plan simply identifies for the County, the employment, the structure of our employment in terms of the level of professionals. She stated that it looks at race, and the ratio of minorities, that the County has hired and any plans that the County needs to put in place to possibly look at the category in which the county is falling short in. She stated that they put that plan together based on the recommendation and guidance from the grant agency and Council's approval of it. She stated that there is no funding attached whatsoever. She stated that it was just a matter of having a plan in place for grant purposes. Council Member Bowers asked if Administrator Posey recommends it. She stated that she did. **Moved** by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan. Chairman Parker stated that this is what the County always does. Administrator Posey stated that she did not know but it was a standard plan that the County should have, and the County has adopted it based on the draft that the grant agency provided to the County. Motion carried unanimously.

MR. WALT INABINET, SOUTHERN CAROLINA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, REGARDING THE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2004:

Mr. Inabinet came before Council to make his presentation. (See attachment #1 for presentation). Council thanked Mr. Inabinet for the report.

RESOLUTION #R-2005-001 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS REGARDING DESIGNATION AS THE ENTITY IN HAMPTON COUNTY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION THE PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION AND RELATED DISABILITIES AND TO PARTICULAR SECTORS OF THE ELDERLY AND/OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Moved by Council Member Bowers, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adopt Resolution #R-2005-001 designating Hampton County Disabilities and Special Needs Board as an entity in Hampton County to provide transportation to the Person with Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities and transportation services to particular sectors of the elderly and/or persons with disabilities. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE LIBRARY:

Moved by Council Member Ball, seconded by Council Member Bowers, to go into executive session to discuss the contractual matters. Motion carried. Session began 6:40 p. m. and ended 7:40 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to come out of executive session. **After coming out of Executive Session**, Chairman Parker stated that:

- a contractual matter regarding the DSS Project was discussed, and Council gave direction to the Administrator.
- a contractual matter regarding economic development was discussed, and Council gave direction to the Economic Development Director, the County Administrator and the County Attorney.
- a contractual matter regarding the library was discussed, and Council gave direction to the Administrator and the County Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Ball, to adjourn. Chairman Parker adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p. m.