

**MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
June 29, 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*, 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.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., June 29, 2017, in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Joe Guess, Jr., and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Rev. Isaiah Odom and Councilman Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith and Dionne Gleaton.

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Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., at 12:00 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.

A public hearing was given to an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Bamberg County for such county ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Bamberg County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Bamberg County and Bamberg County budgetary matters. No public comments were made due to no public being present.

Third and final reading was given to an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Bamberg County for such county ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Bamberg County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Bamberg County and Bamberg County budgetary matters. The budget was passed for \$14,278,775 with \$7.2 million of those funds for general fund. Voting in favor: Comer, Kinard, Hammond, Haynes and Guess. Absent: Carter and Odom. Increases in the budget with the largest portion being unfunded mandates, followed by increased retirement contributions, Police Officers Retirement, employee contributions to the SCRS. The value of a mill is \$26,520. Only one full-time position in the voter's registration and election office was added to the budget.

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Council previously agreed to increase its municipal detainee fee from \$16 per day to \$26 per day. There was no cost of living increase for employees. The average employee with family coverage will not have to pay the \$1,300 more per year in health insurance costs because the county is absorbing 100 percent of the increase. Administrator Preston said the county will be addressing refinancing the \$1.5 million general obligation bond for its defunct hospital, or else face payments extending out to 2028. An update on the improvement work schedule for the County Courthouse was shared with the council. Mr. Preston further stated that within the next couple of months a meeting will be set to come back with a recommendation from the Bamberg Facilities Corporation, which will be the entity that would actually be working with the USDA through the grant and load program. Council will have to give endorsement on what that group will do. The staff was thanked for their solid fiscal management and helping to move the county forward.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council