

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- July 11, 2016

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.

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., July 11, 2016, in the courtroom of the Bamberg County Courthouse. **Present:** Chairman Rev. Isaiah Odom, Councilmen Trent Kinard, Evert Comer, Jr., Joe Guess, Jr., Clint Carter and Larry Haynes. **Others Present:** Administrator Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Alice Johnson, Gina Smith, Kay Clary, Sarah Noel, Ruthie Brown, Kay Maxwell, Jerry Bell, Barbara Beard, Lee Davis and Donald Parler.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Isaiah Odom at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Courtroom. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Evert Comer, Jr., followed with the pledge of allegiance by Councilman Trent Kinard.

On motion by Councilman Guess, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved the minutes from the June 13 and June 30, 2016 meetings with future corrections should there be any.

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

A public hearing was given to an ordinance approving an amendment to the existing agreement for development of a joint county industrial and business park by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina, Barnwell County, South Carolina and Allendale County, South Carolina (the "Park Agreement") to extend the term of park agreement with respect to certain property presently owned and/or operated by Swiss Krono SC, LLC or one or more of its affiliates or related companies; and authorizing other related matters. No public comments were made.

Senior project manager Darrell Booker, at SouthernCarolina Alliance was present and presented the council with a sign commemorating the 20th anniversary in service to Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Jasper and Colleton counties. Chairman Odom thanked Mr. Booker and the Alliance for the sign presentation.

Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce Director Jerry Bell, informed all present of the upcoming community and county events. Flyers were available for the public and Mr. Bell invited and encouraged everyone's participation with the Bamberg County Chamber banquet that will be taking place soon. Mr. Bell's update was received as information.

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Treasurer Alice Johnson reported the county's total income for April was \$277,756. Expenses came in at \$835,251, reflecting a negative balance of \$557,495. In her report for May, the county's total Income for the month was \$269,913, Expenses came in at \$570,889, reflecting a negative balance of \$300,976. Overall, we ended up with a credit bank balance. Treasurer Johnson said she is not sure yet how we are going to come out for June, but at some point, the county will be reimbursed.

Finance Director T.M. Thomas reported the county's general fund had generated \$6,125,015 in year-to-date revenue as of the end of May. Expenditures stood at \$5,988,128, reflecting a positive balance of \$136,887. Mr. Thomas said, we continue to operate within our budget and within our expected bounds.

Administrator Preston acknowledged Bamberg County Office on Aging Director Kay Clary for donating a van to be used by the MAMAS (Mary Ann Morris Animal Shelter) for transporting the animals. A tentative date of Friday, August 19 was given for departments to relocate into the new courthouse annex. Pictures for the departments will be retaken and the date will be given later. Also, the county is working to obtain a right-of-way from one property owner so that the process can begin for tree removal at the airport and start the runway rehabilitation project. Administrator Preston reported the C-Fund Committee will be meeting Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m., in the courthouse annex. They will be viewing updates on all of the projects that have been approved and will consider new projects. A community meeting will be scheduled for all involved with the Dally Road Project.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCIL

- 1) Lower Savannah COG -Meeting was held Last Thursday. Talked about grants for water and sewer, Councilman Haynes will serve as the upcoming treasurer for LSCOG.
- 2) LSCOG (TAC) (Kinard) -Disappointed that no meeting has been held in about 1 1/2 years. The C-Fund Committee paid for the paving of Sunnybrook and it has now been completed. Preliminary work for Crouch Circle has been approved and we are waiting for residents to sign right-of-way forms for Dally Road. Administrator Preston said that a community meeting will be scheduled for all involved with the Dally Road Project.
- 3) LSCOG Housing Consortium Have not met.
- 4) SCA -Had a good meeting In Allendale and the next meeting will convene in Barnwell.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved third reading of an ordinance approving an amendment to the existing agreement for development of a joint county industrial and business park by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina,

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Barnwell County, South Carolina and Allendale County, South Carolina (the "Park Agreement") to extend the term of park agreement with respect to certain property presently owned and/or operated by Swiss Krono SC, LLC or one or more of its affiliates or related companies; and authorizing other related matters.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Guess, council approved second reading of an ordinance to re-establish and redefine the Bamberg County Airport Advisory Committee, to restate the purposes and duties and authority of that committee and to revoke and repeal all Bamberg County Ordinances and Code provisions contrary to or in conflict with this ordinance and its terms and provisions, to the extent of such inconsistency; and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved on first reading, an ordinance establishing policies and terms for compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act in Bamberg County. Within this ordinance, it stipulates the FOIA request must be responded within 15 days; establish uniform fees of 25 cents per copy and \$27.45 per hour for searching for and making copies of records; and not charge copy and labor fees for requests involving the copying of 10 pages or less and minimal labor. Also, written notice of all public body meeting must also be provided at the beginning of the year.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Carter, council voted to present a resolution to the Robinson family in memory of the late Councilwoman Alzena Robinson.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council voted to present a resolution to Mr. Roosevelt Bryant for outstanding community service. Mr. Bryant is a resident of Council District #3 (Councilman Larry Haynes).

On motion by Councilman Kinard, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the calendar of events after adding the C-Fund Committee meeting for Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Kinard, council approved the appointment of Councilman Larry Haynes to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board for approaching expiring term.

Chairman Odom called for public comments at this time. Ms. Barbara Beard and Mr. Lee Davis, residents of Denmark, came forward to inquire about the pending progress and road condition of Dally Road. Administrator Preston informed them that the delay has been obtaining rights-of-way from some property owners who live down Dally Road. Councilman Kinard said that people think that you are trying to steal their property when you are trying to get rights-of-way. Nobody's trying to steal people's property, we're just trying to get things done. Mr. Preston said that we will be having a community meeting and asked for Ms. Beard and Mr. Davis' help toward getting the public informed. They both agreed to help with whatever they could.

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At this time, Chairman Odom called for comments from the council members. Everyone thanked Administrator Preston and the staff for their hard work. The citizens were thanked for attending the meeting and were asked to come back and to bring others.

There being no further business for discussion in public session, on motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Carter, council voted to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC