

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - September 8, 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., September 8, 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., and Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Absent:** Councilman Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Humphreys, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Alice Johnson, Eva Manigault, Nanny Manigault, Jerry Bell, Sidney Evering, Kell Anderson, Danny Black, Martha Guess, Sarah Noel, Mallory Hoffman, Jim Harrison, Corine Maynard and Family Members, and Merlyn Mosely.

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 Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Kinard.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported that Bamberg County's total income for July was \$180,804. Expenses came in at \$471,063, reflecting a deficit of \$290,259. Treasurer Johnson further stated that for the month the county ended up with a credit balance of \$156,577. That is not unusual for July. July, August and September are the lowest revenue months. Administrator Preston responded that we have about a million dollars set aside in different funds. That provides the county with the cash that we need to get through those months.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting, after Councilperson Robinson requested the minutes include her comments made during the public comments section – "Councilperson Robinson pointed out that the County Recreation Committee was not in attendance at the meeting for comments. The County Recreation Committee makes recommendations for funding based on criteria approved by Bamberg County Council."

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the minutes from the August 18, 2014 meeting.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the agenda as submitted.

Public hearing was given to a proposed ordinance authorizing the expansion of the Quad-County Industrial Park III to include certain property located in Bamberg County, South Carolina; the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement to provide for infrastructure credits to Project Matinee; and other related matters. The Greenlink Company is located in Olar. They are expected to create 44 jobs and approximately \$1.2 million in capital investment.

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On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved a proposed resolution recognizing and honoring Mr. Henry C. Maynard for his contributions to society and Bamberg County, South Carolina. Chairman Haynes presented the framed resolution to Mrs. Corine Maynard and family members.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved a proposed resolution recognizing and honoring Mr. Jim Harrison for his many accomplishments and contributions to the City of Denmark, Bamberg County and the nation as a whole. Councilman Comer presented the resolution to Mr. Harrison on behalf of the Bamberg County Council.

Council received a report from Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Alliance. The following was reported: **CrossRhodes Speculative Building** – Applications for gap funding loans were completed and made to Santee Cooper. The Application will be discussed and reviewed at Santee's next board meeting in October. **Governor's Work Ready Community Initiative** - Bamberg County has achieved 100% of the national Workready Community Goals. Progress reports are published monthly and the next status update is scheduled for September 11th. **Project Colors** - At the company's request, further information on utility capabilities at the CrossRhodes Park was sent to Project Colors. Project Colors would stand to create 40 new jobs and 20 million in capital investment. SCA is awaiting further direction from company officials on possible site visits. Regional Job Fair - SCA is examining possibilities of hosting a Job Fair for Bamberg, Allendale and Barnwell County Industries at the SCA building in the coming months. The next SCA meeting is scheduled to be held on the campus of Voorhees College, Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce President Jerry Bell informed everyone of the upcoming events in Bamberg County. Boat landing cleanups on the Edisto River to include: Claude's Landing – Friday, September 12 @ 9 a.m., September 19 at Bobcat Landing and September 26 at Zig Zag Landing. Chamber banquet is scheduled for Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m., at Denmark-Olar High. Nominees to be considered for Citizen of the Year: Pansy Clayton, Lisa Stokes and Ronald Bunch.

Finance Director Thomas reported the county's general fund generated \$168,704 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of July, with year-to-date expenditures totaling \$505,259.

Administrator Preston reported that two special meetings will be scheduled within the next two weeks. Improvements were made to the communications tower. Some of the damage to the tower was previously caused by lightning. Another agreement has been signed for the communications tower. It was discovered that the Sheriff's Department was not at the top of the tower. Road inventory lists were requested to be turned in to Mr. Preston. So far, three members have returned their lists.

Mallory Hoffman, Keep Bamberg County Beautiful coordinator, reported overall county cleanup

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efforts were going well. Every fire department has adopted a highway to clean up and additional schools are expected to follow Richard Carroll Elementary School in starting a recycling program. Councilman Kinard said he was pleased the 1,000 pounds of trash were picked up across the county in less than two months.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014.
- 2) SCA -Industry Appreciation October 16, 2014.
- 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Next meeting is scheduled for September 12. Received an email regarding three projects that totaled approximately \$130,000. (Location: Frederick St., County Club Rd., and Maple Ave.
- 4) Three Rivers -Discussion that the 9 counties must take care of the Equipment on site (oil changes, etc.). Each county is responsible for equipment maintenance. Three Rivers has someone on duty that can assist with oil changes if you need them.
- 5) LSCOG (TAC) -The tentative completion date for the widening project on U.S.78 is mid to late October. Bobcat Landing – DOT paved the portion that had caved in. A dead tree was removed (special thanks to Bobby Crider for his help). The entrance gate going into Denmark-Tech has been closed.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a proposed ordinance authorizing the expansion of the Quad-County Industrial Park III to include certain property located in Bamberg County, South Carolina; the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement to provide for infrastructure credits to Project Matinee; and other related matters. Sidney Evering from Parker-Poe in Columbia was present to explain this ordinance.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council approved the calendar of events after adding additional three events.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved the appointment by Bamberg City Council of James McMillan to serve as their representative on the Bamberg County Planning Commission.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council approved the appointment of a new committee, Bamberg County Tourism and Recreation Committee. Members are: Councilperson Alzena Robinson (chairperson), Councilman Trent Kinard, Bamberg City Councilperson Cynthia McMillan, Denmark City Councilman Calvin Odom,

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Bamberg Chamber of Commerce President Jerry Bell and Bamberg County resident Nina Haynes.

Comments from Council

- Alzena Robinson - Thanked Mallory Hoffman, KBCB Coordinator, for her work and thanked Chairman Haynes for appointing her to the Tourism and Recreation and Committee.
- Joe Guess - Spoke up about the General Assembly failing to make returns to Local Government. Encouraged those that were present to contact the chairman of the Budget and Control Board regarding their actions.
- Trent Kinard - Thanked Administrator Preston, Finance Director Thomas, and Treasurer Johnson for their hard work. Also, a number of deer carcasses have been found dumped in the waterways in several areas of the county. Citizens were asked to report activities of this nature to law enforcement.
Commented that if you can't take pride in your County, then move.
- Evert Comer - Agreed with what was previously said by other council members.
- Rev. Odom - Agreed with what was previously said by other council members.
- Larry Haynes - Thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

There being no further business to be discussed in public session, on motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m., to receive legal advice from the county attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC