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MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - October 2, 2017

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 6:30 p.m., October 2, 2017 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Clint Carter, Joe Guess, Jr. and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Frances Johnson, Kenneth Mosely, Detra Bruce, Willow Dean Mathis, Jerry Bell, Hal Kemmerlin, Mary Tilton, Mr. Kemmerlin and Claire Hall.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., at 6:30 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. In the absence of Rev. Odom, invocation was rendered by Councilman Kinard, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilwoman Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved the minutes from the September 18, 2017 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the agenda as submitted.

Chairman Comer called for the monthly report from SouthernCarolina Alliance. No representation was present from the Alliance to give a report. Councilman Kinard stated that he had questions but there was no representation from the Alliance to give a report neither answer questions. He questioned the number of employees at the Alliance still no one showed up to the meeting. Mr. Kinard further questioned the time span of councilmembers serving on the SCA Board and not questioning why Bamberg County has received only 1 industry to Allendale's 19. This practice should raise questions and questions should be asked.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Those present were reminded of the 51st Annual Bamberg County Chamber Banquet to be held Thursday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m., at the Bamberg Civic Center. Mr. Bell introduced Hal Kimmerlin and Detra Bruce as the two persons being considered for the Emma Ruth Dowling Award from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Conrad Bishop has been nominated for the Waddy ThomaponFlyers listing additional events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to support the events. The update was accepted as information.

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Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for August was \$661,838. Expenses came in at \$742,149, leaving a negative balance of \$80,311. Ms. Johnson informed that the new tax notices will be printed up on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week and will be mailed out shortly thereafter.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$597,190 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of August. Expenditures stood at \$1,093,635 because of the three pay periods in the month of August, resulting in an increase in salary and fringe benefit line items. Overall all departments are operating within budget and within expected bounds.

County Administrator Preston announced Bamberg County receiving a contract for Bobcat Landing in receipt of \$90,000. Bamberg County is in the process of setting up accounts for funds we are expecting to receive for improvements of the Airport in excess of \$200,000. We are working on a feasibility study for the airport. A date will be established for the council to visit a Solar Energy Industry in North Carolina possibly within the next two weeks. A trip of this nature will be helpful in assisting Bamberg County in making a sound decision toward a solar production industry here in the county. Also, a tour of the new EMS building in Ehrhardt will be scheduled for next Wednesday. Plans for the Veterans Monument will be available at the November meeting. The county is trying to obtain a portion of the \$400 million USDA money by applying for a grant/loan package in order to build a substation in the Rivers Bridge area of the county. Holman's Bridge area in Denmark is also in need of a substations, the details of funding its construction will be worked on later. Information was receive that the county should have approval on the three fire trucks within the next week. Once we get the approval, we can go ahead and order the trucks. There is some land that's got to be swapped between Ehrhardt and Colston, but ownership of the property would have to be signed over to the county for it to be eligible for the federal grant/loan funds.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -October 5 Industry Appreciation in Barnwell at Sweetwater Country Club.
- 2) LSCOG -Board meeting next Thursday at Clemson Univ. Edisto Research & Education Center. LSCOG Banquet scheduled for December 11.
- 3) LSCOG (TAC) -Still not happy because Bamberg loss money in this project. _____

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council gave first reading to an ordinance to amend Bamberg County Ordinance #18-17-1 limited regards and particulars, only, so as to add two erroneously omitted roads to the County Road List; and other matters related thereto. The two roads being considered are Big Boy Lane and McMichaels Road (both located in Council District #3).

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond and Councilman Guess, council passed a resolution honoring the Family Health Center, Inc., the founders of the

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Orangeburg County Consumer Health Council and honoring the late Dr. Thomas Moss for their contributions in improving health care. Dr. Kenneth Mosely, and Frances Johnson, Family Health Center board members expressed their appreciation of being located in Bamberg County. Podiatry, pharmacy, dental, veterans' and optometry services will be provided at the new facility that's located in Denmark. That center is located on Carolina Highway U.S. Highway 321 S and will be dedicated in November. They will have a potential staff of 27. Presently, the FHC has mobile dental and optometry units that serve the county. The board members stood on the fact that they have been around for more than 40 years and have served more than 23,000 people in our service area.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council passed a resolution recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This resolution was sponsored by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Month. This proclamation was sponsored by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved a resolution to amend the agreement for a joint county industrial park shared by Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties to include a solar farm. The \$115 million project will locate in Barnwell County.

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

At this time, Chairman Comer called for public comments. No public comments were received. .

The council thanked the administrator and employees for their hard work and thanked the public for attending the meeting and encouraged them to keep coming.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council voted to enter in executive session to discuss a contractual matter concerning Administrator's Contract.

After an executive session, council entered in open session and Councilman Guess announced the approval of Administrator Preston's contract with the stipulation as to what was discussed in executive session. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC