

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- August 7, 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*, 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.

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., August 7, 2017 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Joe Guess, Jr. and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Councilman Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Deanna Berry, Detra' Bruce, Robert Corlin, Anna McCollum, Martha Hammett, Shirley Robinson, Mary Tilton, Kay Maxwell, Jerry Bell, Ruthie Brown, Claire Hall and Sarah Noel.

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 Rev. Isaiah Odom in the absence of Councilman Larry Haynes, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Trent Kinard in the absence of Councilman Clint Carter.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard and Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the minutes from the following meetings: June 5, 2017, June 12, 2017 and June 29, 2017 meetings with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the agenda as submitted.

The members of the Bamberg County Council were presented with a presentation by Ms. Anna McCollum, regional business manager for LifeNet South Carolina, a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) air ambulance. A pamphlet was distributed to show some of the services provided by HEMS. Ms. McCollum mentioned some of the surrounding counties that have signed up with them and others that are considering signing. Bamberg County was offered the opportunity to obtain air medical transport services in the county through membership in Air Methods Advantage. At the close of the discussion, Administrator Preston said he would like to find out how many other counties in the state are participating with this program and that a cost evaluation be done as well.

Ms. Kay Maxwell, SouthernCarolina Alliance marketing and special projects manager, reported \$110.5 million in private capital investment, 154 new jobs, in addition to two temporary construction jobs. She further reported that out of the 59 current active prospects, 13 are considering Bamberg County. Currently, the old Tobul building near the water tower is being

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marketed. There is a company located in Canada that would be perfect for that location; hopefully, hopefully they will be coming soon to view it.

Ms. Deanna Berry, the new director of the Bamberg County Toys for Tots program, announced the program as being reactivated in the area and will be serving Bamberg, Barnwell and Allendale counties. Volunteers are needed by way of volunteering their time, or making monetary donations. Ms. Berry said the toys that are collected will be kept in a warehouse that has already been secured. Businesses and other areas are being sort so that donation boxes can be placed for toy collection.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Bamberg County has a business that has located in Bamberg and they provide shuttle service. Mr. Bell informed those present of the sponsored river trips along with the upcoming Solar Eclipse experience. Flyers listing events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to support the events. The update was accepted as information.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for June was \$319,378. Expenses came in at \$685,156, leaving a negative balance of \$365,778.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$6,824,610 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of June. Expenditures stood at \$6,617,299 leaving a positive balance of \$207,321. Overall all departments are operating within budget and within expected bounds.

County Administrator Preston announced that Bamberg County has been tentatively approved to for to receive a \$105,994 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to reseal and re-stripe the runway and improve the hangar apron at the airport. Also, the county has received a \$71,604 grant that will assist with clearing and grubbing the trees at the airport. The next phase will be to do a feasibility study on how much hangar space will be needed, along with a fueling system. Administrator Preston is working on the airport leases that we have to have in place for the airport. Also reported, The C-Fund Committee will meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00 p.m. to approve pending projects. We have received most of the grant money for completion of the Bobcat Landing project. Administrator Preston informed everyone of Senator Lindsey Graham's appearance in the Council Chambers on Friday, August 18 at 9:00 a.m. for a roundtable discussion.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) LSCOG -Meeting will be held at Clark's Restaurant in Santee. Councilman Haynes was appointed vice chairman to LSCOG.
- 2) LSCOG (TAC) (KINARD) -Councilman Kinard reported the money has been spent on other projects that was initially allocated for US

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Hwy. 78 and the Bi-Lo Shopping Center's parking lot project in Bamberg. A feasibility study needs to be done and Dr. William Molnar, LSCOG executive director, needs to know that Bamberg County is not happy with the way the project was handled and why is it that we always get the shaft.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council gave first reading in title only, to an ordinance authorizing pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes agreement by and between Bamberg County, South Carolina and a company known to the county as "Project Mary Guess", and one or more existing or to-be-formed or acquired subsidiaries, or affiliated or related entities, as sponsor, to provide for a fee in lieu or ad valorem taxes incentive and certain special source revenue credits; to provide for the inclusion of the project in a multi-county business or industrial park; and other related matters. The company is expected to create approximately \$63 million in capital investment. Voting in favor were: Councilwoman Hammond, Councilmen Odom, Comer, Haynes and Carter. Voting against: Councilman Kinard with reason being environmental and other concerns. Councilman Guess was absent.

Bamberg County Council approved the calendar of events after adding Sen. Graham's visit and the Bamberg County Health Coalition meeting.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the appointment of Mr. Jerry Halmon to the Thoroughbred Country Tourism Advisory Committee to fill the unexpired term of Nancy Foster, which ends January 2018.

At this time, Chairman Comer called for public comments. No public nor media comments were made.

The council thanked the administrator and employees for their hard work and thanked the public for attending the meeting and encouraged them to keep coming. All were told to have a happy, safe and successful "Eclipse".

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Odom, the meeting was adjourned with no executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC