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MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- June 5, 2017

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., June 5, 2017, in the chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Joe Guess, Jr., Larry Haynes and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Mary Tilton, Dwayne Johnson, Jerry Bell and Sarah Noel.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., at 6:30 p.m., in the Chamber of the Bamberg County Courthouse Annex. It was requested prior the invocation that the family of fireman Robert Ayer, be remember in prayer after his passing away Sunday, June 4, 2017. Invocation was rendered by Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Joe Guess, Jr.

On motion by Rev. Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the minutes from the May 1, 2017 meeting with future corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond and Rev. Odom, council approved the agenda as submitted.

Mr. Dwayne Johnson, Bamberg County Recreation Committee member, presented the following 25 programs as submitted for approval by the committee for reimbursement: ***Town of Ehrhardt*** - \$638; ***Bamberg County First Steps*** - \$191.40; ***Denmark Youth Soccer*** - \$1,480.16; ***Bamberg Youth Baseball (13-14)*** - \$319.00; ***Bamberg Youth Softball (7-9)*** - \$765.60; ***Bamberg Youth Baseball/Softball Girls (10-12)*** - \$574.20; ***Bamberg Youth Baseball Girls & Boys (6 & Under)*** - \$957.00; ***Bamberg Youth Baseball (9-10)*** - \$574.20; ***Bamberg Youth Baseball (7-8)*** - \$765.60; ***Bamberg County Baseball (11-12)*** - \$459.36; ***Bamberg City Football (11-12)*** - \$319.00; ***Bamberg City Football (10 & Under)*** - \$1,276.00; ***Bamberg Cheering (11-12)*** - \$957.00; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Football (11-12)*** - \$382.80; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Basketball (16-18)*** - \$216.92; ***Denmark Tigers Football (9-10)*** - \$510.40; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Basketball (9-10)*** - \$319.00; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Football (6-8)*** - \$408.32; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Basketball (6-8)*** - \$319.00; ***Denmark Royal Tigers Cheerleaders(5-18)*** - \$306.24; ***Bamberg Youth Basketball Girls (6-12)*** - \$370.04; ***Bamberg Youth Basketball Boys (9-10)*** - \$459.36; ***Bamberg***

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Youth Basketball Co-Ed (6-8) - \$765.60; **Bamberg Youth Basketball Girls (11-13)** - \$319.00; and **Bamberg Youth Basketball Boys (11-13)** - \$344.52. On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council agreed to the recommendation for approval of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Bamberg County Recreation Grant Funds, for distribution of the allotted \$14,000 among the 1,097 program participants, averaging \$12.76 per participant (totaling \$13,997.72). Twenty-six applications were submitted to the Bamberg County Recreation Committee, one of which did not meet the qualifications (YEXCel), because they had not yet started their program, but they were encouraged to reapply next year.

SouthernCarolina Alliance Senior Project Manager Darrell Booker reported on projects the group is working to bring to the region. Included in the region are Bamberg, Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. A request has been submitted for information on Project Animate, a plastics manufacturer which would bring in 90 new jobs and a \$29 million capital investment. Project Heat is an industrial prospect that is looking at Bamberg County. They are slated to visit in July and there is a possibility of providing 25 new jobs. Even though they are looking at various counties in South Carolina, SCA has submitted only Bamberg County to them for this project in our region. Project Solar, a solar farm, is looking at property located at the Bamberg County Airport. Project Rainbow, they manufacture inks and dyes for digital printing and it is anticipated they will bring an \$8 million capital investment along with 45 jobs. They have visited many properties in our region and they are still in the process of looking for a possible site. Project Shrew is an aviation project and they are also looking at property at the airport. They want to be a full service aviation department. Project White Oak is a new project where SCA recently submitted a RFI and additional information will be reported on that project because it is still in the infant stage. Councilman Kinard said he is glad to see Jasper County come on board with our region, but it is no benefit to Bamberg County. SCA needs to go back to Jasper County and negotiate a better proposal/idea. Councilman Carter said with project Animate, if the opportunity presents itself, Allendale had the opportunity to pay \$100,000....then Bamberg County should be given the same opportunity (he will run this idea by Danny Black). The Council accepted this report as information.

