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MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - November 6, 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., November 6, 2017 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Isaiah Odom, Trent Kinard, Clint Carter, Joe Guess, Jr. and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, Mary Tilton, Jerry Bell and John Fleming.

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 Councilman Clint Carter, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the October 2, 2017 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

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

Chairman Comer called for the quarterly report from Mr. John Fleming, director of development of SouthernCarolina Alliance. Mr. Fleming reported 16 active projects in Bamberg County for 2017. Activity at the Cross-Rhodes speculative building has included the installation of new signage to intensify the visibility of the building. The next stage will include the construction of an open pad site for prospective industry expansion. SCA networked with Volvo suppliers who could possibly consider Bamberg County because of its location on U.S. Highway 78. Representatives from SCA felt positive connections with Volvo and that things are going to work out favorably. Councilman Kinard said the county has gotten only one industry in the past five years and Allendale County has gained nineteen since he has been on council. He further asked what is SouthernCarolina trying to do about the situation? Councilwoman Hammond asked that Bamberg County receive a detailed report from SCA that could possibly help us increase our chances of capturing industry. "What do the other counties have that we don't have? Internet service? We need some detail, something is missing, they are getting industry and we're not". Mr. Fleming responded that he will research the matter and further stated that SCA is currently working with Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative to extend fiber optic Internet services near as possible to all of the industrial parks in the service region. Councilman Odom complimented SCA on providing valuable resources for Bamberg County over the years and with us being a part of SCA, we will benefit more in the future if we hold on a little longer.

November 6, 2017....continued

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Mr. Bell invited everyone to the Bamberg County Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. on the front lawn of the Courthouse. Flyers listing additional 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 September was \$430,863. Expenses came in at \$622,830, leaving a negative balance of \$191,967. Ms. Johnson informed that property taxes are being collected and it will result in a revenue increase for the county.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$1,113,414 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of September. Expenditures stood at \$1,702,923 leaving a negative balance of \$589,509. Overall all departments are operating within budget and within expected bounds.

County Administrator Preston announced there are two construction projects that were included under the capital projects sales tax remain to be completed. We are now at the point where council can approve a committee next year (2018) and start working on the next phase. Over the past few months, the litter control division had been monitoring illegal dump sites and patrolling the roadways. Eleven warnings have been issued this year, 23 tickets issued and \$9,750 in fines written. In reference to the county owned water tower, it is going to cost between \$280,000 to \$500,000 to paint and do the required maintenance on the tank. We hope to secure a grant, with the help of the City of Denmark, to renovate the tank, since Denmark buys the water in the tank from the Bamberg Board of Public Works. Councilman Guess suggested that we place on our agenda, an increase for housing prisoners. Compared to other counties we are charging a very low fee. Contractors will be starting on renovations of the Wilson House that which will house KBCB department. We are still working on the PAVE Project and anyone interested in purchasing a brick may do. A minimum of 25 bricks must be purchased prior making an order. We have been invited to White Farm Lane in Bladenburg, North Carolina to tour their solar facility on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -Everything was basically the same as reported in the SCA report.
- 2) LSCOG -The Highway Commissioner was Present at the last meeting. Ms. Nora Sanders gave a report. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11 at the LSCOG building. (5:00 p.m. -Open House; 6:00 p.m. -Celebration to follow).

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Odom and Councilman Haynes, council gave second reading to an ordinance to amend Bamberg County Ordinance #18-17-1

November 6, 2017....continued

limited regards and particulars, only, so as to add two erroneously omitted roads to the County Road List; and other matters related thereto. The two roads being considered are Big Boy Lane and McMichaels Road (both located in Council District #3.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved a resolution to amend the agreement for a joint county industrial park among Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties so as to enlarge the boundaries of the park; and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the calendar of events was approved after additional events.

At this time, Chairman Comer called for public comments. No public comments were received. .

The council thanked the administrator and employees for their hard work. Councilwoman Hammond extended condolences to the Jeffcoat family in honor of Derrick Jeffcoat (a former Bamberg County dispatcher). Derrick loved his job and was a dispatcher for the community. All were asked to keep the families in Texas in prayer.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Odom, council voted to enter in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

After an executive session, council entered in open session with no decision made. Chairman Comer called for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC