

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- June 13, 2016

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 13, 2016, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Joe Guess, Jr., Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Councilman Evert Comer, Jr. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Jerry Halmon, Gina Smith, Detra Salley, Ed Darnell, Danny Black, Ruthie Brown, Darryle Booker, Deloris Stanley and Jerry Bell.

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

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the minutes from the May 9, 2016 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the agenda after moving the public hearing for the FY 2016-2017 Budget to J-4 under the ordinance segment of the agenda.

Southern Carolina Alliance Executive Director Danny Black updated the council on the county's inclusion in the Promise Zone of high-poverty communities, through which the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity. Mr. Black informed all that Mr. Dean Van Pelt has been hired as the new coordinator for the Promise Zone. Mr. Pelt is an executive at the Savannah River Site and has 28 years of management and engineering support experience as a contractor. Mr. Black reported that a website has been created at www.scpromisezone.org where anyone can access information on submitting grants for approval under the federal Promise Zone designation. It is also being investigated how can we get emergency service in this region. A total of \$9.7 million in private capital investment from new companies and 165 new jobs were announced in the SCA region between May 1, 2016 and June 13, 2016. Council thanked Mr. Black for the in-depth update.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber Director, reported on the upcoming community events. Flyers listing the upcoming events were available and distributed to the public. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to attend and participate with the events.

Treasurer Alice Johnson was not present at the meeting due to a recent illness. Information will be mailed to the council at a later date.

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Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$6,084,478 as of the end of April. Expenditures stood at \$5,667,474, resulting in a positive balance of \$417,004. Mr. Thomas further reported that all departments are operating within budget.

Administrator Preston informed council that the furniture for the new courthouse annex will be delivered next week. While working on the new parking lot, the workers hit water and that means we will have to wait for it to dry out and we have been hauling in new dirt to replace the bad dirt. Other items will be discussed during the budget portion of the agenda.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Last meeting was held in Denmark at Denmark-Technical College.
 - 2) LSCOG (TAC) (Kinard) -Have not met since January. A called meeting was held regarding the Bike Path. C-Fund Committee will meet to discuss Crouch Circle and Sunnybrook Lane. Spoke with the contractor and he will take one day to review those areas.
 - 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium - Met in St. Matthews on June 2. There are 5 units determined to have lead in them. There are 2 projects in Denmark at a standstill. When lead is found within a project, it kills the project.
 - 4) SCA -The board met on Thursday June 9.
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On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved second reading, in title only, an ordinance approving an amendment to the existing agreement for development of a joint county industrial and business park by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina, Barnwell County, South Carolina and Allendale County, South Carolina (the "Park Agreement") to extend the term of park agreement with respect to certain property presently owned and/or operated by Swiss Krono SC, LLC or one or more of its affiliates or related companies; and authorizing other related matters.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved second reading, in title only, an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County Budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Bamberg County for such county ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Bamberg County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Bamberg County and Bamberg County budgetary matters. Voting in favor of the budget: Odom, Guess, Kinard and Haynes. Voting not in favor: Carter. Councilman Comer was absent. Councilman Carter did not vote in favor of the budget stating the fact that he could not vote on anything because he had not seen any numbers.

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Administrator Preston said the increases within the budget came in the area of just debt service, paying for our bonds and our capital equipment, but there is nothing in the general operating fund. There is a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for employees. The budget includes \$2,500 to digitize micro-film records in the probate judge's office that's being done by the Department of Archives and History. \$25,000 is included in the budget to begin updating the Bamberg County Detention Center to continue to meet the standards. Also, something is being pursued as to work on something for the MAMAS (Mary Ann Morris Animal Shelter) so they can obtain a vehicle to transport their animals. The county is currently applying for grants to improve airport operations. With the capital reserve fund, the county is following a plan to replace its aging fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment. We will be applying for a USDA grant/loan to purchase a coroner's van and another grant to purchase fire trucks. No public comments were made.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved first reading, in title only, an ordinance to re-establish and redefine the Bamberg County Airport Advisory Committee. This ordinance will restate the purposes and duties and authority of that committee and revoke and repeal all Bamberg County Ordinances and Code provision contrary to or in conflict with this ordinance.

At this time, Chairman Odom called for comments from the council members. Everyone thanked Administrator Preston and the staff for their hard work.

There being no further business for discussion in public session, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Carter, council voted to enter in executive session at 7:35 p.m., to discuss a contractual matter regarding the Bamberg County Detention Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC