

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- February 10, 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., February 10, 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, Kell Anderson, Alice Johnson, Sarah Noel, Martha Guess, Ruthie Brown, Ed Darnell, Sidney Evering, Blake Waller, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Danny Black, Kathy Rhoad, Rochelle Harvey, Jerry Bell, Michael Epperson K Epperson, Sharon Hammond, Brenna Hancock, Bamberg County Fire-fighters, Robert Corlin, Larry Wilson and Eddie Jones.

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 Reverend Isaiah Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess.

Accepted as information was the overview of Bamberg County's financial status by Treasurer Alice Johnson. Ms. Johnson reported that \$2,485,780 in taxes was collected in December. She said the county's total income for the month stood at \$548,662. Expenses came in at \$480,325, leaving the county with a positive balance of \$68,337 for the month.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the minutes from the January 13, 2014 regular meeting, with future corrections if necessary.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, the agenda was approved as submitted.

On motion by Councilman Trent Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council agreed on a 4-3 vote to adhere to the ordinance (procedure and rules of council) that the chairman's seat would rotate from the vice chairman position in numerical order (according to district number), therefore; ruling Councilman Joe Guess as vice chairman for 2014. Voting in favor of the motion: Councilmen Kinard, Carter, Odom and Guess. Voting in opposition of the motion: Councilmen Comer, Haynes and Councilperson Robinson. Councilperson Robinson voiced opposition by stating that the present ordinance states that an exception can be made to the rule of numerical succession and the rules also state that the majority of the council can, at any given time, change the rules (*this does not apply to the position of vice chairman*).

Councilman Comer along with the full council presented retired Govan Fire Chief Michael L. Epperson a resolution recognizing his 20 years of service. Chief Epperson began his career 25 years ago as a firefighter at the Denmark Fire Department. During his tenure at the Govan Fire

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Department, a new fire station was constructed and many beneficial grants totaling more than \$1 million was secured.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave approval to a resolution recognizing Miss Lucia Mae Odom on her 88th birthday. Miss Odom is a retired school teacher and lifelong citizen of Bamberg County and she has made many contributions to the Bamberg County community and surrounding area.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance, about Project Masters. The project is expected to be a \$3.5 million investment, adding a minimum of 100 jobs in the county.

Finance Director Thomas reported the county's general fund generated \$2,550,874 in year-to-date revenue, with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$2,637,293, reflecting a year-to-date deficit of \$86,419. The county collected \$69,869 year-to-date in E-911 Emergency Management revenue and spend \$43,562 in E-911 services. Year-to-date revenues collected in the county's enterprise fund totaled \$430,825 with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$426,171. The county's road maintenance fund generated year-to-date revenues of \$157,562, with year-to-date expenditures coming in at \$159,474, reflecting a deficit of \$1,912. The county's rural fire account collected year-to-date revenues of \$134,308, with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$102,496. The county C-Fund account has been operating evenly with both year-to-date revenue and expenditures totaling \$86,345.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

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| 1) Lower Savannah COG | -Next meeting scheduled for 2/13/14 in Orangeburg |
| 2) Lower Savannah (TAC) | -Highway 78 widening to be completed by spring.
Anticipation of completion of Trade Street, Mulberry & Peach Tree Street in February. The amount of \$400,000 has been set aside for construction (gravel or rock) of Dally Road. |

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Guess Odom, council approved an inducement resolution providing a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement between the county and Project Masters, as stipulated in S.C. Code Section 12-44-40.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved second reading of a proposed ordinance to repeal ordinance number 4-04-1 to comply with the direction of the South Carolina Building Codes. Administrator Preston said the county will also be able to clean up dilapidated and unsafe buildings and cite property owners who allow their property to be overgrown with vegetation or littered with debris.

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On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved second reading of a proposed ordinance to amend the flood damage prevention ordinance #19-09-01.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave first reading, in title only, to an ordinance to amend the Bamberg County Personnel Policy and Procedures.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council gave first reading to a proposed ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of tax and incentive agreement to provide a negotiated fee-in-lieu of ad valorem tax benefit and special source revenue credit to [Project Masters]; the inclusion of certain real property located in Bamberg County in the multi-county industrial park; and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the calendar of events after adding a personnel committee meeting for Monday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m., prior the regular County Council meeting.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the reappointment of Nancy Foster to the Thoroughbred County Tourism Advisory Committee. The term of expiration is January 2017.

Bamberg County Council approved the appointment of the following members to its 2014 standing committees: **Executive and Finance** – Larry Haynes, chairman; Alzena Robinson and Joe Guess, Jr.; **Personnel** – Alzena Robinson, chairperson; Joe Guess, Jr. and Evert Comer, Jr.; **Planning** – Trent Kinard, chairman; Clint Carter and Rev. Isaiah Odom; **Public Safety** – Larry Haynes, chairman; Trent Kinard and Clint Carter; **Solid Waste/Recycling** – Rev. Isaiah Odom, chairman; Evert Comer, Jr. and Larry Haynes.

Chairman Haynes called for comments from the public, council and news media. Larry Wilson and Eddie Jones from Crouch Circle Road complained about the condition of the road. During the discussion Panther Road was included (road adjoining Crouch Circle) and in need of gravel/rocking. It was pointed out that every time the roads are scraped by the motor graders, when it rains, the conditions deteriorate again. Administrator Preston said the county's C-Fund Committee is considering estimates on graveling either a portion of the road or the entire road.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC