

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, agendas for the following meeting were mailed to all members of Council, County Attorney Richard Ness, Lower Savannah COG, *The Bamberg Leader*, *The Times and Democrat*, Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website and Bamberg County Courthouse Annex.

In Light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., June 6, 2022 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside livestreaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairman Spencer Donaldson, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, Larry Haynes, Phil Myers, Jr. and Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Kenneth Bamberg, Chip Maier, Dr. William Molnar, Curtis Tyler, John Fleming, Brian Warner, Donald Kirby, Sh'Kur Francis, Sue Clayton, Dave Clayton, Miriam Beard, Mark Carter, Jerome Boyce, Kay Clary and two additional visitors.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Spencer Donaldson at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Phil Myers, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the minutes from the May 2, 2022 regular meeting and the May 16, 2022 special called meeting with necessary corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Sheriff Kenneth Bamberg provided the Council with a very edifying update in his department. The department has acquired 13 in-cameras for the vehicles at no cost to the County. Body cameras will be purchased with grant funds that have been received for that purpose. Bamberg County will have to subsidize the portion that the grant won't cover. Also, the department was operating off the old 400 radio system and now they will be making a conversion to 800 radios, with gratitude given to the Richland County Sheriff's Office. This will now enable the department to more efficiently and successfully communicate with other law enforcement, dispatch, public safety, etc. It was also shared that the sheriff's office works with Bamberg, Denmark and Ehrhardt police departments, along with the Denmark Technical College Department of Public Safety, in sharing resources. Sheriff Bamberg pointed out that you cannot police today effectively like we did in years past, so now they are upgrading their equipment. He thanked the Council and Administrator Preston for their assistance and support. Council thanked Sheriff Bamberg for his update and commended him on the job they are doing for the County.

Council approved the distribution of funds as presented by Bamberg County Recreation Committee Chairman Curtis Tyler, Jr. for the following programs: Bamberg County Youth Baseball (ages 6 and under), \$1,000; Bamberg Youth Softball (girls ages 7-9), \$1,500; Bamberg Youth Softball (girls ages 10-12), \$1,500; Bamberg Youth Baseball (boys ages 7-8), \$1,200; Bamberg Youth Baseball (boys ages 9-10), \$1,200; Bamberg Youth Baseball (boys ages 11-12), \$1,200; Bamberg Youth Baseball (boys ages 13-14), \$1,000; Bamberg Pony League (boys ages 13-14), \$1,500; Bamberg County 4-H (ages 5-18), \$650; Summer Enrichment/Recreation Program (ages 11-18), \$2,000; and Bamberg County First Steps (preschool), \$1,394. The Council thanked Mr. Tyler and the committee for their time and commitment.

June 6, 2022....continued

A public hearing was given to a proposed ordinance to amend the existing Bamberg County Road Ordinance to accept Cardinal Road that is located in Denmark, into the road maintenance system. No public comments were made.

A public hearing was given to a proposed ordinance calling for the South Carolina Department of Revenue to issue temporary permits to allow for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to bona fide nonprofit organizations and business establishments authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sale, all in Bamberg County; and other matters thereto. No public comments were made.

A public hearing was given to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County budgets for county ordinary purposes for which the county may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Bamberg County for such county ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Bamberg County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Bamberg County and Bamberg County budgetary matters. A power point presentation was presented at this time by Controller Gina Smith.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Southern Carolina Alliance – Monthly Report

Southern Carolina Development Director John Fleming introduced Brian Warner as the SCA's new project manager. Mr. Fleming reported that work is continuing at the Wolfe industrial site. Also reported was several people were looking at the CrossRhodes spec building. Within the last 30 days two people have had contractors get prices of what it will cost to get it to their specifications. More information will be reported next month. Mr. Warner was welcomed and the report was accepted as information.

Bamberg County Treasurer – Monthly Report

County Treasurer Alice Johnson gave the April financial report, stating the county had \$973,613.28 in income and expenditures of \$979,502.04, leaving a negative balance of \$5,888.76. When the positive bank balance at the end of March (\$706,014.17) was added, the county's regular account stood at a positive \$700,125.41. This report was accepted as information.

Bamberg County Finance – Monthly Report

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had year-to-date revenues of \$6,982,280 as of the end of April. Expenditures stood at \$6,439,049, for a positive general fund balance of \$543,230. It was also reported that all departments are within their bounds. This report was received as information.

Bamberg County Administrator

Administrator Preston reported the county's hospital project is moving forward. Hopefully by October we will be able to relocate the sheriff's department, the health department and veteran's affairs office to the new building. Shortly after those moves, the county coroner will be relocated. Then work will begin on the emergency operations center as soon as we complete the health department and the sheriff's department. Administrator Preston reported that general sessions and family court proceedings will be taking place at the Civic Center beginning July while the courthouse is undergoing renovations. Minor details are being worked out with the South Carolina law that we provide a safe and comfortable

June 6, 2022....continued

environment for general sessions court, family court and for the grand jury. This report was received as information.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved third and final reading of a proposed ordinance to amend the existing Bamberg County road ordinance to accept Cardinal Road into the road maintenance system.

On motion by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved second reading of an ordinance calling for a countywide referendum on whether alcohol sales should be allowed on Sunday.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council gave second reading, in title only, to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. The total budget presented was projected to be \$29,999,105. Voting in favor of the budget: Councilmen Haynes, Goodman, Comer and Chairman Donaldson. Voting not in favor of the budget: Councilwoman Hammond and Councilmen Myers and Carter.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council gave second reading approval of an ordinance authorizing the inclusion of West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd., a wood products company, into a multi-county industrial and business park between Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties.

On motion by Councilman Haynes seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution to amend the amended and restated master agreement for the establishment of the quad-county industrial Park 1, Park II, and Park III as of May 6, 2013 (TIVA Building Products Corp.) to be located in Barnwell County and the town of Blackville.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved a resolution authorizing the inclusion of Koch & Company, Inc., an American made door and cabinet manufacturer, into a multi-county industrial and business park between Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution to congratulate the Andrew Jackson Academy baseball team on winning the South Carolina Independent Schools Association Class A State Championship Title and to recognize the team members as county ambassadors.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution to honor the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Softball Team on winning the 2022 South Carolina High School League 1A State Championship and to recognize the team members as county ambassadors.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution to designate June 1, 2022 as James W. Bowden, Sr. Day and recognize James W. Bowden, Sr., as a county ambassador. Mr. Bowden, a Denmark Technical College Area Commission member, graduated from DTC in 1972 and worked with Duke Energy for 42 years. He served as Duke's first African American vice president before retiring in 2010.

June 6, 2022....continued

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Sharon Hammond, the calendar of events was approved after adding two additional events.

Chairman Donaldson called for public comments during this segment. Comments were received from Miriam Beard, Sue Clayton, Mark Carter and Jerome Boyce. Miriam Beard was concerned about: more money going out than coming in; reminding council of the form of government they're under and that they get an understanding of what they are about to do as it relates to passing the budget. Sue Clayton was concerned about: transparency, communication and accountability; and the timing in which the budget was handled – the public should be able to view the budget so that they can make intelligent comments. Mark Carter was concerned about: the public being allowed to attend the work session scheduled by the council on June 13th at 6 p.m. Jerome Boyce was concerned about: being able to access the budget on line also taxes.

During comments from council, they thanked the public for attending, thanked the employees for their diligence and hard work and wishes of a Happy Father's Day were extended to the fathers.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council