

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; DECEMBER 2, 2019; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 2, 2019, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Clay Bishop, Chairman; Charles H. “Buddy” Phillips, Vice Chairman; Roy Hollingsworth, Ronald G. “Breeze” Winn, and Darin Williams. Council Member(s) absent: None. Staff present: Rose Dobson-Elliott, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Staff absent: None. Media present: Mr. Michael DeWitt, Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bishop called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Vice Chairman Phillips gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Williams.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 HAMPTON COUNTY MEETING AGENDA
AND CONSENT AGENDA:**

Chairman Bishop asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda and the agenda with the changes of striking Items #10.1.2, 10.3.1, and 9.1 and adding Items #14.2, Legal Matters with Old Palachucola Road and Item #15.2, and 10.3.1 and adding 14.2 Executives Session - Opioid Litigation and 15.2, Legal Matters with Old Palachucola Road and change date for next meeting to December 16, 2019. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to approve the December 2, 2019 county council meeting agenda and consent agenda with the stated changes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

THIRD READING TO AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK, BY AND BETWEEN HAMPTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK, SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IN COLLETON COUNTY AS PART OF THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK (COLONIAL PRECAST CONCRETE OF CAROLINA, LLC):

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Chairman Bishop opened the public comments for the third reading to an Ordinance to Approve Amendment of the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Hampton County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Colleton County as Part of the Joint County Industrial Park. ((**Colonial Precast Concrete of Carolina, LLC**)). There were no public comments. Chairman Bishop closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bishop informed the public that 5 minutes would be given to each speaker for a total of 30 minutes.

MR. JOHN RHODEN REGARDING AIRPORT HANGARS:

Mr. Rhoden came before council and informed council that he was speaking on the matter of the airport hangar dilemma. He explained that he does not support or support the project. He told council that now is not the time for Hampton County to go into a debt of about 3 million dollars. He stated that he rides the area of Hampton and Varnville in the mornings that is just something that he does. He explained that there are a total of 18 businesses that have closed. He continued that people of our county has not seen the projects for the 1% sales tax, CPST for all the projects materialize. He further stated that the Town of Hampton has been supporting the recreational efforts for baseball and soccer and the Town of Varnville for football. Mr. Rhoden requested from Administrator Dobson Elliott a synopsis of money collected and requested. Administrator Dobson Elliott responded that she will get it for Mr. Rhoden tomorrow. Mr. Rhoden what were the plans for the Administrative Center and when will it be done. He exclaimed that it was a shame for the county's Administrative Center to look like this. He said he was here two times last week and there were leaves on the porch and a board with 3 nails sticking up. Chairman Bishop that the Administrative Center is the list but the Recreation Complex is next on the list and projects can't be skipped over. Administrator Dobson Elliott commented that the windows have been repaired.

MR. CHARLES HAWKINS REGARDING THANKS:

Mr. Hawkins stated that he lives in Hampton County twice. He was here as the Associate Warden with the prison and when they retired, he and his wife looked around and decided that they wanted to live in Hampton County, South Carolina. He told council that people are watching you at all times. He stated that as a voter and resident of the county, he wants to thank the council for what they do.

MR. CHUCK PLATTS REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Platts came before council to say that there was a lot of to about not receiving federal funding; he explained that there is a threshold that has to be reached to receive federal funding. There have been at least 10 aircraft hangars before able to get federal funding. Will not get 2.6 million dollars and parks and recreation will not pay for itself, the airport will help to enlarge the tax base and provide aviation training for the youth, etc.

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MR. JACK WOODWARD REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Woodward explained that he has been on the Airport Commission for many, many years and has been in aviation for about 60 years. He explained that they have put a lot of thought into this and hate that most people are “naysayers”. He cited that Walterboro, Allendale and Jasper just 30 million dollars from the federal government and hate to come every time and hear negative comments. He commented that this project needs consideration.

MR. RAY WARD REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Ray Ward commented that Mr. Jack Woodward invited to a lot of stuff and he was appointed to the commission. He explained that he has contributed physically to this project by running machines and now the earthmoving and site is ready. This commission has volunteered for many hours.

MR. JACK BRODERSEN REGARDING AIRPORT:

Mr. Brodersen came before council and stated that he is a recent resident. He commented that in the year 2018 3.4 million of economic activity is for Hampton County is due to the airport. He also explained that Hampton County sets in a dead zone for aircraft services. He explained that this is a great opportunity for the county.

MS. RHONDA HARDISON REGARDING LIGHTING:

Ms. Hardison came before council and commented that she was concerned about the lighting. There needs to be better lighting as you walk up the sidewalk, steps of the building. Someone needs to look into it; we all are getting older and need to see to get to cars when leaving the meeting.

REV. GUY HODGE REGARDING CHURCH BUILDING:

Rev. Hodge, Representative for Second Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, came before council and commented that they have been trying to erect a building for approximately two years and are having issues. He reported that the building that they are erecting sits about 3 feet on Short Wave Lane which DOT (Department of Transportation) says sits is out in the middle of nowhere. He reported that the Codes Enforcement explained that the building is about three feet on the road. Rev. Hodge and others came and asked for assistance in resolving the matter.

