

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., April 14, 2026 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside live streaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairwoman Michelle Martin, Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Larry Haynes, Ken Ahlin, Spencer Donaldson and Dr. Jonathan Goodman. **Absent:** Councilwoman Sharon Hammond. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Aaron Ness, Gina Smith, Alisha Moore, Kenneth Bamberg, Shawn Hanks, Adrienne Blume, Danny Singleton, Alice Johnson, Barbara Way, Moses Cheatham, Dan Rhoman, Kathy Rhoad, William Molnar, Mark Tyler, Melinda Tyler, Frances Milhouse, Brian Kuney, Loretta Moore and three additional visitors.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Council Chairwoman Michelle Martin at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was rendered by Councilman Comer, followed with the pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Spencer Donaldson.

On motion by Councilman Donaldson, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the minutes from the March 10, 2026 were approved with necessary corrections should there be any.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the agenda be amended to add comments from Treasurer Alice Johnson to the members of council.

Treasurer Alice Johnson addressed the council by acknowledging the time span of her service to Bamberg County. She referenced the time when she was first approached by former County Treasurer Ann Clayton, consideration for possible appointment to the position of County Treasurer if she could get it approved by the governor's authority by law. After accepting the position, she was sworn in as Bamberg County Treasurer May 1, 2008. Treasurer Johnson based her role as treasurer on honesty, integrity, experience and dependability and that's who she has been for these continuous 18 years. June 1, 2026 would have been exactly 18 years of service as County Treasurer. Over the years, she has made many dear friends. With additional heartfelt comments, Ms. Johnson announced she understood the importance of her job. Going forward from last year, cancer changed her life completely. Working continuously, doctor visits and having treatments caused her to get behind, especially with the monthly reports. Very recently, her health conditions changed drastically and there was no other choice than to retire. Bamberg County Deputy Candace Fralix has been appointed by Governor Henry D. McMaster to serve out the term of Ms. Johnson. Further stated was Ms. Fralix is honest, dependable and a lady of integrity. Ms. Johnson thanked the Council and said it was an honor and privilege to have served Bamberg County and requested that everyone please continue to pray for her and she will be praying for everyone as well. The council thanked Ms. Johnson for her service and all that she had done for Bamberg County and wished her well in her retirement.

Project Manager Mr. Dan Rhoman of Alliance Consulting Engineers, reported on the status of several projects that they are managing in Bamberg County. Some of the projects are Salty Road, Lazy Lane, Riley Drive and Church Street. There were some right of way issues on Salty Road and Lazy Lane and they have been trying to keep all kinds of grievances minimized as much as possible. Some good aerial

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Images were taken of the various roads so that we will be able to get a better view of the matter. In depth information was given on the condition of various road construction issues (drainage, stabilization, ditches, erosion, and culverts, etc.). The C-Fund committee has been able to assist with funds toward the road construction. Church Street roadway improvements are moving along with Apache Road improvements, which is next for us alongside with the Army Corps engineers, right now for their permitting check off there for the wetlands. The previous completed inventory of roadways and assessment was done in 2014. In order to update the inventory, the engineers went around and visited each of the county roadways. Council thanked Mr. Rhoman for the update on the construction.

Recognition of SGT. Frances Milhouse (RET) for her employment with the Bamberg County Detention Center for 13 years of service. Captain Moses Cheatham and LT. Loretta Moore and other employees from the detention center presented SGT. Milhouse with a service award and a LSCOG bouquet of flowers. CPT. Moses congratulated her and said she has served the citizens of the community and with gratitude and well wishes are bestowed upon her in her retirement. Council gave thanks for her service. Ms. Milhouse thanked everyone for the kindness shown during her retirement.

Executive Director Dr. William Molnar of LSCOG, gave an update for Bamberg County. LSCOG works with six different counties in the region. Bamberg County COG members are: Jerry Bell, Martin DeWitt, Wilma Edmonds, Sharon Hammond, Larry Haynes, Harold Johnson and Justin Bamberg. The LSCOG Board will be meeting in Bamberg County on Thursday, June 11th at 6 p.m. Dr. Molnar informed that their budget went from about 12 million down to a little over 9 million since last year's funding. A couple of the programs that supply Human Services and Aging Programs that the COG work with like the Older Americans Act, they are still in existence. The Administration for Community Living at the federal level, as well as the Department on Aging at the state level. This past year, LSCOG conducted the Bamberg County Youth resource and Job Fair at Bamberg Environmental Health Education at their new location and 17 job vendors were there. The Workforce Development Board is in need of one additional person preferably someone who's a business person. They meet virtually every other month. There are still two persons needed on the Tourism Advisory Board. Additional information was provided for the public. At this time, Dr. Molnar was thanked for his update for Bamberg County.

