

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 3, 2025 in Council Chambers with limited seating for the public alongside live streaming of the meeting provided for public view. **Present:** Chairwoman Sharon Hammond and Councilmen Evert Comer, Jr., Larry Haynes, Kenneth Ahlin, Spencer Donaldson and Dr. Jonathan Goodman, II. **Absent:** Councilwoman Michelle Martin. **Others Present:** Joey R. Preston, T.M. Thomas, Richard Ness, Kenneth Bamberg, Dr. Eric Brown, Donald Kirby, Shawn Hanks, Alisha Moore, Prince Robinson, Moses Cheatham, Bill Johnson, Times and Democrat journalist, and two additional visitors.

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

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the minutes from the October 6, 2025, meeting with any necessary corrections.

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

The new president and chief executive officer of Denmark Technical College, Dr. Eric Brown, was greeted by council and welcomed to Bamberg County. Dr. Brown brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education to the institution and our community. It was addressed that he unquestionably recognizes the unique challenges facing rural communities and their educational institutions and he is elated to be in the City of Denmark. The Council thanked Dr. Brown for his presentation and extended their assistance to him and the institution.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Bamberg County Administrator – Monthly Report

Administrator Preston reported: **1)** Mr. Prince Robinson of 3 Rivers Solid Waste Authority informed that our landfill – there are about 13 years of useful life and there is a cost of approximately \$22 million to operate; and **2)** Ribbon cutting for Composite Solutions was held Thursday, October 9th at 10:30 a.m. at the old Roc-Lon facility; **3)** Thanks to SCDOT for helping cleanup for ribbon cutting for Composite Solutions; **4)** C-Funds Meeting met at 6 p.m., Monday, October 13, at the County Annex Building. The General Assembly has cut approximately \$1 million from our budget and hopefully we will get the money back. Roadwork for Church Street and Apache Road has been approved; **5)** Still waiting on the closing of junkyard; **6)** Denmark wants to schedule a groundbreaking within the next 2 weeks; **7)** One small item to be done before the Denmark Water Tank can be placed on line; **8)** Dr. Goodman gave thanks for the road signs placed in Denmark for the recent Denmark-Olar Championships; and **9)** Sheriff Kenneth Bamberg announced that his department participated in the “National Night Out” for the first time and it was a success. They had a large participation and other law enforcement agencies joined in and took part in the celebration. Council accepted this report as information.

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On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved a resolution committing to negotiate a fee-in-lieu ad valorem taxes agreement between Bamberg County and Project Inspiration; identifying the project; and other matters related thereto. This industry plans a \$7 million investment and the creation of 40 jobs.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved first reading, in title only, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement by and among Bamberg County, South Carolina and one or more affiliates known for the time being as "Project Inspiration" providing for both fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and special source revenue credit incentives providing for an amendment to the amended and restated master agreement for the establishment of the Quad-County Industrial Park I, Park II, and Park III dated as of May 6, 201 by and among Allendale County, South Carolina, Bamberg County, South Carolina, Barnwell County, South Carolina, and Hampton County, South Carolina, providing for the development of certain multi-county industrial parks, so as to include additional property in that portion of the parks geographically located in Bamberg County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

On motion by Councilman Haynes, seconded by Councilman Comer, council approved on first reading, in title only, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an amended and restated solid waste service agreement with the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority ("Authority") to extend the term thereof through 2050, update tonnage commitments and the increase annual tipping fees; authorizing the issuance by the authority of its revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$30 million to fund the construction of a new phase; and other matters relating thereto. *Voting in favor:* Haynes, Donaldson, Goodman, Comer and Hammond. *Voting not in favor until more information is provided:* Ahlin. Councilwoman Martin was absent.

On motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Haynes, council approved the calendar of events as submitted.

Public comments were called for, but no public comments were made.

At this time, Chairwoman Hammond called for comments from council. Some comments that were made: 1) Better transparency is needed; 2) The public was thanked for their attendance; 3) The administration area is being overstepped by others; 4) Look at way for making things less challenging; 5) All involved with the upcoming election in Ehrhardt and Govan, were urged to vote; 6) Turn on the green light in recognition of Veterans; and 7) Pray for those in Jamaica.

There being no further business for discussion, on motion by Councilman Comer, seconded by Councilman Donaldson, council voted to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose R. Shepherd, CCC