

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*, Southern Carolina 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., May 7, 2018 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Clint Carter, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Isaiah Odom, Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr. and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Mary Tilton, Jerry Bell, Sidney Evering, Sarah Noel, Gail Posey, Darrell Booker, James “Pedie” Hiers, Ed Darnell, Joyce Crowley, Ruthie Brown, Gina Smith, Lynda Roberts, Caroline Sandlin, Ruthie Rish, Misty Cook, Brandi Napier, Jimmy Anderson, Nancy Foster, Wallace Hicks, Tommy Boylston, Adam Ness, Mattie McDaniel, Yvette McDaniel and William Molnar.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Clint Carter at 6:30 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the April 2, 2018 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

Joyce Crowley, Bamberg County Family Court Clerk II, was selected as this quarter’s Bamberg County Employee of the Quarter. Ms. Crowley was nominated by Gina Smith, Bamberg County Controller, and Pedie Hiers, Bamberg County Clerk of Court. Controller Smith, Clerk of Court Hiers and the members of Council congratulated Ms. Crowley for being recognized. The standard award was presented along with a gift card.

Mr. Danny Anderson, chairperson of the “We Are Carlisle” Military School Reunion Committee, thanked the county for its efforts in making the school’s recent reunion events a success.

The Council received an update on the Mary Ann Morris Animal Shelter (MAMAS), from board director Caroline Sandlin and shelter director Ruthie Rish. Ms. Sandlin reported that the shelter has developed a transport system that shuttles dogs to owners as far away as Massachusetts by way of a pipeline of volunteers. In 2017 the shelter saved approximately 800 dogs. Ms. Sandlin reported for the period ending June 30, 2017, the shelter had an income of \$21,004.25. She further informed that the dogs they adopt out make up the difference for the income shortfall. The shelter received \$29,000 for FY 17-18 in county funding. Financial figures through the current fiscal year

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since December 26, 2017 were presented as follows: Out-of-state cash donations - \$28,945; donations from Bamberg County residents - \$1,855; pull fees received from rescue organizations - \$11,605; and adoption fees - \$22,356. There are presently 9 employees at the shelter to handle the day to day operations. The report was received as information.

Tommy Boyleston, SouthernCarolina Alliance business retention and special projects manager, reported 79 active projects throughout the seven-county region, and 21 of those projects are in Bamberg County. Those are active projects that are considering looking at sites in Bamberg County, and there were nine Bamberg County submission of active projects. The installation of a partial floor and the future installation of a drive-in door is among the work currently being done at the spec building in the CrossRhodes Industrial Park. SCA is also working with the South Carolina Manufactures Alliance's Future Makers program, a public-private partnership that fully engages South Carolina's manufacturing and technology communities with middle and high school students, technical college students and four-year college students. Mr. Boyleston said the goal of SCA is to make certain every child coming through our schools knows what is available to them in their community. The update was received as information.

Bamberg County Chamber President Jerry Bell gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Flyers listing additional events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to support the events within the county. The update was accepted as information.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for March was \$364,341. Expenses came in at \$857,569, leaving a negative balance of \$493,228. Councilwoman Hammond said, "I've been trying to get some understanding for the last couple of months of why we're constantly in the red." Administrator Preston said, "We've come from a \$3 million deficit up to having money in the bank to be able to cover this." Controller Smith elaborated on Treasurer Johnson's report that what she is presenting is the activity of one bank account. There is more than one bank account that the county can draw from to pay its expenses and it does. The negative balance is because we are paying the bills of the whole county, and the other funds haven't paid the general fund back, in addition timing varies on the receipt of other funds, such as local government funding and local option sales tax funds. Ms. Smith offered to allocate some time with Councilwoman Hammond to clarify the financial process used.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund generated \$5,202,188 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of March. Expenditures stood at almost \$5,004,795 million, leaving a positive balance of \$197,393. The county continue to operate within their budget and bounds.

Administrator Preston reported a construction contract was awarded to Palmetto Site Work Services for work on Crouch Circle/Panther Road and Gum Tree Road. The Dally Road project is being rebid. Bamberg County was one of 29 counties to receive funding from South Carolina DHEC to administer Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS. The county received approximately \$74,000 to provide housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. A loan from the U.S. Department of

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Agriculture's Rural Development Facilities Program for the construction of a fire service substation in the Rivers Bridge community is being sort. Once everything is submitted, we can actually get into some design drawings and schedule our groundbreaking. Also reported was an architect is in the final design phase of the county's veterans memorial walking trail. The drawings are expected in the next two weeks, then they will be bid out for construction. Administrator Preston is still working on the application for a grant of up to \$3 million through USDA Rural Development's Community Connect Grant Program to expand broadband access to underserved rural areas. The county is partnering with Orangeburg Broadband to build the system. The town of Govan is now in possession of their Charter. It could not be located, but with the assistance of Administrator Preston it was located, framed and turned over to the town. The water report is in for the City of Denmark and the reports state that the water samples tested negative.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -No report.
 - 2) LSCOG -April's meeting was hosted in Bamberg @ the Annex at 6:00 p.m. Transit funding has been discontinued. NADO Training Conference -was in Charlotte, NC. The month of May is recognizes as Older People's Month.
 - 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) - Meeting is scheduled for May 9 @ 10:00 a.m. Lindsey Graham & Sen. Tim Scott are expected at The Carlisle Military Parade (4/14).
 - 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium - Meeting cancelled.
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On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Haynes, on first reading by title only, council approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds of not to exceed \$5,600,000 for implementation of a 1 percent sales tax. Administrator Preston said the commission authorized Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission President Jerry Bell, to send a letter inviting municipalities and others, who had contacted the county with an interest, to submit new 1 cent sales tax projects for consideration. A May 9 deadline was set for project submissions.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved first reading by title only, a proposed ordinance for transfer of easement to Palmetto Telephone for fiber optic cable.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved a resolution endorsing the commission of a feasibility study to examine the impact of reopening the Bridge Street intersection onto Heritage Highway.

On motion by Reverent Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, the calendar of events was approved as submitted.

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Dr. William Molnar, executive director of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments gave a brief update to the council. He stated Lower Savannah COG had completed 199 senior assessments from July 1 through the end of March and provided home-delivered meals to 138 home-bound seniors in Bamberg County. Another 5,562 meals were delivered to 93 seniors at a congregate meal site. In addition, 28 grants totaling \$28,000 were awarded over the past nine months through the LSCOG's Family Caregiver Support program. Also reported was he is seeking as much participation as possible with the LSCOG's Summer Jumpstart Program. Which targets rising high school seniors with little or no work experience and gives them a job over the summer. It was provided last year and it was a great success. An appointee from Bamberg County to serve on the Workforce Development Board and until that appointment is made, Chairman Carter will fill that vacancy. Currently, Theresa Hannibal and Donald Parler are representatives serving on that board.

Chairman Carter called for public comments at this time. Dr. Yvette McDaniel was present to address council and invite all to the Denmark Technical College (DTC) Family Reunion on June 9th from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. for festivities. On June 8th, Golden Diplomas will be presented to those who attended South Carolina Area Trade dating back 50 years ago.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Reverend Odom, council adjourned from public session and voted to enter in executive session to discuss a contractual and legal.

Council re-entered in public session to announce no actions were taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC