

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- April 2, 2018

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*, Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, 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 2, 2018 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Clint Carter, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Isaiah Odom, Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr. and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Mary Tilton, Jerry Bell, Sidney Evering, Ms. Mary, Sarah Noel and Darrell Booker.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trent Kinard, at 6:33 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Larry Haynes.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the March 5, 2018 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the agenda as submitted. Following a request to add a resolution to the agenda, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council agreed to add a resolution in support of the Rosenwald School in Denmark.

Vice Chairman Kinard invited comments for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance authorizing a fee-in-lieu agreement between the county and a solar panel project with the code name "Project Mary Guess," along with special source revenue credits. To provide for the inclusion of the project in a multi-county business or industrial park; and other related matters.

Bamberg County Chamber President Jerry Bell gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Flyers listing additional events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell introduced the first annual Alzena Robinson Community Day to be held Saturday, May 12. Ms. Robinson was a long-serving councilwoman who passed away April 2016. The event will begin with a Memorial Walk from 8 to 10:30 a.m. A \$20 registration fee includes a T-shirt and a meal. The dedication of the Alzena Robinson Community Building will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds from the event will support the Alzena Robinson Scholarship Fund. For additional information, email Rosa Verner at rrv26p@gmail.com. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to support the events within the county. Again, river rides will be taking place soon and an invitation was given for participation. The update was accepted as information.

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Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for February was \$587,692. Expenses came in at \$778,127, leaving a negative balance of about \$190,435.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund generated \$4,827,987 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of February. Expenditures stood at almost \$4,477,789 million, leaving a positive balance of \$350,198. The county continue to operate within their budget and bounds. Total county funds stood at \$3,241,089 at the end of February of FY 2018 as compared to \$3,390,723 for the same time in February of FY 2017.

Administrator Preston reported that Bamberg and Denmark have selected their appointees to the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission. Mayor Gerald Wright of Denmark and Bobbi Bunch of Bamberg are the appointees. County representatives are council members Sharon Hammond and Clint Carter and County Chamber President Jerry Bell. The commission as a whole will decide on the final sixth member at a later meeting during the week of April 8. Administrator Preston informed that he will be coordinating a meeting with interim president Dr. Chris Hall, of Denmark Technical College to find out how can we help. Councilman Kinard questioned if we want to keep the college open on the same path it is now? He answered, we don't. We have got to work together to make it better. Mr. Preston also reported on work to be done between the Lower Savannah Council of Government's Transportation advisory Committee and the City of Bamberg to address the reopening of Bridge Street and its approach to U.S. Highway 78. Councilman Kinard, who is a member of the LSCOG TAC Committee, said the road's closure, was done in 2012 between the City of Bamberg and SCDOT, have presented traffic issues. Mayor Nancy Foster said the topic will be discussed and voted upon at the Bamberg City Council meeting on April 9. Administrator Preston proceeded to inform he would be applying for grant funding that could total up to \$3 million through the USDA Rural Development's Community Connect Grant Program to expand Broadband access. Grant funds may be used to install service to dire community facilities and rural residents and businesses; construct, secure or expand a community center and equip a community center that provides free access to hi-speed Internet service to community residents for a least two years. Technical and other assistance will be received from the Lower Savannah COG.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -No report.
- 2) LSCOG -Next meeting scheduled in Bamberg @ the Annex
– 6:00 p.m.
- 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) - No meeting. Trying to reopen Bridge Street. Sen. Lindsey Graham & Sen. Tim Scott are expected at The Carlisle Military Parade (4/14).
- 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Met March 22, 2018. April is recognized as Fair Housing Month. They received no applications for owner occupied housing.

Councilman Comer, seconded by Rev. Odom, council approved third reading authorizing a fee-in-lieu agreement between Bamberg County and a solar panel project (Project Mary Guess), along

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with special source revenue credits. The 55 megawatt solar farm is expected to create approximately \$63 million in capital investment.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved a resolution endorsing the renovation and preservation of the Denmark Rosenwald School and designating it as an historical landmark. The Denmark site is the only remaining Rosenwald School out of three built in Bamberg County.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond the calendar was approved after adding an April 5 meeting (6:00 p.m.) at Denmark Technical College - regarding the Denmark Water System. Also, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. – Bamberg City Council meeting.

Vice Chairman Kinard called for public comments at this time. No comments from the public were made.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Rev. Odom, council entered in executive to discuss a contractual matter.

Council re-entered in public session to announce no actions were taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC