



2017-2018

BAMBERG COUNTY

COUNCIL

PLANNING RETREAT

ADOPTED APRIL 2017

AT THE BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. The building is a large, multi-story structure with a prominent clock tower on the left side. In the foreground, there is a brick wall with a sign that reads "Bamberg County Court House Annex 1234 North Street". The scene is set on a green lawn under a clear sky.

Bamberg County Council

Trent Kinard – District One

Sharon Hammond – District Two

Larry Haynes – District Three

Joe Guess, Jr. – District Four

Isaiah Odom – District Five

Evert Comer, Jr., Chairman – District Six

Clint Carter, Vice Chairman – District Seven

VISION

Bamberg County will be a community where citizens can feel safe, raise their families, obtain a quality education and employment, and thrive in a community with an exceptional quality of life.

MISSION

Bamberg County's mission is to be a financially-stable and fiscally responsible government that will utilize technology, communication and ingenuity to provide the opportunity for a high quality of life by ensuring that excellent infrastructure is available to its citizens; where Citizens and Public Safety Agencies have the resources to work together to provide a safe community to live and do business in; where quality housing and the best available healthcare options are found; where first-class recreation facilities provide a physical outlet for individuals and families; and where there is a favorable business climate that provides job opportunities to present and future generations.

FINANCE

- ✓ Improve delinquent tax collection
- ✓ Participate in SC Debt Set-Off Program
- ✓ Establish/Implement internal controls
- ✓ Improve communication between treasurer, auditor and finance offices
- ✓ Increase detail in monthly report for County Council
- ✓ Review fee structure and alternatives
 - Fire, EMS, Landfill, Roads, Building Permits
- ✓ Increase staff training
- ✓ Develop 3 to 5-year Capital Improvement Plan
 - Upgrade technology – computer, printer, software
 - Review and update equipment replacement plan
- ✓ Reformat budget to comply with GFOA Budget Award Requirements
- ✓ Ensure budget ordinance complies with state law
- ✓ Create strategy to have local (South Carolina) news available on cable services throughout the county
- ✓ Develop & implement purchasing ordinance to comply with state law
- ✓ Update County's IT resources
- ✓ Manage capital projects sales tax program
- ✓ Hospital
 - Resolution of bankruptcy
 - Establish a free-standing emergency room
 - Determine and develop use for building
- ✓ Physical Plant
 - Evaluate Health Department
 - Evaluate DSS
- ✓ Pursue grant opportunities (PromiseZone)
- ✓ Maintain Unmodified Audit
 - Capital asset list
 - Evaluate daily rate for housing prisoners in county jail
- ✓ Develop and implement plan for historic courthouse & courthouse square
- ✓ Refinance bonds/debt
 - Seek a bond rating upgrade

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT

✓ Detention Center & Sheriff's Department

- Address infrastructure, heat/air/ lighting
- Update technology
 - Audio, visual, computers
 - Fingerprint Machine
- Replace out-of-date switch board/control panel
- Provide staff training
- Explore options to relocate BCSD & establish a LE Center

✓ Addressing/Street Signs

- Redesign signs with "C" number
- Replace missing signs
- Enforce requirement for address # displayed for first responders

✓ Maintenance plan for county-owned public safety vehicles

✓ Helicopter Pad Improvements

✓ Consolidation of Public Safety Services

✓ Fire Departments

- Implement plan for replacement of equipment
- Explore EMS contract options & requirements
- Integrate mapping technologies (GIS/E911)
- Conduct financial review of EMS
- Develop formula to pro-rate annual maintenance cost for mapping software among fire departments
- View alternatives for funding new fire station in River's Bridge to include public-private partnerships

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Follow Solid Waste Management Plan
- ✓ Landfill/LAD Sites/Improvements
 - Review fees versus costs
 - Plan for equipment
- ✓ Code Enforcement
 - Certification of Officers
- ✓ Implement road inventory
- ✓ Adopt road ordinance
- ✓ Establish road encroachment permits
- ✓ Plan for upgrading Transfer Stations
- ✓ Implement plan for beautification of Convenience Centers
- ✓ Update road naming ordinance
- ✓ Establish plan to achieve 40% recycle rate by 2020
- ✓ Implement mosquito control program
- ✓ Improve appearance of entranceways
- ✓ Community Appearance
 - Implement beautification, litter, and recycling programs
 - Work with volunteers and area businesses
 - Gain grant funds for beautification, litter prevention & enforcement and recycling projects & programs
 - Begin quarterly litter prevention program
 - Implement office recycling program for County Offices

POLICIES & COUNCIL WORK

- ✓ Codify Ordinances
- ✓ Increase attendance at regional and state events
- ✓ Expand employee training
 - Orientation, webinars, cross training
 - Update position classifications & salaries
 - Promote work of Bamberg County
 - Run features and make updates in the local newspapers, SCAC, and social media
 - Produce/distribute annual report
- ✓ Update & maintain book of appointments
- ✓ Provide orientation and description of all duties to boards and committees
- ✓ Establish appreciation events for boards
- ✓ Work with staff, volunteers, boards, commissions, & advisory committees
- ✓ Create Bamberg County University to educate and inform citizens of the functions performed by Bamberg County government
- ✓ Develop plan to stream Bamberg County Council meetings



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

✓ Industrial Parks

- Conduct inventory/develop list of products
- Monitor MCP agreements
- Seek grants
- Create a spec building with SouthernCarolina Alliance

✓ Information Technology

- Upgrade software and hardware
- Continue to use new and emerging technologies to market Bamberg County
- Evaluate methods for county to control broadband access county-wide to provide service county-wide
- Create strategy to have local (South Carolina) news available to cable services throughout the county

✓ Plan to update facilities at Bobcat Landing to include lighting and security cameras

✓ Agreed to study DSS and Health Department

- Veteran's Affairs and Coroner into hospital

✓ Explore options for county museum & farmer's market

✓ Work with Denmark Tech, up to and including funding support if requested and needed, to ensure that relevant training and continuing education are provided in a fiscally responsible manner

✓ FAA Plan for Airport

- Contract with engineering firm to repair existing runway
- Acquire right-of-ways and easements
- Remove obstructions from right-of-way
- Obtain lease agreements
- Seek aircraft to be based in Bamberg County

○ Upgrade fueling system

○ Adopt capital improvement plan

○ Seek FBO (Fixed Base Operator)

○ Promote Airport

○ Lower tax assessment ratio to 4% to be competitive

○ Find funding for fuel farm and rights of way

○ Relocate chamber from airport & establish a community meeting space

✓ Complete restoration of old library/council chambers and KBCB Building

✓ Begin work to renovate Kearsse Building for Clemson Extension Programs and EOC