MR. DeKELLY PITTINGER:

Mr. Pittinger came before council and commented that he is not against the airport hangar project but is concerned about the timing. He explained that he too would like to see businesses come into Hampton County. Mr. Pittinger reported that he checked with Jasper County about how much they were charging to rent their hangars; he reported that Jasper County was charging \$600 per month to rent a hangar. He commented that Hampton County would be charging like \$210 per month. Mr. Pittinger reiterated that he thought that if the project was going to pass, then the county needed to get more per month. Mr. Pittinger expressed concern that now was not the right time for the county to get in debt.

JAG STUDENTS REGARDING YOUTH JUNIOR GOVERNMENT:

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Wade Hampton Students with Jobs for America Graduates (JAG) came before council to request that council partner with them in creating a leadership program. Chairman Bishop invited the students to attend council's monthly retreat to exchange ideas.

MS. BARBARA GRAY:

Ms. Gray came before council and expressed her concerns regarding the borrowing of 2.6 million to construct airport hangars. She commented that this loan is for over a 30 year period; her grandchildren will be paying back. She said that she will probably not be here and some council members. Ms. Gray stated that the economy is not good especially in Hampton County. She again expressed her concern that the time is not right to borrow 2.6 million for airport hangars.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S NOVEMBER 18, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES:**

Moved by Council Member Winn, seconded by Council Member Williams, to approve the November 18, 2019 Hampton County Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S NOVEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Moved by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Williams, to approve the November 18, 2019 Hampton County Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION(S)

There were no presentation(s).

APPOINTMENT(S)

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

There were no resolution(s)/proclamation(s).

ORDINANCE(S)

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JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK (COLONIAL PRECAST CONCRETE OF CAROLINA, LLC):

Mr. Brantley Strickland, Project Manager for Hampton County, Southern Carolina Alliance, explained that Hampton County is a partner and will receive 1% of taxes from Colleton County. This project, Colonial Precast Concrete of Carolina, LLC, is located in Colleton Venture Park. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to give third reading to an Ordinance to Approve Amendment of the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Hampton County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Colleton County as Part of the Joint County Industrial Park. (Colonial Precast Concrete of Carolina, LLC) Motion carried unanimously.

BID(S)

There were no bid(s).

COUNCIL BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Bishop commented that the concert at the theater was very nice. It was well attended. He also announced that the next event will be December 14, 2019, and it will be the Gullah Gee Chee Gala, a gallery exhibit of art that will be exhibited at the Stanley Building. He commented that this may be the first leg of a national tour.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

The County Attorney explained that he did not have an update except for what will be taken up in executive session.

CLERK'S UPDATE:

Boards and Commissions Update

The Clerk did not have an update. Chairman Bishop informed that Clerk that a letter of resignation was turned in by Mr. Tracy and need to try to get as soon as possible.

HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S 2020 MEETING CALENDAR:

Moved by Council Member Winn, seconded by Council Member Williams, to approve the Hampton County Council's 2020 Meeting Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Dobson Elliott reported to council that the county did not lose any employees and that no one has come and asked for any updates. She explained that the Airport Hangar project was

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well thought through. She explained that in 2014 she was asked by the Airport Commission wot come and start to work with them. This was February 15, 2014. She provided statistics for the number of hours and experience that serve on the Airport Commission. Administrator Dobson Elliott commented that she and Dr. Hollingsworth met with the FAA and they gave a list of things to make the airport eligible for funding and they have been following that list. Administrator Dobson Elliott responded to Mr. Pittinger that she does not get a vote; those council members think for themselves. She explained that she was instructed that they don't do anything that can't pay for.

Administrator Dobson Elliott announced that there will be a Bake Sale at the B. T. DeLoach Building on December 13, 2019, from 8:30 a. m. – 1:00 p. m. as a fundraiser for Fill the Stocking Campaign (Hampton County DSS). She also thanked Mr. Darryl Russell for his service as the Toys for Tots Coordinator. She reminded everyone about the boxes that toys can be donated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND LEGAL MATTERS REGARDING PALACHUCOLA CLUB ROAD CLOSING:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to go into executive session to receive an economic development update and a legal matter regarding Palachucola Club Road. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND LEGAL MATTERS REGARDING PALACHUCOLA CLUB ROAD CLOSING:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Williams, to come out of executive session regarding an economic development update and legal matters regarding Palachucola Club Road. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Bishop reported that an economic development update was given and no action was taken. Legal matters regarding Old Palachucola Club Road were discussed and no action was taken. However, County Attorney Solomons asked that action be taken out of executive session regarding this matter.

CONSENT TO THE CLOSING OF OLD PALACHUCOLA ROAD:

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to give South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) consent to close the Old Palachucola Road. Council Member Winn commented TO Chairman Bishop that they should include the Old Orangeburg Road also Palachucola, the Old Orangeburg Road is under consideration. Chairman Bishop explained that this is the only road that the County Attorney asked to be considered. County Administrator Dobson Elliott asked for the name of the roads to be considered. County Attorney Solomons responded that it was the Old Orangeburg Road in the Palachucola Club and Treadwell Road within the Palachucola Club. He explained that outside the Palachucola Club the abandoned road is within State property. Chairman Bishop stated that the motion is for the roads as listed and stated that Attorney Solomons. There was a discussion. **Moved** by Vice Chairman Phillips to

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amend his motion to give South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) consent to close the roads as listed and stated by Attorney Solomons, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth. Motion carried with Council Members Bishop, Hollingsworth, Phillips and Williams voting in favor and Council Member Winn voting to oppose.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice Chairman Phillips, seconded by Council Member Hollingsworth, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Bishop adjourned the meeting.