

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*, SouthernCarolina 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.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., August 12, 2019 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard, Reverend Isaiah Odom. Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr. Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Ruthie Brown, Miriam Beard, Dean Fralix, Rufus Jamison, Eva Manigault, Brad Hudson, Melissa, Ken Ahlin, Mary Tilton, Kay Maxwell, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Judy Capehart, Jerry Bell, Kay Clary, Ms. Moulder, Danny Singleton and approximately 10 additional people.

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Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard at 6:30 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Reverend Isaiah Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the minutes from the July 1, 2019, meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the agenda after agreeing to move the following at the beginning of the agenda: K-1, approval of the Ehrhardt Fire Substation by USDA and N-1, public comments.

At this time, Chairman Kinard opened the floor for public comments. Four citizens signed in at the beginning of the meeting to make public comments. They were: Dean Fralix, Ken Ahlin, Rev. Rufus Jamison and Miriam Beard. These citizens had various concerns about issues within Bamberg County.

Area Specialist Judy Capehart, from USDA, Rural Development office in Orangeburg, was present to inform the members of Council that the funds were available for the construction of the new fire substation in Ehrhardt. Now that the funds are available, USDA needed to know that the County still want the funds. On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved a resolution for the approval of the USDA terms letter for the Ehrhardt fire substation. Those voting in favor of the resolution were: Councilwoman Sharon Hammond and Councilmen Odom, Haynes, Guess, Comer and Carter. Councilman Kinard abstained.

Accepted as information was a report on economic development from Kay Maxwell, vice president of marketing at SouthernCarolina Alliance. Ms. Maxwell began by announcing that SCA is working with the S.C. Department of Commerce on a marketing campaign to promote Bamberg County. Included in the equation is the Alison South Marketing Group of Aiken and local leaders from Bamberg County. This is a positive way to help unite everyone and help market Bamberg County to others to not only live here, but to work here and to locate and invest here. It was also announced that Project Pegasus is moving forward and could bring 132 jobs and a \$2.1 million in capital investment to Bamberg County. Plans will be shared with the steering committee and county council. Councilman Guess asked about the status of the Solar Farm. Ms. Maxwell said at the next council meeting scheduled for September 9, SCA plan to share information with the public and get things in motion. Chairman Kinard thanked Ms. Maxwell for what SCA is doing for Bamberg County.

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Interim Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director Jerry Bell, informed the Council that Ms. Carol Durgan resigned her position because of health reasons and that he would be filling in until a permanent director is named. All were updated on the upcoming events within the county, flyers were distributed and the citizens were urged to attend.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had \$7,902,805 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of June, leaving a positive balance of \$7,426,145. All departments are continuing to operate within their budgets.

Administrator Joey Preston updated council that the granite for the county's Veteran's Memorial should be delivered later this week. The brickwork and flag pole installation will follow and the goal is to have a ribbon cutting this fall. Mr. Preston announced the untimely death of the granddaughter of Mr. Bill Dennis, general contractor for the Veteran's Memorial project. Condolences were extended to the Dennis family. Construction on Dally Road in Denmark should begin later this summer. R&T Grading Inc., located in Pelion was the lowest bidder of \$629,000 for the construction project. There were three additional bidders that came in at a higher bid. The C-Fund Committee will probably schedule a meeting near the end of this month. Bobcat Landing construction plan is about 30% complete expecting to begin in October the right-of-way procedure and construction to start by December 2020. Administrator Preston said he has been working with SCA and the City of Bamberg to try to secure a grocery store for our area. More details will be given at a later date. Bamberg County is trying to retrieve the \$1 million back from the TAC committee that we did not receive for construction project located off US Highway 78 and the old Bi-Lo Shopping Center. We are doing a recreation master plan at the Ness Sports Complex so that we can encourage outside tournaments to come to Bamberg. Also, we are working together with Denmark Technical College, which has asked the county to help them maybe develop some sort of a regional recreation master plan. The council was reminded to attend a community reception which Sixth District Congressman James Clyburn will be present. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at Voorhees College from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

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

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -Reported the resurfacing of I-95 and increasing of Gas Tax.
- 2) LSCOG -Next meeting is scheduled to be held in Orangeburg.
- 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) -Orangeburg County Administrator motioned that Bamberg County be given their \$1 million back from the TAC.
- 4) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Next meeting is scheduled for September 18 in Blackville.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved a proposed resolution requesting an encroachment across Bamberg County property for installation of a 1" domestic waterline for Rockland Industries, Incorporated at the facility located at 51 Industrial Road off US Highway 78 near Denmark.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the calendar of events was approved after adding the Lower Savannah Housing Consortium meeting date.

Chairman Kinard called for comments from the Council. Council thanked the public for coming and invited their attendance at all meetings.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council agreed to enter in executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Carter, council voted to reconvene in public session. Chairman Kinard informed the public that no action was taken during executive session.

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There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC