

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; FEBRUARY 26, 2007; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING
201 JACKSON AVENUE, WEST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 26, 2007, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips and Willard E. Wilson. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Wayne Knuckles, The Hampton County Guardian. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Byrd, County Chaplain, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Parker.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were no public comment(s).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2007 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

Chairman Gray called for the adoption of the agenda. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Remove Item #10.2.2, Ecology Biofuels Ordinance, (2) Remove Item #13.1.2, Approve Funding from the Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium(2) Add Item #12.2, Business License Ordinance Committee Report. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray asked if there were any changes to the minutes. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried. Chairman Gray stated that the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTEES:

Chairman Gray presented certificates to board/commission appointees. Present to accept certificates were Neil Sullivan, Sr., Hampton Council on Aging and Terry Wright, Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors.

LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM – LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (LCOG), MS. GRAY HENDERSON, LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM ADVISORY BOARD:

Ms. Henderson requested on behalf of the HOME Consortium Advisory Board, a waiver to award the total amount of \$50,000 to the Town of Brunson for their housing Projects. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to grant the request to the Lowcountry HOME Consortium to allow a one time waiver above the \$27,000 (twenty-seven thousand dollars) cap up to \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) for the Town of Brunson's Housing Project. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS BY MR. JOHN HENDERSON OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION TRUST:

John Henderson, South Carolina Counties Workmen's Compensation Trust, presented awards to the Hampton County Safety Committee for 1st Runner Up 2006 Most Improved County and Outstanding Achievement Award for the AED Program.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointment(s).

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCES

SECOND (2nd) READING TO ORDINANCE #2007-002, SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS RIGHT OF WAY:

Moved by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give second (2nd) reading to Ordinance #2007-002. Administrator Graham stated that she checked regarding the cables being buried in front of the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park. She stated that it would

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be cost prohibited to bury. She stated that this meant that the county would have to pay to have the cables buried. Council stated that the overhead cables would remain. Motion carried.

**SECOND (2nd) TO ORDINANCE #2007-003, (FORMERLY ORDINANCE #2006-020),
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ECONOMIC INCENTIVES INCLUDING PAYMENT
OF A FEE IN LIEU OF PROPERTY TAXES AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, PURSUANT
TO A FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMPTON COUNTY AND ECOGY BIOFUELS:**
Council deferred the matter.

BIDS

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #1)

BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Council Member Wilson stated that the committee plans to meet on March 19, 2007, 5:00 p. m. to discuss the Business License Ordinance recommendation.

CHARRETTE PROPOSAL:

Council Member Parker reported that she has secured \$16,000 (sixteen thousand dollars) in commitments for the majority of the charrette's cost. She stated that she would like the county to contribute at least a \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) to show that they are willing to invest in their community. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the proposal as presented by Council Member Parker and approve not to exceed \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) from contingency funds to the charrette proposal. Motion carried. Council Member Parker stated that Mr. Boozer will meet with the Administrator, the Chairman and her. Mr. Fennell, Citizen, wanted to know if this was a one time project cost. Council Member Parker stated that it was a one time cost. Once the plan is presented, the County would have to decide what it wants to do.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Lease Agreement with Lowcountry Rural Health Consortium, Inc.

Administrator Graham provided a copy of the Lease Agreement with Lowcountry Rural Health Education Consortium, Inc. to council as information.

Collection of Town Taxes

Administrator Graham stated that a meeting was held to provide information to the towns about The county collecting their taxes. She stated that there would be a start-up cost that would be Shared by the towns and a \$3.00 cost per notice. She stated that the cost to the towns would

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provide for the employees' salaries, furnishings and equipment. She stated that the Town of Hampton has completed and returned its collection agreement. The deadline to return the agreement is April 30, 2007. Administrator Graham stated that she would ask that the County approve the agreement also. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the collection agreement as presented by Administrator Graham. Administrator Graham stated that this agreement will not readdress any delinquent taxes. She stated that the collection process starts with the current taxes; anything in the past the towns will be responsible. Motion carried.

PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION:

Administrator Graham stated that the courthouse project is out for bid. She stated that approximately a month ago council approved a salary for a Plan Reviewer/Commercial Inspector. She stated that the person hired was Richard Madison. She stated that Mr. Madison is well qualified to fill the position of Project Manager for the Courthouse Project. Administrator Graham requested that Council approve the extension of the part-time commercial inspector's employment to assume the position of Project Manager for the Courthouse Construction. **Moved** by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Parker, to extend the part-time employment of Richard Madison in the capacity of Project Manager for the Courthouse Project. Motion carried.

HAMPTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) FEES:

Administrator Graham stated that there was a request from EMS to increase the fees to match the Medicaid reimbursement. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the increased EMS fees as presented by Administrator Graham. (See Attachment #2). Council Member Wilson wanted to know what the increase in fees would do for the private paying patients. Administrator Graham stated that the fees would increase for them. Council Member Johnson asked what would happen if the person couldn't pay? Administrator Graham stated that they have procedures in place if a person cannot truly pay his bill. Motion carried with Council Member Gray, Parker and Phillips voting in favor and Council Members Johnson and Wilson voting against.

YEAR END SUMMARY

Administrator Graham presented the Year End Summary Report to Council.

REQUEST FROM JASPER COUNTY TO USE HAMPTON COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PLANS:

Administrator Graham stated that she received a telephone call from Jasper County asking if they could use the plans for the Council on Aging's Senior Center to build their Senior Center. She stated that if needed, they would make the necessary modifications, etc. **Moved** by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve Jasper's County's use of Hampton County's Council on Aging's Senior Center Plans. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Johnson, Phillips and Parker voting in favor and Council Member Wilson voting against.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to go into executive session to discuss economic development matter(s) and a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously. Session began 6:50 p. m. and ended 7:39 p. m. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to come out of executive session. Motion carried. **After** coming out of executive session, Chairman Gray stated that council discussed two issues, a personnel matter which dealt with a possible structure change and economic development matters in which the Administrator was given directions.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p. m.