Mr. Brian Kuney, from South Carolina Manufacturing Partnership (SCMEP) was present to introduce Lean Six Sigma in government to Council. Designed to help manufactures grow. Lean Six Sigma as a methodology that can improve efficiency and reduce costs for manufactures in South Carolina. Coverage of South Carolina Counties, including Orangeburg, Bamberg and Horry, and highlights active companies such as Phoenix Specialist. MEP, established in 1989, pioneered Lean and Six Sigma practices in the region, positioning South Carolina as a leading manufacturing extension partner, Reducing Process Waste in Local Government. It was questioned whethr reducing steps and adding controls can sustainable lower error rates without reintroducing eliminated steps. Process Efficiency and Communication Challenges. The discussion highlighted the need to reduce email confirmation delays to improve Six Sigma process efficiency. Mr. Kuney stated that came to South Carolina to work with 26 years in automotive the field. A wealth of information was supplied to everyone by Mr. Kuney. Council followed up by posing follow up questions regarding information received and thanked Mr. Kuney for his presentation.

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COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

SOUTHERN CAROLINA ALLIANCE UPDATE:

Ms. Kathy Rhoad, Southern Carolina Alliance Director of Strategic Initiatives, reported on the following:

- . JGB Brothers praised smooth U.S. investment process during Warsaw roadshow.
- . Advanced Manufacturing Center launched welding, CDL, and machine-tool classes. Graduation to take place in Fairfax in April 30th.

Other information to be provided next month.

The Southern Carolina Alliance report was accepted as information.

Bamberg County Administrator – Monthly Report

Administrator Preston reported on the following: 1) Animal Shelter Clinic - \$8 to be held May 2; Bids came in for Broadband – Phase I - Groundbreaking the end of July or 1st of August; 2) Rural Summit in Greer, SC - March 11; 3) County Road Inventory – Updated every 10 years; 4) Last part of June – Groundbreaking for Courthouse; 5) EOC – working on funding for DSS – DSS is a State Agency and the County must provide space; and 6) Receiving weekly engineering reports – future presentations to include aerial imagery. All information was accepted by council.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, council approved a resolution to accept Bamberg County Council Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives from Bamberg County Retreat 2026. The vote was unanimous.

On motion by Councilman Donaldson, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved to amend the amended and restarted master agreement for the establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park I, Park II, and Park III to enlarge the Park to include the Stellar renewable power LLC Property and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved first amendment to Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement Special Source revenue. This Amendment to Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement (this “Amendment”) is dated effective as of 2026 (the “effective date”), by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina, a Body Politic and Corporate and a Political Subdivision of the State of South Carolina (the “County”); LOWCOUNTRY Properties, LLC, a Limited Liability Company Organized and existing under the Laws of the State of Ohio; and DELAVAN SPRAY, LLC – and dated as of August 18, 2025.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved first reading of an ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a first amendment to Special Source revenue Credit Agreement by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina: Lowcountry Properties, LLC and Delavan Spray, LLC; and (2) Other matters relating thereto.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Bamberg County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026

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and ending June 30, 2027. First reading in title only. Voting in favor: Ahlin, Haynes, Donaldson, Goodman, Comer and Martin. Councilwoman Hammond was absent.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the calendar of events after adding an additional item.

Public Comments: Public comments were made by Andrea Rahn and Adrienne Blume. Stated concerns: 1) Invited Council to come by and visit DSS offices; 2) What projects are over budget; 3) Giving out cars and gas; 4) Take a look at the entrance and exit at Richard Carroll Elementary - dangerous; and 5) Citizens need help with taxes. Information was taken under advisement.

At this time, Chairwoman asked for comments from council. All made similar comments as thanking the public for being in attendance. Ms. Alice Johnson was commended and thanked for her dedicated service to Bamberg County and the citizens. Administrator Preston and employees were thanked for their hard work.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Donaldson, seconded by Councilman Haynes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC