

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY; MARCH 17, 2014; 6:00 P. M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
200 JACKSON AVENUE, EAST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, 2014, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, Hampton County Administrative Center, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Christopher B. Haulsee, Roy Hollingsworth, Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips, Vice Chairman and Shedron Williams. Staff present: Sabrena P. Graham, Administrator; Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Michael DeWitt, 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:**

Chairman Gray gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- ~~3.1.1 January 6, 2014 County Council Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.2 January 21, 2014 County Council Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.3 February 3, 2014 County Council Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.4 February 18, 2014 County Council Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.5 March 3, 2014 County Council Special Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.6 March 3, 2014 County Council Meeting Minutes~~
- ~~3.1.7 March 10, 2014 County Council Special Meeting Minutes~~
- 3.1.8 Codes Enforcement Report for Animal and Litter Control

and the March 17, 2014 Hampton County Council Meeting Agenda with the following revision(s): (1) Defer approval of Items #3.1.1 – 3.1.7, Minutes, (2) Add Item #13.1.1, Grants for Fire Fighters and (3) Debris Removal from County Roads. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

There were no public hearing(s).

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**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

There were no public comment(s).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were deferred.

**PRESENTATION(S)**

There were no presentation(s).

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

Council voted by secret ballot to appoint Janie Rivers to the Hampton County Tax Appeals Board.

**RESOLUTION(S)**

There were no resolution(s).

**ORDINANCE(S)**

**ORDINANCE PLACING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON WETLANDS IN THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK (LRIP):**

Mrs. Sandy Fowler, Executive Director, Hampton County Economic Development Commission, came before council to inform council regarding placing a permanent, conservation easement on an area of wetlands owned by Hampton County as mitigation for the Highway 68 widening project. She informed council that: (1) Hampton County owns the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park (LRIP), (2) Hampton County has a wetlands determination from the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) identifying the wetlands that exist in the LRIP, (3) In 2010, Hampton County developed a wetlands master plan for the LRIP identifying which areas are wetlands, which areas are appropriate for development and which areas could be offered as mitigation areas in order to maximize the development potential within the LRIP, (4) Through Lowcountry Council of Governments funding, Highway 68 is being widened to provide four lane access from I-95 to just past the entrances to the LRIP and the Southern Carolina Industrial Campus, (5) In order to accomplish the widening, South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will need to impact wetlands and will apply for permission to do so from the ACE. Part of their mitigation plan is to enhance an existing stream that lies within wetlands on our property in the LRIP, (6) SCDOT is asking Hampton County to assist the project by place the stream area into a permanent conservation easement, (7) The area under conservation easement can be used for

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walking trails, nature trails and other pedestrian areas but can never be developed and (8) The area being requested by SCDOT lies completely within the area identified as a wetlands and undevelopable in the 2010 wetlands master plan and currently cannot be developed without permission and mitigation plans from the ACE. **Moved** by Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Haulsee, to give second reading to the ordinance to place a conservation easement on wetlands in the Lowcountry Regional Industrial Park (LRIP). Motion carried unanimously.

**FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY OF THE ORDINANCE FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL BUDGET:**

**Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to give first reading by title only of the Ordinance for the Hampton County 2014-2015 Fiscal Budget and receive budget from the County Administrator, Mrs. Sabrena Graham. Chairman Gray called for questions. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that he asked why council did not have a document before them for first reading. He stated that he knows that last year he was told that this was standard practice, but he stated that he did not want to give first reading by title only. He stated that there were no figures to review, and he was there to act in the best interest of the people of Hampton County. Motion carried with Council Members Gray, Haulsee and Phillips voting in favor and Council Members Hollingsworth and Williams voting against.

**BID(S)**

There were no bid(s).

**COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)**

**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:**

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

**DISCUSSION POINTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS):**

There were no discussion point(s).

**CONSIDER THE "OTHER MATTERS" RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM MCGREGOR & COMPANY:**

**Moved** by Council Member Haulsee to accept the auditor's (McGregor and Company) recommendation to place the sheriff's drug fund in the treasurer's office; Council Member Phillips stated that he would second the motion for the purpose of discussion. Council Member Hollingsworth stated that at the South Carolina Association of Counties' training, they recommend that counties switch audit firms every three (3) years. He stated that they said that it doesn't mean that anything is being done wrong, but it gives the perception. Council Member Hollingsworth also inquired as to whether or not council had the authority to take that fund from the sheriff. Council asked Mr. Solomons. Mr. Solomons, County Attorney, replied that he did not know but would get the answer for council. Council Member Haulsee stated that according to the report from Ms. Salley, the sheriff cannot spend the money like he wants too. He stated that he was not in compliance. Every dime that goes through, council should know how it's spent. Council Member Hollingsworth reiterated whether or not council had the authority. He also asked what

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documentation was on file. Mr. Mike Meyer, Finance Director, stated that a copy of the check was on file. Council asked Mr. Solomons, County Attorney, to get an answer to the question of whether or not council had the authority to take the drug fund from the Sheriff and place under the Treasurer's Office. **Moved** by Chairman Gray, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to amend the motion until the County Attorney can research the matter regarding council's authority until the second meeting, Motion carried unanimously. **Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to amend his motion to table the motion until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray stated that the matter is tabled until the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION ON HOW THE BUDGET SESSIONS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED:**

Council Member Hollingsworth wanted clarification as to how the budget sessions was going to be conducted. He wanted to know if the budgets would be line by line. He also expressed an interest in the committees and departments meeting regarding their budgets. Administrator Graham stated that the first workshop would probably be an overview. She reported that discussions about what is generally coming up and requests from council's budget retreat, revenue projections and the fact that council does not want a tax increase. She stated that she will be taking council's directives regarding the budget.

**UPDATE ON THE MILEY FIRE STATION:**

Council Member Hollingsworth stated that he placed this item on the agenda. He stated that he received the e-mails from Administrator Graham and also the Mr. Solomons, County Attorney. He stated that he was satisfied with the update received via e-mail.

**REPORT(S) TO COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Grants for Fire Fighters**

Mr. Gregg Cook, Hampton County Fire Chief, came before council to report on a grant received to hire seven full time fire fighters. He stated that they were very excited about this news. Mr. Cook explained that the grant would pay for seven fire fighters for two years. He stated that Paula Bishop, Hampton County Grants Coordinator, wrote the grant. He stated that they had ninety days to hire the fire fighters. Council Member Hollingsworth asked Mr. Cook if he had given any thought to the sustainability of the seven positions after the grant ends. Mr. Cook responded that they have been thinking about it. Council Member Williams wanted to know if there was a question in the grant application for the county to sustain the positions after the grant ends. Mr. Cook stated that it was not. Council thanked Mr. Cook and Ms. Bishop.

**Debris Removal from County Roads**

Administrator Graham stated that FEMA is supplying funding to help with the clean-up of debris from the county roads. She stated that she does not have enough information but hope to get before the budget work session. She stated that county would hire a company to remove the debris and one to monitor the removal of the debris. She stated that the county would have to match twenty-five percent which would be up to \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) or \$37,500 (thirty-seven thousand, five hundred) if the State of South Carolina would assume a portion of the match. She reported that the Emergency Managers have made a request to the Governor.

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Council thanked Administrator for the information.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matter(s).

**REPORT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no matter(s).

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved** by Council Member Haulsee, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to adjourn. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p. m.