

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- June 2, 2014

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*, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website, and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the County Courthouse.

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., June 2, 2014, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Larry Haynes, Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Joe Guess, Jr., Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, and Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Humphreys, Jerry Halmon, Phyllis Overstreet, Mallory Biering, Nancy Green, Sarah Noel, Martha Guess, Betty Singleton, Edward Golden, Sidney Evering, Ed Darnell, Jerry Bell, Tony Duncan, Kell Anderson, Patricia Harley and Eula Mae George.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Haynes at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. The invocation was rendered by Councilman Trent Kinard, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the minutes from the May 5, 2014 regular meeting, with future corrections if necessary.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, the agenda was approved by council.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance. He stated that Augusta Fiberglass has hired sixty-nine people for the new plant. Mr. Anderson was questioned about the number sixty-nine as being a correct number of persons that had been hired. The certainty of the number will be re-checked by Mr. Anderson. The Council was invited to give him or Kay Maxwell a call if they had further questions. Among other projects, Mr. Anderson attended a show in Atlanta and reported that the staff was headed to California. Councilman Kinard requested that Mr. Anderson provide written reports for council at future meetings.

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county's general fund generated \$4,739,709 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of April, with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$4,431,622 as of the end of March. The county collected \$100,581 year to date in E-911/Emergency Management revenue, with year-to-date expenditures coming at \$84,185. Year-to-date revenues collected in the county's enterprise fund totaled \$725,030, with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$682,467 as of the end of April. The county's road maintenance fund generated year-to-date revenues of \$283,300, with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$247,845. The county's rural fire account collected year-to-date revenues of \$376,035 with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$291,430. It was noted that the collection of solid waste revenue was coming in under-budget. The county's year-to-date collection rate of \$380,220 is below the budgeted amount of \$513,170.

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REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Next meeting is scheduled June 12th, in Calhoun County. Workforce Development will be relocated at the Brooker Center in Denmark.
- 2) Lower Savannah (TAC) -U.S. Highway 78 - the engineers hit a snag. Looking at Completion in September or October 2014. North Street and Red Raider Drive will be paved within the next couple of months.
- 3) SCA -Very good attendance at the SCA meeting held at USC Gov. Haley was the speaker. Next board meeting is scheduled for June 24th, in Colleton County.
- 4) Three Rivers -Thanked Council for going on the tour at Three Rivers. Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4 @ 6:30 p.m. at the office.
- 5) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Nine projects are applying for rehabilitation funding. Will meet in June.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council gave second reading to an ordinance authorizing the expansion of the Quad-County Industrial Park III to include certain property located in Bamberg County, South Carolina; the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement to provide for infrastructure credits to [project matinee]; and other related matters.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved first reading (title only), an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, 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.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the calendar of events after adding public hearing and third reading of the FY 2014-2015 budget scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

County Council listened to Bamberg County citizen Tony Duncan, regarding concerns about the Bamberg County Ball Field located near the Bamberg County Public Works Department (Highway 601S). Mr. Duncan expressed concerns that the field was not usable and adequate restroom facilities are not available. Council placed the investigation of the problem with the ball field in the hands of Administrator Preston. Mr. Preston was asked to look at the matter, do a letter to the appropriate party and close it down if the field/facility is not useable and he will

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follow up with Mr. Duncan and council. On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council agreed to have Administrator Preston take a look at the Bamberg County Ball Field and follow up with Mr. Duncan and council.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council approved the presentation of the Bamberg County Recreation Grants for fiscal year 2013-2014. Twenty groups applied and each group was awarded funds. The total of \$13,000 was disbursed among the groups. Council agreed that a new tool will be developed and used for future application submission and the awarding of funds.

Comments from the Public:

- 1) Betty Singleton - Requested an explanation of the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget wording.
- 2) Jerry Bell - Requested nominations for citizen of the year for the Chamber Commerce.

Comments from Council:

- 1) Robinson - Requested a resolution be done for Rev. Dr. Luns C. Richardson, Pastor of 56 years at Thankful Baptist Church – Bamberg
- 2) Guess - Need to contact the Local Government Fund informant regarding funding
- 3) Carter - Thanks to the county employees and Administrator for their hard work of the budget

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Comer, Chairman Haynes adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC