

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

November 4, 2024

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, agendas for the following meeting were delivered to all members of Council, County Attorney Richard Ness, Lower Savannah COG, The Bamberg Leader, The Times and Democrat, Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, Bamberg County Library, Bamberg County Website and Bamberg County Courthouse Annex.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:00 p.m., November 4, 2024 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside live streaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Clint Carter, Larry Haynes, Phil Myers, Spencer Donaldson and Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Alice Johnson, Chip Maier, Alisha Moore, Ken Ahlin, Dr. William Molnar, Josh Urwick, Moses Cheatham, David Burt and two additional visitors.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Larry Haynes, followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Spencer Donaldson.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the minutes from the October 7, 2024 meeting were approved with necessary corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the agenda as presented.

S.C. Oak to Barrell LLC, Chief Operating Officer David Burt from Birmingham, Alabama, informed County Council that the company plans to rebuild the facility that was destroyed by a tornado earlier this year. Appreciation was given for the county's support while the company experienced the destruction of the company. Plans are to double the size of the facility by hiring up to 60 employees. After experiencing difficulty with insurance dilemmas, Mr. Burt said they have resolved the problems and can now move on with interviews with contractors and the receipt of estimates for the cost of rebuilding. The company is preparing for opening around the middle of 2025. The question was asked if the company expect to rehire its former employees. Those employees that previously worked for the company will be offered employment if they are still interested. Council thanked Mr. Burt for coming to update everyone on the plans of the company.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**Southern Carolina Development Alliance - Monthly Report**

Project Director Joshua Urwick reported that SCA had two site visits with one being in Denmark and the other at CrossRoads. Rockland has been putting money into the building and it is looking great. Presently, they are meeting every Friday morning at 10 a.m. with Mr. Urwick for updates. Council thanked Mr. Urwick for his report.

November 4, 2024....continue

Bamberg County Treasurer – Monthly Report

County Treasurer Alice Johnson gave the July financial report, stating they in August, 2024 the county had \$841,491.30 in income and expenditures of \$1,118,934.36, leaving a negative balance of - \$277,443.06. When the 86,480.74 bank balance at the end of July, 2024 was added, the county's regular account stood at a negative \$363,923.80. This report was accepted as information.

Bamberg County Finance – Monthly Report

Due to some unavailable financial information, the report from Finance Director T.M. Thomas and Controller Gina Smith, will be made at the December 2024 meeting.

Bamberg County Administrator – Monthly Report

Administrator Preston reported on the following: 1) Reimbursement check from the Adjutant General's office for \$1 million has been approved for Bamberg County (special thanks to Senator Brad Hutto and Representative Justin Bamberg); 2) Planning on getting Senator Hutto and Representative Bamberg together to put in for earmark money; 3) Meeting on Courthouse Roof – Thursday, November 7; 4) Received \$400,000 from USDA grant for purchase of heavy equipment (will be able to purchase a dump truck and storage building to store county equipment), along with assistance received from Congressman James Clyburn; 5) Water Tower Groundbreaking will be held on Friday, November 8th at 10 a.m. and Department of Commerce will be in attendance; 6) Need to pass a resolution to get the water going in tank; 7) \$54,000 grant was received for the purchase of body cameras for the Sheriff's department; 8) Displaying of the Little Swamp Community Center's diagram; 9) EMS Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at 4 p.m.; 10) C-Fund Committee meeting will be held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 6th at 6 p.m.; 11) December 5-11 at the Bamberg County Library, FEMA will be there to assist residents from 8 a.m. until closing and 12) The Bamberg County Delinquent Tax Sale was held earlier today. Council thanked Administrator Preston for the county's update.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilwoman Hammond, council approved a resolution authorizing an amendment to the amended and restated master agreement for the establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park I, Park II and Park III to include additional property in the Park.

On motion by Councilwoman Hammond, seconded by Councilman Myers, council approved the calendar of events after adding two additional items to the calendar.

Chairman Comer called for public comments. Public comments came from Bamberg resident Ken Ahlin.

November 4, 2024....continue

At this time, Chairman Comer asked for comments from council. Various comments were made as to saying Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Veterans Day, remember to vote and the public received thanks for being in attendance and all employees were thanked for their hard work.

There being no further business for discussion Chairman Comer asked Councilman Carter for a closing prayer, afterwards on motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC