

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - August 11, 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., August 11, 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, Gina Humphreys, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Alice Johnson, Danny Singleton, Dr. Luns C. Richardson, Paulette McDonald, Delicia Sanders, Ann Bruce, Clara Moses, Cynthia McMillan, Girlie Walker, Roman Hoffman, Kell Anderson, Jerry Bell, Ronald Bunch, Mallory Biering, Danny Black and approximately forty members from the Thankful Baptist Church.

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 Clint Carter, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported that Bamberg County has taken in more money than it spent for the first time in four years. Total income for the month of June stood at \$1.2 million. Expenses came in at \$665,563, reflecting a positive balance of \$532,434. Administrator Preston said that this is the first time that has happened in at least four years, to have a positive variance at the end of the year.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the minutes from the June 2, 9 and 30, 2014 meetings. Councilman Guess made a correction to the June 30, 2014 minutes regarding a comment he made – the minutes reflected the figure as being \$60,000 and the figure should have been \$600,000. The correction will be noted in the minutes.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, the agenda was approved by council.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved a resolution recognizing the retirement of Rev. Dr. Luns C. Richardson for 56 years of service as pastor, to the Thankful Baptist Church in Bamberg. Approximately 40 Thankful Baptist Church members were in attendance to support their retired pastor. Rev. Dr. Richardson thanked council for showing their kindness by recognizing him in the way in which they did. He pledged to place his resolution in a special place.

Mr. Ryan Slattery of Alliance Consulting Engineers presented the council with a county roadway inventory and assessment report. This assessment will be included in a roadway ordinance for Bamberg County. Mr. Slattery pointed out that it has been 10 years since the roadway ordinance

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has been revisited by the county. Presently, we have 287 county roadways which run a total of 171 miles. Upon completion, the report will be presented to the state Department of Transportation after final approval from council. Mr. Slattery further stated the DOT has indicated that future funds allocated through the county's C-Fund Committee could be dependent on the completion of the roadway inventory. Administrator Preston informed council that the roadway inventory list will help toward providing information to the C-Fund Committee on which roads need to be resurfaced. The council members were reminded and asked to submit their road inventory list for their districts by the September 8, 2014 meeting to Administrator Preston. Council requested that Pike Road and Carver Road be looked at for much needed road maintenance. The status of Crouch Circle was asked about.

Councilperson Robinson reported on some highlights from the 2014 NACo Conference held in New Orleans, LA. Four items she elaborated on: 1) Transparency (FOIA) no employee should give out information unless a proper form is submitted; 2) Personnel Department - be certain all employees have a job description; 3) County Administrator reports should be on each council meeting agenda; and 4) Committees appointed by council, each should have a function and purpose. This report was received as information.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance. Greenlink has hired about 20 employees and they are making veneer sheeting for floors. Several other industries were visited with one being Tobul Accumulators. Mr. Anderson highlighted on the welding classes, Speculative Building and the Governor's Work Ready Community. Council requested Mr. Anderson to provide them with a written overview of his monthly report.

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county's general fund generated \$5.6 million in year-to-date revenue as of the end of the fiscal year in June, with the year's expenditures totaling \$5.3 million. Property tax revenues came in over budget at \$3.4 million. The county was able to control general fund expenses despite several cooling system repairs, which resulted in a negative balance of \$28,555 in the county's buildings and grounds department. General fund expenses still managed to come in under budget by \$173,453, with an additional \$10,000 to be budgeted within the FY 2014-15 budget for the building and grounds department. Revenues collected in the county's enterprise fund totaled \$826,667, with expenditures coming in at \$845,031 as of the end of June. Enterprise fund expenditures came in \$215,986 under budget at the end of the fiscal year. The collection of solid waste revenue, which comes from a \$70 solid waste fee, came in \$103,056 under budget based on a 100 percent collection rate.

Bamberg County Controller Gina Humphreys said while strides have been made, the county is still struggling cash wise and needs to amass anywhere from \$1.5 million to \$2.8 million in cash reserves. The one-time tax levy was authorized last year to reimburse the general fund for the \$92,054 deficit in the county's rural fire service budget. The rural fire service tax millage was raised from 21 to 27 mills. It has generated as of June 30, \$88,380 and that has gone back to pay back the general fund. This department is one of the only departments that has fully funded and is positioned to be self-sustaining now and in the future.

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REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Approved a raise for the employees. Approved the Housing Consortium's report. Board meeting is scheduled for 8/14 at 6:30 p.m. at Bamberg Job Corps Gymnasium.
 - 2) SCA -Next meeting will be held in September.
 - 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Received an email regarding three projects.
 - 4) Solid Waste/Recycling -Rev. Odom state that they had a productive meeting on July 15. The KBCB Coordinator was present to report on activities projects for the program.
 - 5) SCAC 2014 Conference -Rev. Odom made comments on some of the workshops he attended while in Hilton Head Island, SC. The conference was very fruitful.
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On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council approved a proposed resolution to accept a governmental equipment lease-purchase agreement from Caterpillar Finances Services Corporation.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council approved a proposed resolution to consider a lease from Kelly Communications.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the calendar of events after adding 3 additional events on the calendar.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the appointment of Thomas L. Trantham as a representative to the Bamberg County Tax Appeals Broad from Council District #1.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the appointment of J.J. Jowers, Jr., to the Bamberg County Recreation Committee from Council District #1.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the renewal of annual membership participation in the Lower Savannah Regional Housing Consortium.

Bamberg County Council agreed to meet on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., to make the remaining appointments to the Bamberg County Tax Appeals Board.

Comments from the Public:

- 1) Jerry Bell - Chamber of Commerce -Gave an update on upcoming Edisto River trip (9 a.m., Saturday, August 16 at Bob Cat Landing). He will submit 3 dates and give to council to decide which date is best for them to ride on

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- 2) Kay Clary - Office On Aging - Thanked Council for their support. They are carrying 42 persons to various locations to work. The vans are also being used periodically to assist MAMAS with animal transports.
 - 3) Ronald Bunch - Stated concerns about the distribution of funds from the Bamberg County Recreation Committee.
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Comments from Council:

- 1) Robinson - Reminded council of the 9/19 tour at the Port in Charleston. If you plan to go, please let Kell Anderson know.
 - 2) Kinard - Thanked Mallory Biering for the program participation at the Summer Program that was held at Denmark-Technical College. He assisted with the presentation by dressing up as the Can Guy.
 - 3) Carter - Thanked county employees for turning the numbers around in a positive way. Thanked Buzzy Bunch for his work with his sports group.
 - 4) Odom/Haynes - Asked permission to present a resolution to the family of long time resident Henry Maynard for his service to Bamberg County.
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There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council