

BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – June 24, 2024

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 Bamberg Leader*, *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.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., June 24, 2024 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside livestreaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairman Evert Comer, Jr., Councilwoman Sharon Hammond, Councilmen Spencer Donaldson, Phil Myers, Clin Carter, Larry Haynes and Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Gina Smith, Chip Maier, Kenneth Bamberg, Moses Cheatham, Alisha Moore and *Bamberg County Leader* representative.

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

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Chairman Comer called for public comments on an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, 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, including, without limitation, certain capital expenditures and related lease-purchase financings and general obligation bonds of the county. No public comments were made.

Administrator Preston read a letter that was submitted by email from Ken Ahlin, a Bamberg resident, with various concerns that he wants addressed to him in writing and answers to questions that he feels should be addressed to the public. The claims made by Mr. Ahlin will be addressed.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, council gave third and final reading to an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, 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, including, without limitation, certain capital expenditures and related lease-purchase financings and general obligation bonds of the county. Councilwoman Hammond stated that she could not vote on a budget that she did not have numbers on and she previously requested information for departmental budgeting breakdowns alongside wanting to see employee salary and benefit totals. Voting in favor of the budget: Councilmen

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Comer, Donaldson, Haynes and Dr. Goodman. Voting not in favor: Councilwoman Hammond and Councilmen Myers and Carter.

Chairman Comer called for council comments. The council gave thanks to the staff for their hard work.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council