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MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- April 10, 2017

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

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., April 10, 2017, in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., Larry Haynes and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Mallory Biering, Ruthie Brown, Joe Jenkins, Al Jenkins, Ann Marie Black, Billie Jean Hutto, Joshua Wilkerson, Darrell Booker and Danny Black.

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

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

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

SouthernCarolina Alliance Senior Project Manager Darrell Booker updated council of SCA activities. Mr. Booker reported Project Animate, a plastic manufacturer, would present 90 new jobs along with a \$29 million resources investment. The manufacturer will visit the area in the next two months. Project Can Can is a company that manufactures high-end pet treats. This company would generate between 100 to 200 jobs for the people. There will be two Canadian-based companies affiliated with the organization of this company. The Can Can company developed from one of SCA mission trips. Mr. Booker voiced that these mission trips are profitable and he feels because of this the trips should be continued. Project Rainbow will be making a capital investment of \$8 million with the projection of creating 30 jobs. They are considering Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties for a base location. Project Rainbow was unable to meet with SCA, but will be rescheduled and will visit the site at a later date. They manufacture inks and dyes for digital printing. Mr. Booker was questioned regarding the location of Thunderbolt Biomass, Inc. not being located in Bamberg County. The reply to the question was that under a multi-county park and revenue sharing agreement between Bamberg, Barnwell, Hampton and Allendale counties, the host county of an incoming industry received 70 percent of the tax revenues, and the remaining three counties receive 10 percent each. This will still enable Bamberg County and the others to benefit a profit.

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Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director gave an update on events within the county. A flyer listing events in the community was distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell informed everyone that the Blues Festival will be discontinued because of poor participation. He encouraged everyone to support the events. The update was accepted as information.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for February was \$74,766. Expenses can in at \$735,877, leaving a negative balance of \$661,111.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$5,111,968 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of February. Expenditures stood at \$4,393,275, leaving a positive balance of \$718,693. Overall all departments are operating within budget and within expected bounds.

Controller Gina Smith reported on profits Bamberg County received from Barnwell County while handling their waste due to their transfer station being destroyed by tornado Matthew. During January and February, we have profited \$7,582.22. It is anticipated that the working relationship will continue while they build their transfer station.

County Administrator Preston distributed copies of the Bamberg County 2016-2017 Goals and Objectives. He asked that they peruse them and vote to accept them prior the May meeting. Modular units are located at the Bamberg County Hospital and they are scheduled to be removed in June or July. There are possibly some churches that would like to bid on the units. There are many things that are still in place, such as, a hospital board and two or three employees who work in one of the units. An auction will be held soon so as to clear out furniture, office supplies, medical equipment, etc. Bamberg County accepted a bid of a little over \$13,000 from Tallahassee, Florida-based Municode to codify all of the county's ordinances.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) LSCOG (TAC) (KINARD) -Burger King will be locating at the end of the Bi-Lo Parking Lot. It is possible that a traffic light will be placed at that intersection.
- 2) LSCOG - Next meeting to be held in Aiken.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Rev. Odom, council approved on second reading, in title only, a proposed ordinance to amend the existing Bamberg County Road Ordinance to accept Raysor Road into the road maintenance system.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Rev. Odom, council approved a proposed resolution designating April 2017 as Fair Housing Month in Bamberg County.

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

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes with Councilman Kinard abstaining, council approved the appointment of Councilman Odom to the SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance Board for a three year term.

At this time, Chairman Comer called for public comments. 1) Mr. Joe Jenkins – introduced himself as the Hollywood Plumber from Council District #3. 2) Mr. Al Jenkins introduced himself as the new regional director for U.S. Senator Tim Scott’s office. He stated that he is available should we need assistance from their office.

The council thanked the administrator and employees for their hard work. Additional comments were made regarding legislative malfunctions and the public were asked to talk to their representatives and senators regarding tax hikes, etc.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned from the public portion and council entered in executive session to discuss a SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council