

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 Bamberg Leader*, *The Times and Democrat*, Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website and Bamberg County Courthouse Annex.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., July 11, 2022 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside livestreaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairman Spencer Donaldson, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, Larry Haynes and Phil Myers, Jr. **Absent:** Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Chip Maier, John Fleming, Brian Warner, Donald Kirby, Sh'Kur Francis, Miriam Beard, Jessica Hutto and Donald Kirby.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Spencer Donaldson at 6:00 p.m. In the absence of Dr. Goodman, the invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Larry Haynes.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the minutes from the June 6, 2022 regular meeting and the June 20, 2022 special called meeting with necessary corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Comer, the agenda was approved as submitted.

A public hearing was given to a proposed ordinance calling for a the South Carolina Department of Revenue to issue temporary to allow for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to bona fide nonprofit organizations and business establishments authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sale, all in Bamberg County; and other matters thereto. The general election that will be held in November 2022, the Bamberg County Council will ask voters to decide if alcohol sales should be allowed on Sunday. No public comments were made.

A public hearing was given to amend the agreement for development of a multi-county industrial and business park to be located in Allendale County, Bamberg County and Barnwell County, South Carolina, providing for the development of a joint county industrial and business park so as to remove property in Allendale County from the joint county industrial park, and include property from Allendale County into a multi-county industrial and business park created by and between Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County and Hampton County, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto. No public comments were made.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Southern Carolina Alliance – Monthly Report

Southern Carolina Alliance Project Manager Brian Warner, updated the council on industrial projects. Project Skyfall is still considering Bamberg County. SCA had a site visit from a California-based company at the CrossRhodes spec building. That particular company is expecting to expand in South Carolina. Also,

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Project Homegrown is another company looking into Bamberg County as a possible site. The Wolfe tract is presently under contract to be purchased by SCA. The council was further updated that SC Oak to Barrel LLC is working with South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership and ReadySC in training its workforce. The council accepted Mr. Warner's report.

Bamberg County Treasurer – Monthly Report

County Treasurer Alice Johnson gave the May financial report, stating the county had \$783,296.46 in income and expenditures of \$729,803.10, leaving a positive balance of \$53,493.36. When the positive bank balance at the end of May (\$700,125.41) was added, the county's regular account stood at a positive \$6,681. This report was accepted as information.

Bamberg County Finance – Monthly Report

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had year-to-date revenues of \$7,116,308 as of the end of May. Expenditures stood at \$7,109,626, for a positive general fund balance of \$543,230. This report was received as information.

Bamberg County Administrator – Monthly Report

Administrator Preston reported that the county received a letter from the state Comptroller General's Office letting the county know it had to complete its audit by January 2, 2023. Bamberg County is not alone in getting the audit done, this is along with all the other counties in South Carolina. A lot of counties had not been able to complete their audit. Administrator Preston reminded the council that you can't work on the budget until your audit is completed. Also, any grant from the state would be withheld if the audit is not submitted on time. A progress report was given on Palmetto Rural Telephone Co-Op of Walterboro, on its work to expand broadband service in the county with the assistance of a grant from the state's Broadband Infrastructure Program. Phase 1 service installations are underway and Phase 2 is currently being completed, with service installations to take place between September 1 and April 1, 2023. Mr. Preston reported 49 county employees participated in a cybersecurity training session on Wednesday, June 29, 2022. This report was received as information.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved third and final reading to a proposed ordinance calling for a the South Carolina Department of Revenue to issue temporary to allow for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to bona fide nonprofit organizations and business establishments authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sale, all in Bamberg County; and other matters thereto.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved third reading approval of an ordinance to amend the agreement for development of a multi-county industrial and business park to be located in Allendale County, Bamberg County and Barnwell County, South Carolina, providing for the development of a joint county industrial and business park so as to remove property in Allendale County from the joint county industrial park, and include property from Allendale County into a multi-county industrial and business park created by and between Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County and Hampton County, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto. (*West Fraser Timber Co., Ltd.*)

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On motion by Councilman Carter seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved a proposed resolution to amend the master agreement for the establishment of the new quad-county industrial Park to include additional property in the park.

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

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond the following appointments were made to the Keep Bamberg County Beautiful Board: Lisa Stokes, Dianne Williams, Dr. Gwenda Greene, Stephen Donaldson, James Wilson and Rosella Cooper.

Chairman Donaldson called for public comments during this segment. Comments were received from Miriam Beard. Ms. Beard thanked the council for its support of Shop Her Closet, a nonprofit organization that she said is doing a great job in helping individuals, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. She followed up by asking the county to donate to the Cheez & Cracker Box emergency food and clothing bank, which is need of air-conditioner repairs. Councilwoman Hammond responded that the county already gives to the Cheez & Cracker Box.

During comments from council, they thanked the public for attending, thanked the employees for their diligence and hard work, wished everyone an enjoyable summer and Councilman Haynes thanked everyone for whatever they did for him and his family during the passing of his sister, Ms. Evelyn Haynes-Allen.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman, Haynes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council