

## MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - August 18, 2014

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

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Bamberg County Council met 5:00 p.m., August 18, 2014, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Larry Haynes, Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Joe Guess, Jr., Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Clint Carter, and Rev. Isaiah Odom. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Jerry Halmon, Jerry Bell and Lisa Peay.

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In the absence of Chairman Larry Haynes, the Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Joe Guess at 5:00 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. The invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilperson Alzena Robinson.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the agenda after adding Item E-3 (Tourism).

At this time, the meeting was turned over to Chairman Haynes at 5:12 p.m.

On motion by Councilperson Robinson, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the appointment of 7 representatives to the Bamberg County Tax Appeals Board. Appointed to the board were: **Thomas L. Trantham**, Dist. #1; **Harold Robinson**, Dist. #2; **Henry Herndon**, Dist. #3; **John M. McCain**, Dist. #4; **Rickey Dansby**, Dist. #5; **Victor L. Billingshurst**, Dist. #6; and **Richard Rentz**, Dist. #7. The appointees will receive training before hearing any appeals. There has been one person in Bamberg County to file for a tax appeal and he has until August 28 to submit all relevant items to the Bamberg County Assessor before a hearing can be set.

Councilperson Robinson was concerned about the safety of Bamberg County employees. She stated, "it is my concern, feelings, and opinion that a female employee of the county shouldn't be housed at the Ag Building because of it being isolated and people are in an out."

Council discussed tourism for Bamberg County. Councilperson Robinson suggested that a member of council be named officially to represent County Council when the Mayors' group meet with the chamber of commerce board. Councilman Kinard is presently attending those meetings. The council did not make an appointment at this time. Councilman Kinard said that he will continue attending the meetings whether he is appointed or not. Administrator Preston was asked to look at accommodation taxes for Bamberg County (distribution of and how much funds we receive). Councilperson Robinson said that the accommodation tax that comes back to the county should be used to promote tourism and other activities in the county.

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Administrator Preston was asked to include a line item within the budget for Tourism (to be taken from Accommodation Tax line item).

During public comments, Jerry Bell from the Chamber of Commerce told council that he would let them know when the Edisto River tour will be scheduled. Also, the Chamber will hold its banquet on the first Thursday in November at 6:00 p.m., at the Denmark-Olar High School.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilperson Robinson, council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council