

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- March 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., March 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, Ruthie Brown, Sharon Hammond, Gina Humphreys, Jerry Bell, Doretta Elliott, Bill Johnson, Scott Brown, Charles Breland, Danny Singleton, Jerry Halmon, Larry Wilson, Brenna Hancock, Paul Eubanks and Charlene Nimmons.

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 Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilwoman Alzena Robinson.

Accepted as information was the overview of Bamberg County's financial status by Treasurer Alice Johnson. Ms. Johnson reported that \$5,807,963 in taxes was collected in January. The county's total income for the month stood at \$1,992,563. Expenses came in at \$657,091, leaving the county with a positive balance of \$1,335,472 for the month.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the minutes from the February 10, 2014 regular meeting, with future corrections if necessary. Councilman Guess had a concern regarding a statement recorded within the minutes that stated the words - *this does not apply to the position of vice chairman*, as recorded as Councilwoman Robinson making the statement. Councilman Guess said he did not remember her making that statement during the meeting, and Councilwoman Robinson stated that she made that statement for clarity at that time. After a brief discussion, it was requested that records be researched and the minutes be corrected accordingly if necessary.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, the agenda was approved after deferring second reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of tax and incentive agreement regarding Project Masters.

Council conducted a public hearing of an ordinance to repeal ordinance 4-04-1 to comply with the direction of the South Carolina Building Codes Council. No public comments were made.

Public hearing was also given to a proposed ordinance to amend the flood damage prevention ordinance - #19-09-01. Public comments were made by Danny Singleton regarding residents being able to obtain flood insurance.

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On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved recognizing Mayor Blain Crosby during the recent February 2014 Ice Storm. It was requested that a letter of thanks be written to Mayor Crosby and the American Cross on a job well done. Also, a card was received from Diane Daniels Thomas and family, thanking the county for their assistance and hospitality shown while she and family members stayed at the shelter located at the Bamberg-Ehrhardt school during the ice storm.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved a resolution recognizing all Bamberg County Fire Service Volunteers for their service during Winter Storm Pax. Administrator Preston was asked to draft a resolution recognizing other agencies and individuals and the American Red Cross, for their service during the storm.

Doretta Elliott, Tax Assessor/Risk Manager, reported that Bamberg County received the Best Experience Modifier Award from the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust for the sixth consecutive year in Myrtle Beach. The county employees' work in risk management is estimated to have saved taxpayers approximately \$30,000 per year in insurance costs. Tax Assessor Elliott that reassessment notices will be mailed out on March 18. A notice of each parcel will be printed and mailed to property owners, and they will have 90 days to appeal the value of the notice. The last day anyone will be able to appeal a reassessment notice is June 18, 2014.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance, stated that he will be meeting with Project Matinee this coming week and they are presently working with Project Masters. They met with students at Denmark-Olar High and it was presented as an education opportunity. Also, Nancy Foster was appointed to the Bamberg County EDC.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

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| 1) Lower Savannah COG | -No meeting due to bad weather. |
| 2) Lower Savannah (TAC) | -No report |
| 3) SCA | -Had annual retreat on Thurs, & Fri. – it was very effective. |
| 4) Three Rivers | -Met last week – there is a tour of the facility in April or May. Administrator Preston will find out a date that all Council members can attend. |
| 5) LSCOG Consortium | -Meeting in Orangeburg on Thursday @ 10:00a.m. |
| 6) Personnel Committee | -Administrator Preston was asked to research:
1) employee classification system.
2) check on use of personal computer for county business
– do not use for county business. |
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On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved a resolution ratifying a temporary land use agreement lease with J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc, for use of premises to temporarily store and/or reduce disaster debris.

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The council agreed to lease four acres of land for \$500 an acre over two months to J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. The company is a subcontractor for the Department of Transportation and is in charge of cleaning up and cutting back trees on the side of the road, along with picking up limbs that are piled up on the rights- of-way on state roads. Rather than the money going into the general fund for the county, the \$4,000 is being donated to the MAMAS shelter. Craig Walker, Bamberg County Veterans Officer, is coordinating getting workers to assist in this program and they are being paid \$15 per hour.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council approved third reading to repeal ordinance number 4-04-1 to comply with the direction of the South Carolina Building Codes Council.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved third reading to amend the flood damage prevention ordinance – ordinance number #19-09-01.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved second reading of an ordinance amending the county's personnel policy and procedures.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council gave first reading in title only, to a proposed ordinance for the establishment of a lease agreement for the MAMAS.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council reappointed Reverend Odom to the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors. His term will expire April 2017.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Reverend Odom, council appointed Chris Wilson to the Bamberg County Keep America Beautiful Committee as a District 1 representative.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Council Odom, council agreed to the establishment of an attendance policy for persons appointed by council to serve on county boards as representatives from Bamberg County.

Chairman Haynes called for comments from the public, council and news media. Public:

1) Larry Wilson and Charlene Nimmons – presented updated pictures of Crouch Circle. Councilman Clint Carter thanked the employees for their dedication. Councilman Comer asked that council recognize SCE&G and Edisto Cooperative for the outstanding job done in February. Councilwoman Robinson asked that a blanket recognition be done for all involved.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Odom , seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose R. Shepherd, CCC