Jerry Bell, Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director gave an update on upcoming events within the county. June is the month to nominate Citizen of the Year and the banquet is scheduled for the first Thursday in November. Nominations can be mailed to Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce, 604 Airport Road, Bamberg, SC 29003. Flyers listing events in the community were distributed to the citizens present. Mr. Bell encouraged everyone to support the events. The update was accepted as information.

Treasurer Alice Johnson was absent due to recently having surgery. Ms. Johnson is expected to be out approximately three additional weeks. Ms. Candace Fralix has been appointed deputy treasurer until Treasurer Johnson return.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$6,032,186 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of April. Expenditures stood at \$5,457,742, leaving a positive

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balance of \$574,444. Overall all departments are operating within budget and within expected bounds.

Controller Gina Smith told the council that what was being done is she is showing them some of the challenges and even some opportunities in the FY 2017-2018 budget that we see on the forefront for the upcoming year. We don't have numbers in the proposal presented, we want you to get an idea of what we will be facing. County initiatives include the continued adherence to its long-term capital replacement plan, covering increasing health insurance and retirement contributions costs and addressing deferred maintenance needs. There has been an increasing shortfall of almost \$2 million in local government funding since 2008 and this will also effect the budget.

County Administrator Preston announced that Bamberg County has been awarded over \$330,400 in DHEC grant money with no matching funds. A press release will be sent to the newspapers for publication. Bamberg County was awarded four environmental grants from the Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling department. Administrator Preston said we are fortunate to be awarded new grant funding from DHEC for our solid waste operations, for our litter operations, our recycling operations, which is about one-third of our entire solid waste budget. A \$16,150 used oil grant will be used to improve equipment and purchase supplies at various county work sites. New facilities will be added at conveniences sites which will aid farmers needing to dispose of different types of oil used in their equipment. A \$254,250 waste tire grant will be used to purchase a roll-off truck and roll-off containers for each county convenience center to assist with the collection and recycling of waste tires from residents and retailers. A \$10,000 solid waste recycling grant will be used to purchase mesh containers with attached trailer and cover to be placed at schools, convenience sites and business to collect aluminum, plastic and cardboard recyclables. A \$50,000 solid waste grant will be used to open a Business Recycling Center within Denmark city limits. The center will assist smaller businesses with the recycling needs by offering exclusive access to the site, which will accept paper, ink toner, used cooking oil, plastics, cardboard, aluminum, white goods and more. Administrator Preston said a letter has been written to LSCOG regarding the Water Tank between Bamberg and Denmark. We are trying to obtain 3 \$50,000 grants for fire trucks. We received a \$14,644 Mosquito Grant for the purchase of equipment and chemical. Senator Brad Hutto has made it possible that we receive \$85,000 toward Bobcat Landing. Administrator Preston introduced Mary Tilton of Denmark as the county's new Keep Bamberg County Beautiful coordinator. Ms. Tilton said she is excited to be a part of Bamberg County. Administrator Preston announced that Bill Johnson, Bamberg County Director of Operations has received his Class 3 Certification.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) SCA -Attended SCA Regional Banquet in Allendale. Gov. Henry McMaster was present.
- 2) LSCOG -Meeting was held this past Thursday.
- 3) LSCOG (TAC) (KINARD) -Councilman Kinard and other county officials plan to meet with Dr. Molnar of LSCOG about funding for road improvements at Calhoun Street and U.S. 78 in

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front of the Heritage Center Plaza in Bamberg. He said Burger King will be locating in the plaza, and improvement of the intersection will be even more important.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council gave first reading in title only, to an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, 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.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council agreed to schedule second reading of the budget for Monday, June 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council agreed to amend the agreement for a joint county industrial park among Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties so as to enlarge the boundaries of the park; and other matters related thereto. This resolution is for an 18 acre Solar Farm. Bamberg County will be slated to receive the normal 10% portion.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved the calendar of events after adding the June 12th special called council meeting for second reading of the Fiscal Year 17-18 budget.

At this time, Chairman Comer called for public comments. No public nor media comments were made.

The council thanked the administrator and employees for their hard work and thanked the public for attending the meeting and encouraged them to keep coming. Council thanked Mary Tilton and welcomed her to Bamberg County.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Odom, the meeting was adjourned with no executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC