

**MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING - December 17, 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.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., December 17, 2018 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Vice Chairman Trent Kinard, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Isaiah Odom, Evert Comer, Jr., and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Chairman Clint Carter and Joe Guess, Jr. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Adam Ness, Jerry Halmon, Sidney Evering, Don Kirby, Jeanette Driggers and four additional visitors.

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Bamberg County Special Called Council meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Trent Kinard at 12 noon, in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Reverend Isaiah Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Larry Haynes.

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

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved a Resolution declaring the results of the 2018 Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum; and other related matters. The CPST Referendum was approved by a slim margin of 51% to 49. Attorney Sidney Evering for the Parker Poe Law Firm of Columbia explained the referendum the voters approved in November means a re-imposition of the current tax citizens are currently paying and is not a new tax. The new Referendum approved will not exceed \$5.6 in new projects. The county has a one cent penny in place, paid by people in the County and traveling through the County. It is considered a fairer tax and doesn't put a burden on property owners in the County. The new tax will remain in effect for seven years and the present penny sales tax will expire in 2020. Administrator Preston again, announced the various offices that will be housed in the hospital building over time. It was further stated that a major part with getting started with the hospital renovations will be the removal of the lead-based paint and Asbestos (a huge undertaking). Ms. Jeanette Driggers a citizen of Bamberg remarked that she and others were not pleased with what happened with the old courthouse during the last penny sales tax and asked will the same happen with the hospital. People were encouraged to vote for the first referendum because she and others thought the old courthouse was going to be renovated, that did not happen. Ms. Driggers was informed that plans are in the making for the old courthouse and that it is also a huge undertaking. Councilman Kinard said he was happy to see the CPST pass and thanked the Council for working to get it passed, but was disappointed that the CPST Committee did not go door to door to inform the people. All were thanked for attending and was extended the invitation to come again.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC