

**MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - October 12, 2015**

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 Advertizer-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., October 12, 2015, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Joe Guess, Jr., Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Rev. Isaiah Odom and Councilwoman Alzena Robinson. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Bill Johnson, Jerry Halmon and Joseph Lott.

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Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Guess at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Trent Kinard.

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

The County Council viewed a power point presentation that was presented by Controller Gina Smith and Administrator Joey Preston regarding a replacement plan for several much needed pieces of heavy equipment for Bamberg County. The new heavy equipment considered for purchase includes the following: CT 660 Heavy Duty Truck, D6 N Track-Type Tractor, CAT 120 M2/120M2 AWD Motor Grader, 416F2 Backhoe Loader, Expand Boom Mower, Woods Brush Bull Single –Spindle Rotary Cutter, TS6 New Holland Tractor, a 26 feet XL 80 Low-Profile Hydraulic Detachable Gooseneck Trailer. The purchase of this equipment will be made possible because of the county being in a more financially stable position by having a better credit rating (AA). The total amount of the new equipment is \$965,401. Annual payments total \$150,068 for five years at a 2.95 percent interest rate. The county will make annual payments for the new equipment with money from the capital reserve fund tax levy and the road and solid waste household fees. The original proposed interest rate was 3.2 percent but because of the improved credit rating this was a savings to the county. The county is presently spending over \$100,000 on equipment maintenance and now, equipment maintenance will be covered in the new package. Administrator Preston met with Caterpillar and John Deere and the best proposal came from Caterpillar (Blanchard Machinery of Columbia). Blanchard can start moving the equipment in to the county within the next 30 to 45 days. They will train the employees how to properly use and care for the equipment. Payment will not begin until Fiscal Year '16-'17. At this time, on motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved a proposed resolution to purchase heavy equipment for Bamberg County.

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Administrator Preston informed Council that Bamberg County Officials took part in a conference call with Governor Nikki Haley earlier in the day concerning disaster recovery. Governor Haley asked for each county to submit any need requests to FEMA as soon as possible, as well as, asking for each county to allow SCDOT to perform all debris removal. South Carolina National Guard (22 Engineering from Rock Hill, SC), came to Bamberg County to assess our roads. They viewed 44 roads and FEMA will be sending their assessment team on Thursday. A total of 84 homes were impacted with flooding and 28 persons have applied for assistance.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council agreed to enter in executive session to discuss a contractual matter concerning the renewal of County Administrator Preston's Contract. After a brief executive session discussion, on motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved to renew the annual contract with Administrator Joey Preston.

There being no further business to be discussed, on motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC