

**MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - May 9, 2016**

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 9, 2016, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, Sharon Williams, Sharon Hammond, Ruthie Brown and Kell Anderson.

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Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Isaiah Odom 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 Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the minutes from the April 4, 2016 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the agenda after adding an executive session item to discuss a contractual matter regarding healthcare.

Kell Anderson, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance project manager, reported work is continuing on Project Neighbor, which is expected to bring in approximately 30 jobs and \$3 million in capital investment. He also reported on Project Renew, which is expected to bring in 83 jobs and \$43 million in capital investment. In addition, Mr. Anderson reported that the SCA had been working with German-based Freudenberg Sealing Technologies on starting an apprenticeship program. They have had some initial meetings with the SC READY team, where they can probably try and do some apprenticeships in-house, see how that works and then possibly branch out to some of the high schools. The long-term intention would be for Denmark-Olar and Bamberg-Ehrhardt high schools to essentially become a feeder for Tobul as they continue to grow and expand with Freudenberg.

In the absence of Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber Director, Councilman Kinard informed the public that Mr. Bell left some flyers with him that posted community events, and requested that they be distributed at the council meeting.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for March was \$787,545. Expenses came in at \$688,644, reflecting a positive balance of \$98,901. Bamberg County still has a positive bank balance.

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Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$5,557,737 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of March. Expenditures stood at \$4,784,046, resulting in a positive balance of \$773,691. The special revenue fund which includes the county's E-911, road maintenance and rural fire service departments, had generated \$808,120 year-to-date revenue as of the end of March, and expenditures stood at \$701,714. The solid waste/landfill department had generated \$850,446, with expenditures standing at \$774,567 as of the end of March. Finance Director Thomas said, we continue to operate within our budget and within our expected bounds.

Administrator Preston offered anyone interested in touring the new courthouse annex after the meeting, he would be happy to escort them. Also, progress is being made on a housing grant that the county is working on with the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority and the Forfeited Land Commission. Mr. Preston met with Danny Black of SCA regarding an application for a USDA grant/loan for the purchase of eight law enforcement patrol cars. Administrator Preston explained what could happen is you would get 50 percent of those patrol cars paid for as grant because we have four census tracts. To lower census tracts were the two that qualified for the grant. Bamberg County would get \$100,000 of grant money to go towards those cars. The county is also beginning to seek grant funds for the purchase of a couple more fire trucks. In addition, other grant funds will be sought, including Community Development Block Grants that could be used to complete work on the county-owned water tank. Mr. Preston is working with the Board of Public Works and the city of Denmark on trying to get the right direction in which to go to get some grant money funded. The tank basically only provide water for Denmark. Stating that the wellness park was a project Councilwoman Alzena Robinson wholeheartedly pursued, Chairman Odom asked where work stood on the veteran's memorial and walking trail for Bamberg County. Administrator Preston said the Federal Aviation Administration submitted a letter stating that a wellness park could not be built around the Bamberg County Airport because of the number of things going on around the airport. We are looking to work on another plan for the wellness park.

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

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Last meeting was held in Denmark at Denmark-Technical College.
  - 2) LSCOG (TAC) (Kinard) -Have not met lately. Funds have been approved for the Bike Path. Will have additional information at next meeting.
  - 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium - Have not met.
  - 4) SCA -Discussed the Promise Zone. They are working on some new projects.
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On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved first reading, in title only, an ordinance approving an amendment to the existing agreement for development of a joint county industrial and business park by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina, Barnwell County, South Carolina and Allendale County, South Carolina (the "Park Agreement") to extend the term of park agreement with respect to certain property presently owned

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and/or operated by Swiss Krono SC, LLC or one or more of its affiliates or related companies; and authorizing other related matters.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved first reading, in title only, an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County Budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may 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.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, the calendar of events was approved as submitted.

Chairman Odom called for public comments. No public comments were made.

At this time, Chairman Odom called for comments from the council members. Everyone thanked Administrator Preston and the staff for their hard work. All members of council voiced the sentiment that Councilwoman Robinson will be missed and offered their condolence to her family. Councilwoman Robinson passed away April 22. In memory of Councilwoman Robinson's dedication and service to Bamberg County and her constituents, a black bow was attached to the chair in which she would occupy while in session.

There being no further business for discussion in public session, on motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council voted to enter in executive session at 7:32 p.m., to discuss a contractual matter regarding healthcare.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council