

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF HAMPTON

Hampton County Board Education  
Plaintiff,

vs.

Hampton County Council and Hampton  
County Auditor,  
Defendants.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CASE NO.: 2021-CP-25-00388

**ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS'  
MOTION TO RECONSIDER, ALTER  
OR AMEND**

**RECEIVED**

**May 06 2022**

**SC Court of Appeals**

The Defendants Hampton County Council and Hampton County Auditor filed a motion asking this Court to reconsider its February 24, 2022 Order.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Motions for reconsideration will not be granted absent “highly unusual circumstances.” U.S. ex rel. Becker v. Washington Savannah River Co., 305 F.3d 284, 290 (4th Cir. 2002) (stating that simple disagreements with the court’s ruling will not support Rule 59(e) relief).<sup>1</sup> Courts have recognized three circumstances in which a court should grant a Rule 59(e) motion: (1) to accommodate an intervening change in controlling law; (2) to account for new evidence not available at trial; or (3) to correct a clear error of law or prevent manifest injustice.” Hutchinson v. Staton, 994 F.2d 1076, 1081 (4th Cir. 1993). Importantly, a motion for reconsideration is not a vehicle to re-litigate previously raised issues or “to raise argument or present evidence that could have been presented prior to the entry of judgment.” Dash v. Mayweather, C/A No. 3:10-1036-JFA, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95277, \*2 (D.S.C. Sept. 13, 2010) (quoting Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker, 554 U.S. 471, n.5 (2008)). In other words, “[a] party cannot use Rule 59(e) to present to the court an issue the party could have raised prior to judgment but did not.” Stevens & Wilkinson

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 59 is substantially the same as the Federal Rule. See Elam v. S.C. Dep’t of Transp., 361 S.C. 9, 21, 602 S.E. 2d 772, 779 (2004) (“Rule 59(e) in the South Carolina and federal rules of civil procedure is practically identical.”).

of S.C., Inc. v. City of Columbia, 409 S.C. 563, 567, 762 S.E.2d 693, 695 (2014); Patterson v. Reid, 318 S.C. 183, 185, 456 S.E.2d 436, 437 (Ct. App. 1995). Nor does “[a] party’s mere disagreement with the court’s ruling . . . warrant a Rule 59(e) motion.” In re Pella Corp. Architect & Designer Series Windows Mktg., Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litig., 269 F.Supp. 3d 685, 691 (D.S.C. 2017); *see also* Lyons v. Fid. Nat’l Title Ins. Co., 415 S.C. 115, 135, 781 S.E.2d 126, 137 (Ct. App. 2015).

After consideration of the issues raised in Defendants’ motion, the Court hereby DENIES Defendant Hampton County Council and Hampton County Auditors’ Motion to Reconsider, Alter or Amend.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW



Hampton Common Pleas

**Case Caption:** Hampton County Board Of Education VS Hampton Hampton County Council , defendant, et al

**Case Number:** 2021CP2500388

**Type:** Order/Other

IT IS SO ORDERED!

/s Hon. Bentley D. Price, Circuit Judge 2766