

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*, SouthernCarolina 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.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., May 6, 2019 in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Kerry Trent Kinard, Reverend Isaiah Odom. Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Clint Carter, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Ruthie Brown, Betty Singleton, Susan Carter, Dave Clayton, Hope Weldon, Barbara Beard, Pansy Clayton, Deanna Berry, Dean Fralix, Kay Clary, Ben Hay, Carol Durgan, Paul Owen, Sidney Evering, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Curtis Tyler, Bill Johnson, Mary Tilton, Kay Maxwell, Detra Bruce, Brad Hudson, and approximately 40 additional people.

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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 Clint Carter, Reverend Isaiah Odom, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the May 6, 2019 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council agreed to move the public comments to the beginning of the meeting rather than near the end.

At this time, Chairman Kinard opened the floor for public comments. Five citizens signed in at the beginning of the meeting to make public comments. They were: Susan Carter, Ken Ahlin, Dave Clayton, Dean Fralix and Deanna Miller-Berry. These citizens had various concerns about issues within Bamberg County. Some comments were: citizens not being able to afford to pay their taxes; requesting the posting of the budget online; wanting to know the county's total indebtedness and reporting the meeting with Congressman Jim Clyburn and Senator Brad Hutto regarding a water concern with the city of Denmark. Ms. Berry informed that the water tank that is owned by Bamberg County and located between Denmark and Bamberg, it was discussed among Congressman Clyburn, Senator Hutto and herself, that the water tank needs to be owned by Denmark in order to pursue grants toward the improvement to its water system. The Council is aware that upgrades will have to be made to the tank. Additional information will possibly come together in the next 30 to 45 days. During public comments, each citizen had three minutes to express their concern.

Bamberg County Administrator Preston alongside Mary Tilton, Human Resource Committee Secretary, presented the Employee of the Quarter Award to William "Bill" Johnson, Bamberg County Director of Operations. Mr. Johnson was presented with a plaque and a gift card.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the recommendation of Bamberg County Recreation Committee Chairman Curtis Tyler, Jr, recreation grants each totaling \$482.75 were allocated to 29 programs. The following programs were allocated funds: *Bamberg Pony League (ages 13-14)*; *Bamberg County 4-H (ages 9-14)*; *Bamberg Youth Baseball (ages 6 & under)*; *Bamberg Youth Baseball (ages 7 & 8)*; *Bamberg Youth Softball (ages 7 & 8 girls)*; *Bamberg*

*Youth Baseball (ages 9 & 10); Bamberg Youth Base/Softball (ages 11 & 12); Bamberg Youth Baseball (11 & 12 boys); Bamberg Youth Baseball (ages 13 & 14); Bamberg Youth Softball (ages 9 & 10 girls); Bamberg City Football (ages 7 & 8 girls); Bamberg City Football (ages 9 & 10); Bamberg City Football (ages 11 & 12); Denmark Royal Tigers Basketball (ages 6-8); Denmark Royal Tigers Basketball (ages 9-10); Denmark Royal Tigers Football (ages 11-12); Denmark Royal Tigers Cheerleaders; Bamberg Youth Basketball (ages 9-10); Bamberg Youth Basketball (ages 11-13); Bamberg Youth Basketball (ages 6-8); Bamberg Youth Basketball (9-13 girls); Bamberg Youth Basketball (ages 11-13 boys); Bamberg County First Steps; Denmark Youth Soccer; Denmark Cares; Zumba & Fitness Circuits – Lisa B. Stokes.* Grand total distributed for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 was \$13,999.75. Thirty-one programs applied for funding during this round of grants.

