

## MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- May 5, 2014

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*, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website, and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the County Courthouse.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., May 5, 2014, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Larry Haynes, Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Joe Guess, Jr., Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, and Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Ruthie Brown, Alice Johnson, Gina Humphreys, Sidney Evering, Sarah Noel, Martha Guess, Jerry Bell, Kell Anderson, Jeff Black, Walter O'Rear and Larry Wilson.

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Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Haynes at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. The invocation was rendered by Councilman Alzena Robinson, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Isaiah Odom.

Accepted as information was the overview of Bamberg County's financial status by Treasurer Alice Johnson. Ms. Johnson reported that the county's total income for the month stood at \$255,536. Expenses came in at \$519,707, with a deficit of \$274,171. The county is expected to receive \$290,000 in Homestead Exemption taxes and \$20,621 in manufacturers' reimbursement monies. Treasurer Johnson also reported that the county's collection of capital projects sales tax funds came in over-budget. The amount of \$420,000 was budgeted, but we have already collected approximately \$139,674 over that amount and we still have one more quarter to go.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the minutes from the April 7, 2014 regular meeting, with future corrections if necessary.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, the agenda was approved by council.

Public hearing was also given to a proposed ordinance for the establishment of a lease agreement with the Mary Ann Morris Animal Shelter. Under the agreement, MAMAS will lease a parcel of property from the county for \$1 per year for 19 years. MAMAS will pay their own utility expenses as part of the requirements under the lease agreement. Administrator Preston said the county realized it had never had a lease agreement with MAMAS until the shelter tried to install a septic tank and SC DHEC needed to locate the property line. The county gave MAMAS a waiver and drew out a plan so that they could get the septic tank installed. Council asked that Administrator Preston be sure that a reverter clause is in the lease agreement that the property will be returned to county if for any reason the MAMAS decide not to continue its operation any longer.

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Bamberg County Council approved a resolution permitting the town of Olar to reallocate certain capital project sales tax funds for the purchase and renovation of property located at 14761 Carolina Highway; and other matters related thereto. Olar had initially been allocated \$37,000.00 to renovate the Grey Den Building for use as a community center, but the town found another property that is better suited for the proposed Olar Civic Center. This resolution will permit the town of Olar to purchase and renovate the property for that purpose. Sidney Evering, an attorney with Parker Poe law firm, stated it's not going to change the priority of the project. Council reserves the right to make project changes due to unforeseen circumstances.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance, stated that SC Power Cable recently met with Jim Tobul at Tobul Accumulators. Project Matinee was introduced and this company has the potential to create approximately 44 jobs and approximately \$1.2 million in capital investment. Mr. Anderson reminded the council of the SRS Tour scheduled for Wednesday, May 21. Councilman Kinard and Councilman Guess will give their information to Mr. Anderson so that they will be able to attend the SRS tour. Also, SCA will host their annual regional celebration Thursday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m., at USC Salkehatchie in Allendale with The Honorable Nikki Haley as guest speaker.

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county's general fund generated \$4,739,709 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of March, with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$4,431,622 as of the end of March. The county collected \$100,581 year to date in E-911/Emergency Management revenue, with year-to-date expenditures coming at \$84,185. Year-to-date revenues collected in the county's enterprise fund totaled \$725,030, with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$682,467 as of the end of April. The county's road maintenance fund generated year-to-date revenues of \$283,300, with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$247,845. The county's rural fire account collected year-to-date revenues of \$376,035 with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$291,430.

It was noted that the collection of solid waste revenue was coming in under-budget. The county's year-to-date collection rate of \$380,220 is below the budgeted amount of \$513,170. Administrator Preston said he anticipated a shortfall in first-year collections, but noted that delinquent tax payments would eventually be made.

#### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL**

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -SDA Project with Eddie Jackson, focus on people who have not finished high school. The board appointed Nancy Foster to the Thoroughbred Committee.
- 2) Lower Savannah (TAC) -The C-Fund Committee agreed to do Quite Walk Lane. Half-Moon has been completed with the exception of the end of that road. Highway 78 is still on schedule.
- 3) SCA -Reminded of the SCA annual celebration at USC Salk with Gov. Haley as speaker. Reminded everyone of the SRS Tour scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>. The 3 Bamberg County appointees to the SCA board were recognized for perfect attendance.
- 4) Three Rivers -Reminded everyone of the Three Rivers Tour – May 22.

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On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved a proposed resolution permitting the town of Olar to reallocate certain capital project sales tax funds for the purchase and renovation of property located at 14761 Carolina Highway; and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved third reading of a proposed ordinance for the establishment of a lease agreement for the MAMAS (Mary Ann Morris Shelter).

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Robinson, council gave first reading to a proposed ordinance authorizing the expansion of the Quad-County Industrial Park III to include certain property located in Bamberg County, South Carolina' the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement to provide for infrastructure credits to Project Matinee; and other related matters.

On motion by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Rev. Odom, the council approved the calendar of events.

Administrator Preston informed the council that four persons showed up for the Planning Commission meeting. According to the established ordinance, two representatives need to be appointed to that commission, one being from the city of Bamberg and the other from the city of Denmark. A training is scheduled for the Planning Commission on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bamberg County Library.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved the appointment of Ms. Nancy Foster to the Bamberg County Economic Development Commission.

Chairman Haynes called for public comments. Larry Wilson made comments regarding the status of Crouch Circle.

#### **Comments from Council**

- 1) Robinson: Requested that all new employees be introduced to the council at the regular council meetings.
- 2) Guess: Requested that we get in touch with the legislature regarding the LCF that had been cut. On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved drafting a letter to the Senate Finance Committee to ask for the elimination of further cuts to the local government fund. Administrator Preston was asked to draft the letter.
- 3) Carter: Thanked all the employees for their hard work and dedication.

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There being no further business for discussion in public session, on motion by Councilman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Kinard, the public portion of the meeting was adjourned at

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8:03 p.m., to enter in executive session to discuss an economic development and community assess for a local business.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC