

**MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 18, 2019**

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.

Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., June 18, 2019 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard, Reverend Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Clint Carter, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Alison Hood, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Gina Smith Alice Johnson, Jeanette Driggers, Melissa Quattlebaum, Dave Clayton, Mary Tilton, Brad Hudson, Danny Singleton, Dean Fralix, Ken Ahlin, Ronnie Brummel, Carol Bunch, Donna Brown, Kim Compton, Harris Hutto, and approximately 20 additional people.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard at 6:00 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Larry Haynes.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Carter, second by Reverend Odom, council agreed to add citizens comments to the agenda.

Chairman Kinard called for public comments. Those making comments were: Kenneth Ahlin, Brad Hudson, Ronnie Brummel, Danny Singleton, Jeanette Driggers, Melissa Quattlebaum, Kim Compton, Sue Clayton, Dean Fralix and Harris Hutto. Each citizen was allotted three minutes to give comments. Comments ranged from the employees to pay their individual health care increase to the eminence of the capital penny sales tax projects.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave second reading approval to a proposed ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county 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. Controller Smith said the budget was difficult to balance with the increases to health insurance and retirement costs and that the county was not able to give any department any increases. The tentative spending plan does not include a cost-of-living increase for employees.

The average employee with family coverage, will not have to pay \$1,500 more per year in health insurance cost because the county is absorbing 100 percent of the increases in health insurance costs. Cuts were made across the board. The FY 2019-2020 budget totaled \$24,974,000 with not tax increase. Voting in favor of the budget: Councilmen Comer, Guess, Odom, Haynes and Kinard. Opposing the budget: Councilwoman Hammond and Councilman Carter.

There being no other business to be discussed in open session, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Carter, council entered in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council re-entered in open session to announce no action taken and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council