Accepted as information was a quarterly report on economic development from Kay Maxwell, vice president of marketing at SouthernCarolina Alliance. By way of promoting the CrossRhodes spec building, a video was created and is being sent to SCA site consultants for additional promotion of the building. Ms. Maxwell stated that \$40 billion food processing company has looked at and considering the possibility of locating at a Bamberg site. Bamberg County citizens were reminded that we've got a lot at stake for the future of our county and in order to attract businesses, we all must be on our best behavior in public places. Darrell Booker, SCRDA senior project manager was on a business trip in Canada and is expected to be in attendance at the Bamberg County Council's July meeting.

Bamberg County Chamber President Carol Durgan gave an update on upcoming events within the county. Flyers listing additional events in the community were distributed to the citizens present and they were urged to attend. Ms. Durgan's update was appreciated as presented.

County Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income in April was \$1,815,183, with expenditures of \$751,166, for a positive balance of \$1,064,017.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the general fund had \$7,085,304 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of April. Expenditures stood at \$5,853,041, leaving a positive balance of \$1,232,263. All departments are continuing to operate within their budgets.

Administrator Joey Preston updated council on the USDA Rural Development's Community Connect Grant Program. The county is partnering with Orangeburg Broadband to build the system. This program is to expand broadband access to underserved rural areas. A commitment of approximately a half million dollars has been made to Bamberg County from the state for the match share of the first round. Bamberg County is moving forward with the work at the old Bamberg County hospital that is going to be converted into a law enforcement center and an emergency operations center. Mr. Preston also informed that state lawmakers agreed to keep Denmark Technical College open for at least one additional year. A defensive driving course was offered for the county employees of which 35 took advantage and completed the course. The C-Fund Committee is scheduled to meet in June and Lower Savannah COG will be hosted in Bamberg County on Thursday, June 13. The SC Association of Counties will hold its Conference in Hilton Head beginning August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A historical marker will be placed in front of the old courthouse in the very near future. Council accepted this report as information.

#### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL**

- 1) SCA (Haynes, Comer & Odom) -Next meeting is scheduled to be held in Allendale.
- 2) LSCOG -2040 Long Range Meeting was held in Orangeburg. A Board Meeting will be held in Bamberg – June 13, at 6:00 p.m.
- 3) Lower Savannah COG (TAC) -Meeting schedule for July 16, 2019.
- 4) LSCOG Housing Consortium -Meeting to be rescheduled.

June 3, 2019....continued

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Reverend Odom and Councilwoman Hammond, council approved first reading in title only, to a proposed ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement by and between Bamberg County, South Carolina and a company known to the county as "Project Pegasus" and one or more existing or to-be-formed or acquired subsidiaries, or affiliated or related entities, to provide for certain special source revenue credits for the benefit of a project that Project Pegasus may pursue in the county; (2) the inclusion of said project in a multi-county business or industrial park; (3) the execution and delivery of a lease agreement by and between Bamberg County and Project Pegasus whereby Bamberg County agrees to lease certain real property to Project Pegasus with an option to purchase the property; and (4) and other related matters. The project could bring 132 jobs to Bamberg County, and \$2.1 million in capital investment. This company is a manufacturer and distributor of home fashions and accessories and sports collectables.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council gave first reading, in title only, to a proposed ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 and to make appropriations for such Bamberg County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the county may levy a tax; to provide for the 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. No tax increase planned for the FY 2019-2020 budget. Controller Smith said they are still in the process of making cuts to the budget requests. Voting in favor of the budget: Councilmen Odom, Guess, Comer, Haynes and Kinard. Voting against the budget: Councilman Carter and Councilwoman Hammond – reason being they had not seen the numbers prior first reading of the budget.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Reverend Odom, the calendar of events was approved as submitted.

On motion by Reverend Odom, seconded by Councilman Comer, the appointment of Ms. Nancy Foster to serve as a private sector representative to the Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board was approved.

Chairman Kinard called for comments from the Council. Council thanked the public for coming and invited them at all meetings. Administrator Preston and all employees were thanked for their service. Councilwoman Hammond wished all the fathers that were present a happy Father's Day.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Reverend Odom, council agreed to enter in executive session to discuss a legal 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