

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- June 2, 2015

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., June 2, 2015, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Joe Guess, Jr., Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, Larry Haynes and Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Absent:** Councilwoman Alzena Robinson. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Kell Anderson, Mallory Biering, Jerry Bell, Tom Dandridge, Emily Guess, Craig Walker, Sidney Evering, Alice Johnson, Ed Darnell, Bill Johnson, Janeth Walker, Timmie Taylor, Gina Smith, Paul Eubanks, Will Johnson, Irene Jowers, J.J. Jowers, Jr., Enid Bishop and Donald Parler.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Guess at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Clint Carter.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the minutes from the May 4, 2015 meeting as submitted.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved the agenda after adding an item to add additional members to the Keep Bamberg County Beautiful Board. Chairman Guess said that they would go ahead and entertain the appointment of those persons at this time. On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard, the following persons were added to the KBCB Board: Kayla Carter, Janice Utz, Jerry Bell, Lynn Wallace and Demmie Raysor.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Comer, Bamberg County Council passed a resolution recognizing Enid Bishop for her many years of service as a volunteer with the Cheez & Cracker Box Emergency Food and Clothing Bank of Bamberg County. Ms. Bishop, now 95, gave more than 30 years in volunteer service to the community while working at the Cheez & Cracker Box. She was very proud and grateful to have been presented the framed resolution and stated that she just would like to thank everybody in Bamberg County for their support over the years.

Accepted as information was a power point presentation regarding the Regional Medical Center's affiliation with MUSC Health in Charleston, SC. Mr. Tom Dandridge, president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg enlighten everyone of services that were available and offered between the two medical centers. Handouts regarding the services were available to the public. Doctors can communicate with patients by telecast and not actually being

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in the patient's room. Several questions were asked and concerns were raised during the presentation. Council thanked Mr. Dandridge for his presentation.

Council reviewed the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Recreation Grant Awards as submitted by the Bamberg County Recreation Committee. The Bamberg County Recreation Committee had a total of \$13,500 to work with and they recommended that each group (18 groups) be awarded \$750 each. Councilman Kinard voiced his opinion of the way funds were being recommended for distribution by the committee, to the 18 applicants. It was stated that a fairer way to distribute the funds among the children involved was if each child being served in the program be awarded \$11.77 each. Some groups had more participants than others being served (numbers ranging from 18 to 120). After the council reviewed and considered the information, on motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Reverend Odom, council agreed to provide \$11.77 (\$13,500 divided equally by 1,147 children) for each participating child. Councilman Kinard said he thought the distribution was fair because he said for years Denmark has been neglected and it has been going on before he came on council.

Accepted as information was a report from Kell Anderson, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance project manager, that Brunson Builders had been selected to construct a speculative building at CrossRhodes Industrial Park, with the project to be completed by early 2016. Other project are being worked on and additional information will be given in the future.

Jerry Bell, Executive Director of the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce, reported on upcoming events, including the Arts Council's event (Art On The Berm). About 1,500 participated in the Hometown Teams exhibit. Also, a river trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2015. Flyers of the upcoming events were available for all those that were present.

Bamberg County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported that Bamberg County had a balance of \$727,895.79 as of March 31, 2015.

Finance Director Thomas reported the county's revenues collected through March were \$6,066,898, exceeding anticipated budgeted revenues by \$61,193. The revenue collections in March put the county at 99 percent of expected revenues for the entire fiscal year. Special revenue funds for E911/Emergency Management, road maintenance and the Rural Fire Service are also on track for the year. There is an anticipated expense overage with the solid waste contract due to increased tonnage coming into the landfill.

Administrator Preston informed the Council that he would be distributing the budget calendar to them. Stated work has started at the airport and the airport manager is at the airport. The County has \$300,000 to use at the Airport for upgrades and if it's not used soon we will lose it. We are currently working on leases for the hangars at the airport. Tax Assessor Doretta Elliott has led an effort with assessors across the state to develop a county tax assessor procedure manual. Six cameras are up and running and this is being implemented by the Bamberg County Litter Control Officer KBCB Coordinator Mallory Biering gave council an update on the activities for the department. Ms. Biering reported for Bamberg County Fire Coordinator Brenna Hancock that the

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Hunters Chapel Fire Department was awarded a \$7,620 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant for the purchase of 16 sets of wildfire turnout gear.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Meeting was held at the Orangeburg Country Club. They have 7 applicants in line for Connie Shade's replacement.
- 2) LSCOG (TAC) -Project in Denmark is moving forward. SCDOT starting to pave more streets - HWY. 78 between Bamberg & Midway and streets in Ehrhardt to be paved.
- 4) LSCOG Housing Consortium -\$670,000 being requested. They have a waiver on the Matching money (4 projects in Denmark and 2 in Bamberg).

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved a proposed resolution to provide authorization for the execution and delivery of a lease purchase agreement totaling \$425,702.10 and other documents necessary to effect a lease purchase financing; and other related matters. South State Bank will be handling the lease-purchase for Bamberg County to acquire seven 2015 Ford police cars, one 2015 Ford transport van for the jail, three 2015 F-150 4x4's, one 2015 Ford F-250 service truck, one 2015 Ford Taurus for county employee use. The lease-purchase agreement is for a five-year term at an interest rate of 2.8 percent. Administrator Preston said the vehicles taken out of service will be sold at auction and he will be bringing a lease-purchase plan to replace heavy equipment to the council next year.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved the calendar as submitted. Councilwoman Robinson did not vote because she thought that the July meeting should be cancelled because of the number of meetings that will be held in June (and if there was a need to meet, then the council would do so).

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved the appointment of Ms. Janeth Walker to the Bamberg County Recreation Committee as a representative from Council District #2. Councilman Kinard opposed the appointment. He stated in his comments that Ms. Walker is a fine individual and he has nothing against her personally, and it is appreciated what she does for the community as a whole, but he is concerned with her being appointed to the Recreation Committee when her husband runs the basketball team and she gets direct benefits from the money allocated from the Recreation Committee to her spouse. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Guess said Ms. Walker is a fine individual and in his opinion he would leave it to Ms. Walker's discretion whether or not she serves on the committee.

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On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council approved the appointment of Ms. Nina Haynes to the Bamberg County Recreation Committee as a representative from Council District #3.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved the appointment of Mr. Dwayne Johnson to the Bamberg County Recreation Committee as a representative from Council District #6.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, council approved the appointment of Mr. Bill Edinger to the Bamberg County Tourism and Recreation Committee as a representative from the Ehrhardt area.

There were no comments from the public.

At this time, Chairman Guess called for comments from the council and news media.

Robinson: Impressed with the direction in which the county is going, and she believes in documentation.

Haynes: Thanked Administrator Preston, Finance Director Thomas, Treasurer Johnson and the employees.

Carter: Thanked the employees for their hard work.

Kinard: Thanked the employees.

Comer: Thanked everyone.

Odom: Reminded everyone to recognized the chairman before speaking.

Guess: Thanked the employees.

There being no further discussion of business, on motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, council agreed that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC