

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - December 3, 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*, 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., December 3, 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, Elizabeth Moody, LaTarcha Wilson, Lessie Meeks, Carol Durgan, Danny Singleton, Betty Singleton, Detra Bruce, Bill Johnson, Jerry Bell, Sarah Noel, Mary Tilton, William Molnar, Darrell Booker, Alice Johnson, Candace Fralix, Sammie Lynn Milhouse Boulware, Ken Ahlin, Kay Clary, Raymond DeRienzo and Sidney Evering.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Clint Carter at 6:32 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 Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved the minutes from the November 5, 2018 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

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

During public presentation, Council presented Sgt. Lessie Meeks with the county Employee of the Quarter Award. Sgt. Meeks has served 26 years at the Bamberg County Detention Center and will be retiring after 26 years of dedicated service. Lt. LaTarcha Wilson commended Sgt. Meeks for her outstanding work ethics. The Council thanked Sgt. Meeks for her dedication and wished her well.

SouthernCarolina Regional Alliance Senior Project Manager Darrell Booker updated Bamberg County that there are nine active projects looking at Bamberg County. We have had 10 site visits so far this year. Mr. Booker said that they do not foresee any new activity before the end of the year coming from Project Golden, a 5 million investment that's anticipated to bring in 104 jobs. Project development has stayed the same since October and no additional development to the park is anticipated by the end of the year. The SCA has updated the wetland delineation at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park. It was stated by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond that she and Councilman Trent Kinard had been meeting with Mr. Booker to discuss ways in which the county can attract more industry. Councilwoman Hammond suggested starting those meetings back up in January and we get together and strategize to find ways in order for us to get some industry here. Councilman Kinard agreed with Councilwoman Hammond's strategy and comments. Mr. Booker said the SCA will put forth a greater effort to do more marketing trips to recruit additional industry in 2019.

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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 announced and introduced Carol Kilgus Durgan as the Chamber's new assistant director. The update was accepted as information.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported that the county's total income in October was \$1,221,256, with expenditures coming in at \$677,280, leaving a positive balance of \$543,975.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had \$1,410,110 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of October. Expenditures stood at \$260,534, leaving a balance of \$219,713. All departments are continuing to operate within their budgets.

Administrator Preston reported that SCAC approved our request to pursue healthcare with the legislatures and the next step is to get PEBA to change the rules. Our new fire trucks are scheduled to be delivered to us in March. A meeting was held with the SCDOT to discuss the construction of a new bridge near Bobcat Landing. It was stated that a Solid Waste Committee meeting needs to meet toward the end of January 2019, so that the upcoming solid waste contract can be addressed. Administrator Preston will be meeting with the Highway Department in reference to Bob Cat Landing. Bamberg County will be receiving an \$11,340 grant from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to provide all county fire departments with first responder trauma kits. A called meeting of council was agreed to be held on Monday, December 17 at 12 noon to declare by resolution, the results of the Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum held during the November election. The city of Bamberg received a grant to restore the caboose that is presently located in Ehrhardt. Administrator Preston informed council of the problem of stolen street signs over the county. He proposed having cases for such acts that are being performed, be prosecuted by a solicitor or somebody willing to prosecute it. We have an ordinance and there is a law on the books that grants that authority. Also, the C-Fund committee met and approved the paving of the driveway around the new emergency facility located on Highway 70 between Denmark and Barnwell. Herb Cooper, former employee of SCDOT (Columbia, SC), will be working for Bamberg County in connections with the C-Fund committee. The members of council were informed that Pruitt Health Care sponsored an Angel Tree Christmas Project for the patients and the county employees participated by providing Christmas gifts and snacks for 45 of them. Administrator Preston's report was acted on and received as information.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -No Report
- 2) LSCOG -No Report
- 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) -No new information. There is still discussion regarding the 8' wide shoulder for the bike path on Hwy. 78.
- 4) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Applications are being taken through December 15, for owner-occupied housing. The group met in Orangeburg on November 7. Presently, there is only enough money to rehab six homes.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council discussed and added a special called meeting (Monday, December 17, 2018 at 12 noon), to the calendar of events.

At this time, Chairman Carter called for public comments. Those speaking: Raymond DeRienzo, Jr. (List of questions to be answered by the Administrator; Sammie Lynn Milhouse Boulware (FLC); Ken Ahlin (Courthouse); Danny Singleton (Economic Development); and Carol K. Durgan (Handicapped Parking Spaces).

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Council made comments to the public and thanked them for attending the meeting and showing concern.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council voted for the meeting to be adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC