

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*, Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website, Bamberg County Courthouse Annex and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the County Courthouse.

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., April 8, 2019 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Clint Carter, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., and Larry Haynes. **Absent:** Reverend Isaiah Odom. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, William Molnar, Kim Compton, Brad Hudson, Kay Clary Leah Taylor, Alton Taylor, Farrell Pulaski, Ruthie Brown, Wallace Hicks, Donald Kirby, Gail Ellis, Jerry Bell, Cheryl Hoffman, Paul Owen, Jeanette Driggers, Dean Fralix, Anthony Harley, James Walker, Pansy Clayton, Danny Singleton, Carrie McMillan, Clarence McMillan, John Gerkin, Gerald Maynard, Dave Clayton, Sue Clayton, Florence Moulder, Claude Maynard, Lynn E. Maynard, Buzzy Bunch, Lorrie Lott, John L. Gleaton, Jim Strickland, Toni Metts, Jan Seymour, Rhonda Brummel, Cindy Ayer, Melissa Quattlebaum, Peggy Gleaton, Carol Ann Bunch, Blanche Benjamin, Frank ?, Larry Brummel, Susan Carter, M. Ayer, Raymond DeRienzo, Jr., Beverly Searson, JoAnn Whetstone, Bert O'Rear, Betty Singleton, ? Hutto, Ken Ahlin, Joyce Beard and approximately 50 additional people.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard at 6:30 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Larry Haynes, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the minutes from the March 4, 2019 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess and Councilwoman Hammond, the agenda was approved as submitted. Councilman Carter offered another motion to allow the Bamberg County Concerned Citizen's group (and their attorney), be added to the agenda. The motion failed because of lack for a second. Councilman Carter opposed the approval of the agenda.

Executive Director of Lower Savannah Council of Governments Dr. William Molnar, gave a power point presentation of the activities provided to Bamberg County by the COG. Home delivered meals were provided to home-bound seniors in Bamberg County and more than 18,763 meals were delivered to 92 seniors at specified meal sites. Dr. Molnar stated that Lower Savannah has been awarded grants totaling approximately \$34,000 through the LSCOG's Family Caregiver Support program and disbursed \$23,976 in grant funds for respite services through its Family Caregiver Respite Grant Program. Masonite, a door maker manufacturing plant in Denmark, will be closing on July 31. Approximately 95 employees will be dislocated due to this closure. Last year in LSCOG's Summer Jumpstart Program, six rising seniors participated in the program. The program focuses on rising high school seniors with little or no work experience, gives them a job over the summer. Forty-five students from Denmark-Olar High School are slated to participate in a Youth Summit at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Lower Savannah is in the process of doing a comprehensive plan in zoning for Bamberg County. A \$3 million program is in line to

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widen U.S. Highway 78 between Bamberg and Denmark, constructing four-to six-foot pavement shoulders on the strip to better promote safety. Recently, Dr. Molnar along with others, visited Washington, D.C. and solicited funding for a pedestrian safety and streetscape improvement project scheduled for the campuses of Voorhees and Denmark Technical colleges. The council thanked Dr. Molnar for his hard work and in-depth presentation.

Mr. Darrell Booker, SCRDA Senior Project Manager was absent because of a previous commitment to meet with a Bamberg prospect. Plans are to attend the May meeting.

Bamberg County Chamber President Jerry Bell gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Flyers listing additional events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. A cleanup at Claude Landing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Friday, May 3 and other events are as listed on the flyer that was distributed. Mr. Bell's update was appreciated as presented.

Treasurer Alice Johnson reported for the month of February the county had income total of \$409,234 with expenses of \$857,200 and a negative balance of \$447,966.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had \$5,934,723 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of February. Expenditures stood at \$4,787, 984 leaving a balance of \$1,146,739. All departments are continuing to operate within their budgets.

