

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 Bamberg Leader*, *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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In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., June 21, 2021 in several locations within the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex and some participated by way of teleconference. The public joined the meeting by various means of technology. **Present:** Chairman Larry Haynes, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Spencer Donaldson, Phil Myers, Jr., Clint Carter and Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, Chip Maier, Sarah G. Noel, Walt Inabinet, Bryen Glass, K. M. Bryen, Bill Johnson, Ruthie Brown, Dionne Gleaton and three additional callers.

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Bamberg County Council Virtual meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Haynes at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Phil Myers, followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the agenda as submitted.

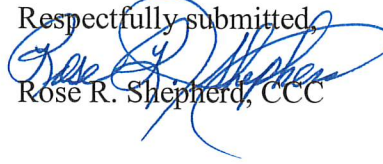
#### **-Order of Business-**

Chairman Haynes read the following for council's consideration: An ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County Budgets for county ordinary 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 of 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. Council – second reading. During second reading, there still remained no tax increase for Bamberg County. Questions were still being asked about the itemization of what is spent for personnel salaries, because the council had not received the information. Controller Smith said according to the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), they could possibly be in violation. Additional comments were made by Administrator Preston and Attorney Richard Ness, pointing out the possibility of exposing themselves to having personal liability in the issue of such information as health and salary status to council. This action could point out certain people. Administration Preston stated that he had presented a balanced budget to the council and if they don't pass a budget before June 30, 2021, then they could go into default; therefore, problems will be encountered with the state comptroller general, and the treasurer. No County business will be conducted beginning 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2021. Councilwoman Hammond said that she hadn't received information that she'd asked for and Councilman Carter was not satisfied as well. Councilman Carter continued by saying if we're going to fall default to the state, and he has no problem with that, we have been in trouble before. Dr. Goodman said that he would like to have additional information as well. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Haynes called for the vote by saying all in favor of the budget say "Aye" - Those voting in favor of the motion: Councilmen Comer – District 6 and Haynes – District 3. Those opposing say "Nay" - Those voting not in favor of the motion: Councilwoman Hammond – District 2, Councilmen Myers – District 1, Donaldson – District 4, Goodman – District 5 and Carter – District 7. The motion failed with 5 voting not in favor and 2 voting in favor.

June 21, 2021....continued

Chairman Haynes announced that the next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., then called for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, council agreed that the meeting adjourn at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose R. Shepherd, CCC