

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- March 7, 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.

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., March 7, 2016, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., Larry Haynes and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Jerry Bell, Alice Johnson, Jim Tobul, Mallory Biering, Lessie Meeks, Frances Milhouse, Bill Johnson, David Harley, Ruthie Brown, Doretta Elliott, LaTarcha Wilson, Christopher Napier, Isaac Jackson, Shannon Glover, LaTonya Broxton and Lewis Brown.

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 Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council agreed to reschedule the recognition of Ms. Sharon Hammond and that it be placed on the April 4, 2016 agenda.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess., council approved the agenda after making the above noted change.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council agreed to present at the March meeting, a resolution recognizing Ms. Sharon Hammond, former Emergency Services Director for Bamberg County, for her years of service and dedication. This resolution will be sponsored by Councilman Kinard from Council District #1.

Recognition was given to 29 county employees, of which 14 were in attendance, who recently completed certification and training from the following agencies: South Carolina Association of Counties, S.C. Criminal Justice, S.C. Law Enforcement Division and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the employees by County Administrator Preston and Council Chairman Rev. Odom. Among those recognized was David Harley, the first certified litter control officer for Bamberg County. Administrator Preston said Officer Harley has earned his Class 3 certification from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

Chairman Odom informed the council that Kell Anderson, SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance project manager, called to let him know that he would be unable to attend

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tonight's meeting. Chairman Odom requested that he email his report to Clerk to Council Shepherd so that it could be distributed to the council. Councilman Kinard was displeased with Mr. Anderson's absence and said that Bamberg County spends a lot of money with the Alliance and someone should be present at our meetings if he can't attend. Chairman Odom said he would speak with Mr. Black about the concern.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber Director, distributed flyers of upcoming events in Bamberg County and encouraged those present to support them. Mr. Bell reminded everyone if they have community announcements to be advertised, please forward them to him and they would be placed in the flyer for the public.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for January was \$1,750,441. Expenses totaled \$713,741, reflecting a positive balance of \$1,036,700.

Finance Director Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$4,512,383 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of January. Expenditures stood at \$4,044,457, reflecting a positive balance of \$467,926. Overall, the departments are operating within their expected bounds.

Administrator Preston reported that the county is acquiring rights-of-way from property owners surrounding the Bamberg County Airport so we may start the removal of trees. Once the trees are removed, the next step is the runway rehabilitation project. In the past, we have lost money because we were not in a position to spend our money received from the S.C. Aeronautics Commission in the way it was required. The county is scheduled to have an auction before June 30 so that we can dispose of our unused automobiles/equipment. The Keep Bamberg County Beautiful organization has collected in excess of 2,000 pounds of litter from the county's roadways since January 1, 2016. A countywide cleanup is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 12. Interested persons are asked to meet at the J. Carl Kearse Building for cleanup. You can contact Director Mallory Biering at 803-928-4623 for more information.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG
 - Meeting was held 2/11/16 @ 6:30 p.m., in Aiken @ the Government complex. Bamberg County had 100% attendance for the meetings. Next scheduled meeting is April 14 in Allendale. CDBG funds were discussed. A copy of the LSCOG's report was emailed to the council.
- 2) LSCOG (TAC) (Kinard)
 - Reported that the Denmark Downtown Project has now been completed. More study is being done on the Bike Path. Asked to check on Snake St., Stoller Rd., and road located behind Connie Chassereau's road.
- 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium
 - Meeting scheduled for Thursday, in Aiken.
- 4) SCA
 - Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.

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On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Comer, a proposed resolution establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, the calendar of events was approved as submitted.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the reappointment of Rena Riddle to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee with term expiring January 2019.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the reappointment of John White to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee with term expiring April 2020.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the reappointment of Larry Haynes to the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors with term expiring April 2019.

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

At this time, Chairman Odom called for comments from the council members.

Robinson	:	Added Rena Rivers to the Recreation Commission and added Kathy Schwarting to the Tourism and Recreation Committee.
Haynes	:	Commended the employees for their accomplishments.
Carter	:	Commended the employees for their dedication and thanked Administrator Preston and Assessor Elliott. Also, stated he will be running for re-election.
Kinard	:	Thanked Administrator Preston and employee Bill Johnson for the work they have been doing on the roads. Thanked David Harley for going through the Academy. Also, stated he will be running for re-election.
Comer	:	Echoed the comments from the other council members.
Guess	:	The General Assembly once again....raising taxes. Thanked Council for their condolences during the recent loss of his mother.
Odom	:	Thanked the media for being present.

Rev. Odom requested that the council grant permission to enter in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council agreed to enter in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council