

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING - June 20, 2023

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, agendas for the following meeting were delivered 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 20, 2023 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside live streaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairman Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Phil Myers, Jr., Spencer Donaldson, Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, Richard Ness, T.M. Thomas, Gina Smith, Chip Maier, Kenneth Bamberg AND Tiffany Kemmerlin.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, council approved the agenda as submitted.

Dr. Goodman called for public comments of an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, 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. No public comments were made.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved third and final reading of an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, 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. Budget total approved \$27,487,595. Voting in favor of the FY 2023-2024 budget were: Councilmen Donaldson, Haynes, Comer and Dr. Goodman. Voting not in favor of the FY 2023-2024 budget were: Councilwoman Hammond and Councilmen Myers and Carter.

Councilwoman Hammond stated that she still had some questions regarding the budget (did not understand). Administrator Preston expressed to her that it was understood that her questions had previously been answered. The opportunity was extended by Dr. Goodman

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that he, Administrator Preston, Controller Smith would schedule a time to meet with her to try and answer any questions that she might have. Councilwoman Hammond said the budget has already passed.

A summary of the budget was recaptured. One of the items pointed out was an additional mill - for a total of two mills - has been added to the budget for Denmark Technical College. It was noted the funds can only be used for the physical plant and property.

Dr. Goodman called for council comments. The employees were thanked for their hard work, to include Administrator Preston and Controller Smith. Thanked Bill Johnson and his employees for the hard work displayed on Lazy Lane.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council