Controller Smith gave an impressive power point presentation on Bamberg County Financial Briefing of where we were and where we are now. The setting was when we were knee deep in Alligators. Dealing with our challenges (Audit, etc.) we have resolved many of our lingering issues, but we still have work to do. Ms. Smith ended her presentation by asking the question, "So where are we going?" We will continue to improve the County's financial standing. In Fiscal Year '20 Budget, we will focus on cash flow and continue to maintain County facilities and equipment.

Administrator Preston informed council that the C-Fund met on March 19 and approved Riley Road to be graveled. It has been requested of the State that Dally Road be self- administered and that road will probably be completed within the next 5 to 6 months. High speed internet is being pursue for the Hunters Chapel area. According to SCAC regarding the possibility of lowering the insurance premium for the employees insurance the state Senate withdrew the proviso. Approved in the Capital Project Sales Tax, we will begin taking proposals for removing hazardous materials at the old hospital. A solid waste committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m. Also, the codified county ordinances are close to completion and soon to be online. Chairman Kinard along with others have been working alongside Denmark Tech. The state Senate removed a proviso concerning Denmark Tech from its version of the state budget. The House proviso would have shut down Denmark Tech and reopened it as an area trade school. The House and Senate have to work out the differences in their budgets. Administrator Preston met with DNR regarding Bob Cat Landing. DOT will be replacing the bridge (U.S. Highway 301) headed toward Orangeburg. We are hoping to close in the next sixty days on the Rivers Bridge Fire Substation. Controller Smith will be instructing 2 sessions of a Financial Planning Class for the employees on May 23. The Council accepted Administrator Preston's report as information.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -Reported the opening of the Emergency Center in Denmark.
- 2) LSCOG -LSCOG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 4/11/19.

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- 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) -Dr. Molnar gave an update in his report during presentations.
 - 4) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Resolution was prepared to declare Fair Housing Month in Bamberg County.
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On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution designating April as Fair Housing Month in Bamberg County.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved a resolution recognizing April as "Workplace Violence Awareness Month in Bamberg County.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the calendar of events was approved after adding a Solid Waste meeting for Tuesday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

At this time, Chairman Kinard opened the floor for public comments. There were forty people that signed in at the beginning of the meeting to make public comments. They were: John Gerkin, Gerald Maynard, Dave Clayton, Sue Clayton Florence Moulder, Claude Maynard, Lynn E. Maynard, Buzzy Bunch, Lorrie Lott, John L. Gleaton, Paul Owen, Jim Strickland, Toni Metts, Jan Seymour, Dean Fralix, Rhonda Brummel, Cindy Ayer, Jeanette Driggers, Melissa Quattlebaum, Peggy Gleaton, Carol Ann Bunch, Blanche Benjamin, Frank ?, Larry Brummel, Gail Ellis, Susan Carter, M. Ayer, Raymond DeRienzo, Jr., Beverly Searson, JoAnn Whetstone, Brad Hudson, Carrie McMillan, Kim Compton, Bert O'Rear, Betty Singleton, ?. Hutto, Ken Ahlin, Leah Taylor, Alton Taylor and Joyce Beard. As names were called for public comments, the majority of the people commented that they wanted to forfeit their allotted time to Attorney Paul W. Owen, Jr. Attorney Owen represents a group of Concerned Citizens of Bamberg County. The Council was questioned why was the request to be placed on the agenda for April 8, 2019 denied? Attorney Paul W. Owen, Jr. addressed the Council and made several comments regarding the rights of citizens to be placed on the agenda and heard by Council. Attorney Owen and Bamberg County Attorney Richard Ness will get together to discuss some of the issues involving the Concerned Citizens of Bamberg County. Public comments on various subjects were heard by the Council from 8:13 p.m. until the last concern ended at 9:50 p.m.

Chairman Kinard called for comments from the Council. Council thanked the public for coming and invited them at all meetings.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council agreed to enter in executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council enter in open session to inform the public that no actions were taken and to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council