

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

Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., October 5, 2009, in the Bamberg County Council Building. **Present:** Chairman Clair P. Guess, III, Alzena Robinson Councilmen Isaiah Odom, Chris Wilson and William Nimmons. **Absent:** Councilwoman Dorothy C. Tatum and Councilman Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Thomas M. Thomas, Jerry Halmon, Dionne Gleaton, Carl Menist, Roy Vinson, Lou Ann Carter, Kell Anderson, Dr. McAlhaney, Martha Guess, Herman Brabham, Sarah Noels, Larry Haynes, Mary Broxton, Dr. Joseph Thomas, Students from South Carolina State University, and Ron Moulder.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Guess at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Council Building. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Councilman Chris Wilson, followed with invocation by Councilman William Nimmons.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the minutes from the September 14, 2009 meeting (with the following insert to be added as noted by Councilwoman Robinson: "*Alzena Robinson as a board member of Lower Savannah Council of Governments, did not participate in the discussion*"), were approved.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Wilson, council approved a proclamation recognizing the 101st birthday of county resident Retha B. Green. Family members of Ms. Green will be present at the November 2, 2009 council meeting to accept the framed proclamation in her honor.

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, the agenda was approved after adding a new business item, Library appointment for Council District #2.

Bamberg County Memorial Hospital CEO Roy Vinson reported that John Peel of Stroudwater Capital, will be in Bamberg County on October 20-22, to meet with community members who would like to have input on the future vision of the health care system in the Lowcountry. The hospital has had unexpected repairs such as the generator and the chiller. They are presently using a temporary chiller until the hospital's chiller is repaired. He further stated patient volume was flat compared to July, with approximately 13 patients a day. Surgical volume for August was slightly up from July - from 295 to 299. The net revenue was also up by \$4,000 from July, the expenses for August were \$36,000 more than the previous month. The year-to-date expenses for the hospital only, were down \$2.6 million over prior year-to-date. The net income for August was a negative \$22,000. For the 11 months through the end of August, the net income was \$432,000. For the prior year-to-date August, it was a negative \$1.6 million. The change there is an improvement of \$2.1 million.

October 5, 2009....continued

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county's expenses for the 2009-2010 budget are on line outside of an unforeseen expense of approximately \$5,800 to replace a hydraulic pump for the oldest motor grader. Since completion of the first full quarter at the end of September, the year-to-date expenditure percentage is at 22 percent of the total budget, leaving the county with a remaining balance of about \$5.8 million. Also, the county's website is being worked on and persons will soon be able to pay their taxes online.

County Administrator Rose Dobson-Elliott reported that more than \$200,000 in federal grants were secured by County Fire Coordinator Brenna Hancock for county fire departments. Approximately 6,000 applications were submitted, and Bamberg County was among the 100 applicants that received a grant. The Colston Fire Department received a \$21,000 grant to purchase 10 sets of complete protection gear. The Olar Fire Department received a \$209,000 grant to construct a new fire station. The new fire department will be constructed on the same site, but it will be a little larger than the present fire department. Administrator Dobson-Elliott also informed the Council members that approximately \$6,000 is needed for a structural engineer's study (from Liollo Architectural Firm) prior further planning of a governmental complex. On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, Council agreed to fund the study and the funds will come out of the Building Funding Account. Chairman Guess opposed to do an architectural study of repairs needed to the Bamberg County Courthouse. Administrator Dobson-Elliott reported that the Solicitor for the 2nd Circuit has requested additional funds, in excess of what was granted in the FY 2009-2010 budget. On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, Council agreed and voted to refer the financial request to the finance committee for further consideration.

On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Odom, Council gave second reading approval to an ordinance amending the county's personnel policy to include an acceptable-use policy for the Internet. Administrator Dobson-Elliott said the policy has to be adopted before the county can move forward with its plan to assign all employees with a bambergcountysc.gov e-mail address.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, Council approved a request from Representative Bakari Sellers for a Planning Allowance of \$10,000 for the development of a possible Veterans Memorial Park and Walking Trail in the Industrial Park between Bamberg and Denmark. The Council agreed that the Planning Committee of Council work along with the Economic Development Commission and the Planning Commission on this project. The allowed money would be returned to the county through the Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT).

On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Wilson, Council approved an intergovernmental agreement that includes the proposed development of a regional health care center among Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties. This agreement was approved with the stipulation that Bamberg County Attorney Richard Ness review and approve the agreement. Chairman Guess stated that the councils and hospital boards from each county have asked

Stroudwater Capital, to meet directly with and listen to ideas of residents and health professionals. He further stated that there were no issues of location or fee sharing at this time.

October 5, 2009....continued

On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Odom, Council approved the adoption of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan as prepared by Three Rivers Solid

Waste Authority. TRSWA General Manager Colin Covington stated that the region desires to limit the disposal of municipal solid waste to no more than one landfill with an annual tonnage limitation of 500,000 tons. Three Rivers Regional Landfill was selected as that site. Mr. Covington presented a power point presentation to better explain his information. They are presently working on a two year plan to build a Materials Recovery Facility at the regional landfill.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, Council approved the appointment of Elvernia A. Richberg as a representative from District 2 to the Bamberg County Library Board.

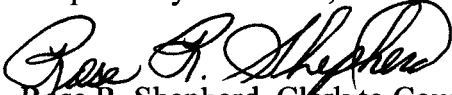
Mr. Kell Anderson, project manager with the Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, reported that the speculative building at the Cross Rhodes Industrial Park is moving right along. Right now, they are waiting for the lights, roofing and a few rough edges to be completed. Everything should be finished by November 1, 2009. The SRS Job Fair was in the area on September 24, and will return on October 25 and November 17. The council accepted his report as information.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Wilson, Council approved the calendar of events.

At this time, Chairman Guess called for council, public and media comments. Councilwoman Robinson asked that we recognize Rev. Betty Milhouse, longtime Deputy Coroner for Bamberg County. Ms. Lou Ann Carter, chairperson of the Bamberg County Hospital Board, thanked the Council for their support of the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding health care. She said the agreement would help maximize the hospital's capacity and increase services to Bamberg County. Mr. Ron Moulder told council of his concerns that putting the proposed Veterans Memorial, walking trail or park in the County's Industrial Park would be a haven for crime.

There being no other business for public discussion Chairman Guess called for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., and council entered in executive session to discuss a contractual matter regarding the Bamberg County Memorial Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council