

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 Advertiser-Herald*, *The Times and Democrat*, SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website, Bamberg County Courthouse Annex and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the County Courthouse.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., July 13, 2020 in various locations within the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex and some participated by way of teleconference. The public joined the meeting by various means of technology. **Present:** Chairwoman Sharon Hammond, Reverend Isaiah Odom, Councilmen Kerry Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Larry Haynes, Joe Guess, Jr., and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Adam Ness, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, Mary Tilton, Chip Maier, Dolton Williams, Bridget Kinard, Ruthie Brown, Sidney Evering, Brittany Barnwell, Daniela McMillan, Jannie Johnson, Sue Greenberg, Paul Eubanks, Sarah Noel, Harold Shepherd, Bill Johnson, Walt Inabinet, Bradley Harris, Janelys, Gary Morris, William Molnar, Farrell Pulaski, Tyron Wilson, Shawn Cabbagestalk, Chasity Rice, Cheryl Crosby and four additional attendants.

Bamberg County Council Virtual meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sharon Hammond at 6:00 p.m., followed with a moment of silence in memory of those that loss the battle to COVID-19 and to the ones that are trying to recover and overcome the virus. Invocation was rendered by Reverend Isaiah Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Larry Haynes.

*Chairwoman Hammond announced that during the meeting, a roll call would be taken of each council member by district, when a vote is required on each motion made.*

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the following meetings: June 1, 2020, June 15, 2020 and June 29, 2020 meetings. Voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 was absent during the vote.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the agenda as submitted. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 was absent during the vote.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council voted to approve an ordinance making Bamberg County Council Declaration of a State of Emergency in Bamberg County, South Carolina in response to the public safety and health threat of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), effective July 13, 2020; and other matters relating thereto including implementation of measures dealing with the State of Emergency. This ordinance is valid for sixty-one days from date of being passed. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 was absent during the vote.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved an emergency ordinance requiring use of face coverings and other protective measures in emergencies and certain other situations; and matters related thereto. This ordinance was introduced by Councilman Comer. Council stated and agreed with the need of an ordinance addressing this crisis during this pandemic. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 was absent during the vote. The face covering ordinance will become effective on Friday, July 17, 2020 at 6 a.m.,

and will continue sixty days unless repealed at an earlier date. Administrator Preston said the ordinance only covers the unincorporated areas of the county. A face covering ordinance adoption in the cities and towns will be the decision of each council. The ordinance defines a face covering as a uniform piece of cloth, fabric or other material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands. Persons in violation of the ordinance will be guilty of a civil infraction, resulting in a fine of no more than \$25. Each violation will be treated as a separate offense. Establishments that fail to require employees to wear a face covering will be assessed a fine of no more than \$100. Repeat violation of the ordinance may result in the suspension or revocation of any county permit or business license. A copy of this ordinance will be attached to these minutes.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved an inducement resolution providing for a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement between Bamberg County and Project Joker. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 was absent during the vote.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the May financial report noting that the county income stood at \$1,228,211, with expenses coming in at \$832,036, leaving the county's bank balance at \$480,745.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund generated \$7,963,590 in year-to-date revenues at the end of May. Expenditures stood at \$6,743,710, leaving a positive balance of \$657,070. All departments are continuing to operate within their budgets. This report was received as information.

Controller Gina Smith gave an overview of the cash account, comparing May 2019 to May 2020. The report indicated that the landfill balance was \$19,000 more than in 2019 and everything was holding steady. The County will be applying for reimbursement funds through the CARES Act. Presently, we have about \$350,000 that we qualify for. The state will be conducting an audit regarding eligibility of funds to be received.

Administrator Preston reported on the following: **1)** Broadband summary, **2)** Census 2020; **3)** Dally Road; **4)** Reminded everyone to be certain to look at Mary's reports that are sent out daily regarding COVID-19 and other updated information; and **5)** It is the goal to have the Rivers Bridge Fire Substation project completed by November 2. Councilman Carter questioned why did it take MedShore so long to respond to a call for an Ehrhardt emergency. Administrator Preston responded from a written report received from Mr. Phil Clarke of MedShore, Mr. Clarke is schedule to be at the August meeting. The report was accepted as information.

On motion by Councilman Guess, Seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved first reading of an ordinance making permanent certain measures taken in response to a Bamberg County Council declaration of a state of emergency in Bamberg County, South Carolina in response to the public safety and health threat of the novel coronavirus ("COVIC-19"), and implementing certain other measures to enable more effective means of delivering government service to the citizens of Bamberg County, including, without limitation, the permanent authorization of the conduct of public meetings in Bamberg County by electronic means; and other matters relating thereto. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 opposed.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave first reading to an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee agreement by and between Bamberg County, South Carolina and Project Joker providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist.

July 13, 2020....continued

3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 opposed due to lack of information.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave first reading to and ordinance to amend the amended and restated master agreement for the establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park between Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale and Hampton counties to include additional property in Bamberg County. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Carter – Dist. 7 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution requesting that the South Carolina General Assembly authorize, by adequate legal authority and procedure, the moving and safe preservation of the Bamberg County Confederate Monument; and other matters. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2. Councilman Carter – Dist. 7 ( yes, only if it is not going to cost the county any money and Kinard – Dist. 1; opposed.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Reverend Odom, the calendar of events was approved as submitted. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Councilmen Kinard – Dist. 1; Haynes - Dist. 3; Guess – Dist. 4; Odom – Dist. 5; Comer – Dist. 6; Carter – Dist. 7 and Chairwoman Hammond – Dist. 2.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no public comments were received at this time because public comments concerning agenda items were to be emailed to [info@bambergcounty.sc.gov](mailto:info@bambergcounty.sc.gov) no later than Monday, July 13, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Comments were received and read from Bamberg resident Ken Ahlin and Bamberg Mayor Nancy Foster.

June 1, 2020....continued

At this time, Chairwoman Hammond asked for comments from the council. Chairwoman Hammond urged Council to pray for our Country and to send emails out to the constituents encouraging them to sign up and be counted in the U.S. Census, because we have to get our numbers up.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Reverend Odom, council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC