

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - February 1, 2016

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., February 1, 2016, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Larry Haynes and Joe Guess, Jr. **Absent:** Councilman Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Phyllis Overstreet, Jerry Halmon, Jerry Bell, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, and Lynn Maynard.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Isaiah Odom at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. Invocation was rendered by Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the minutes from the January 4, 2016 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Comer, council agreed to move and place at the beginning of the agenda, the acknowledgement requesting permission to recognize Ms. Sharon Hammond, by resolution, for her years of service to Bamberg County as Emergency Services Director.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the agenda after making the above noted change.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council agreed to present at the March meeting, a resolution recognizing Ms. Sharon Hammond, former Emergency Services Director for Bamberg County, for her years of service and dedication. This resolution will be sponsored by Councilman Kinard from Council District #1.

Public hearing was given to a proposed ordinance authorizing (1) execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax incentive agreement between Bamberg County, South Carolina (“County”) and Project Fatback (“Company”) in connection with the establishment of a certain facility in the county (“Project”); (2) the county to covenant in such agreement to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the project (“FILOT Payment”); (3) the company to claim certain special source credits against such FILOT Payments; (4) the benefits of a multi-county park to be made available to the company and the project; and (5) other matters relating thereto. No public comments were made.

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Kell Anderson, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance project manager, elaborated after the public hearing on the ordinance authorizing a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement between the county and Project Fatback. There are 57 possible jobs to be created within that company and \$3.6 million in capital investment over a five year period. Mr. Anderson announced that the speculative building at CrossRhodes Industrial Park is complete. He referred to the building as a Class-A building that we will be able to show to prospects and is confident it will draw additional projects into the area. This report was accepted as information.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber Director, distributed flyers of upcoming events in Bamberg County and encouraged those present to support them. Mr. Bell reminded everyone if they have community announcements to be advertised, please forward them to him and they would be placed in the flyer for public viewing.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for December was \$852,138. Expenses totaled \$737,833, reflecting a positive balance of \$114,305. Due to the county having a deficit of \$293,209 in November, it is left with an actual negative balance of \$178,904.

Finance Director Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$2,871,781 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of December. Expenditures stood at \$2,730,388, reflecting a positive balance of \$141,393. Overall, the departments are operating within their expected balance.

Administrator Preston reported that the county would receive approximately \$160,000 in FEMA reimbursement funds from the October floods. The courthouse annex is still on schedule. Memorial bricks will be sold for \$50 each for placement near the annex's clock tower and time capsule. The county tied for second place for the Best Experience Modifier Award from the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Commission. Assessor Doretta Elliott was present along with Chairman Odom to receive the award. Receiving this award mean a \$33,000 savings in insurance for Bamberg County. The county had a dozier delivered last week and we are expecting a motor grader in two months. We had a private citizen write Bamberg County a \$5,000 check to assist with litter control. This is the first time something of this nature has taken place. Received a letter from SCDOT stating that they have plans to close Kearse Road at the site of the portion where the bridge is dilapidated. The project will begin on Monday, March 14 and is expected to take seven weeks to replace. Detour routes will be set up using Highway 64 and secondary roads 231 and 31 (Rivers Bridge Road). All involved will be contacted again by letter before work commence.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Meeting scheduled for 2/11/16 @ 6:00 p.m., at the restaurant.

- 2) LSCOG (TAC) (Kinard) -Reported on the completed streetscape work at intersection of Hwy. 321 & 78 near Jim Harrison Gallery in downtown Denmark. New lights, benches, sidewalks, crosswalks, landscaping and storm water drainage improvements are among the project's features. Mobility issues with the freight trucks at this intersection, have always

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been a main focus of this corridor. The improvement to this corridor include the conversion of the existing four-lane, undivided highway into a two-lane corridor with turning accommodations and additional on-street parking. The creation of a bike path between Denmark and Bamberg is supposed to get started this spring.

3) LSCOG Housing Consortium -The SouthernCarolina Regional Community Development Corporation purchased homes that will be rehabilitated to become rental units for residents of Denmark and Bamberg. The total amount spent on the homes was \$143,000, with \$75,000 spend in Denmark and \$68,000 spent in Bamberg. These are HUD funds, no match required.

4) SCA - Had a good meeting and talked a lot about the Promise Zone. Working with USDA to get some funds for Bamberg County.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved on third reading a proposed ordinance authorizing (1) execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax incentive agreement between Bamberg County, South Carolina (“County”) and Project Fatback (“Company”) in connection with the establishment of a certain facility in the county (“Project”); (2) the county to covenant in such agreement to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the project (“FILOT Payment”); (3) the company to claim certain special source credits against such FILOT Payments; (4) the benefits of a multi-county park to be made available to the company and the project; and (5) other matters relating thereto.

The council reviewed the calendar of events as submitted. There being no changes, the calendar was approved.

The following council member standing committee appointments for 2016 were made: **Administrative/Finance** – Rev. Isaiah Odom, chairman; Evert Comer, Jr., and Joe Guess., Jr; **Personnel/Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare/Intergovernmental Relations** – Larry Haynes, chairman; Joe Guess and Trent Kinard; **Public Service/County Planning** – Evert Comer, chairman; Trent Kinard and Clint Carter; **Justice and Public Safety** – Alzena Robinson, chairman; Larry Haynes and Clint Carter; **Solid Waste/Recycling** – Clint Carter, chairman; Larry Haynes and Rev. Odom.

Chairman Odom called for public comments. Comments were made by Ms. Fannie Hightower regarding Sweet Pea Road in Bamberg. This road is already being research by the county

Chairman Odom called for comments from the council members.

Robinson : Thanked the staff for doing a fine job. Thanked Ms. Hightower for being present at the meeting.

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- Kinard : Thanked the employees for their hard work and stated the county is moving forward. Thanked Ms. Sharon Hammond upon her retirement...did a good job with Emergency Services.
- Guess : Thanked the county employees and commended Administrator Preston for a fine job and for keeping the council informed.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Kinard, Councilman Comer, council voted to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC