

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - November 2, 2009

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., November 2, 2009, in the Bamberg County Council Building. **Present:** Vice Chairman Alzena Robinson, Councilwoman Dorothy C. Tatum, Councilmen William Nimmons, Isaiah Odom and Chris Wilson. **Absent:** Councilmen Clair P. Guess, III, and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Roy Vinson, Carl Menist, Dinos Liollo, Mary McFadden, Bill Ussery, Bill Johnson, Kell Anderson and Ron Moulder.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Alzena Robinson at 6:30 p.m., in the Bamberg County Council Building. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Councilwoman Dorothy Tatum, followed with invocation by Councilman Isaiah Odom.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Odom, the minutes from the October 5, 2009 and October 9, 2009 meetings were approved by the council.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Odom, the agenda was approved after deleting, as requested by Councilwoman Robinson, a presentation of a proclamation recognizing the 101st birthday celebration of Mrs. Retha B. Green.

Council accepted as information, a financial report from Bamberg County Memorial Hospital CEO Roy Vinson for the month of September. Mr. Vinson reported that the patient volume was slightly up from August at just under 13 patients per day. Surgery volume for the month was down approximately 15 percent from August (from 299 to 253). Net revenue was down by \$62,000 from August, with expenses for September \$119,000 less than the previous month. Net income for September was at a positive \$36,000. For the 12 months through the end of September, the net income was \$468,000.

Mr. Kell Anderson, project manager with Southern Carolina Regional Alliance, informed the council of an official ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, for completion of the speculative building at Cross Rhodes Industrial Park. He also stated that things at GTI are going well. The council accepted this update as information.

Representatives from Liollo Architectural Firm, Mr. Dinos Liollo, Mary McFadden and Bill Ussery presented a presentation of a structural engineering study to repair cracks in the county courthouse. They stated that their goal will be enhancing service efficiency and safety while maintaining the historical integrity of the building, which may undergo enhancements for updated technologies and security measures. Mr. Liollo and Ms. McFadden conducted a structural analysis of the courthouse. The master plan and property analysis focused on county administration and judicial functions and public safety. The county currently has six basic locations for those programs that occupy approximately 18,000 square feet of space. Some of the issues that are missing within the context of county functions include training facilities, conference rooms and support facilities for security issues. Mr. Liollo stated that the county will need approximately 38,000 square feet of space over the next 20 years. Ms. McFadden presented three scheme overlays of the county's current building functions, including those for the courthouse which is separated from the jail and E-911 center by Second Street. Schemes A and B included the closure of Second Street to provide for the more secure transport of

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inmates to the courthouse. Scheme C separated from the jail and E-911 center by Second Street. Scheme C also had public safety and administration functions in a separate building behind the courthouse, which would have one central access point. County Administrator Dobson-Elliott said that we are looking at effectiveness and efficiency, but also trying to bear in mind the cost. It was stated that the courthouse was in "generally good condition." The main problem was the inside wall cracks, some of which have come through to the outside of the building. Mr. Ussery said the cracks were occurring primarily where the courthouse's addition was made in 1960. He recommended monitoring the cracks and having a geotechnical engineer conduct a study of subsurface conditions to see what's going on before coming up with a solution to stop the building from settling. The council accepted this report as information.

On motion by Councilman Odom, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council accepted as information a written report that was submitted in the agenda packet by Finance Director Thomas. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that everything seems to be in tact for the remainder of the fiscal year.

County Administrator Rose Dobson-Elliott reported that in a recent meeting she attended with Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, she talked about the possibility of expanding broadband Internet access across rural areas in the region. Also, she reported the distribution of dictionaries to the Bamberg County 3rd graders (Andrew Jackson, Denmark-Olar and Richard Carroll), by the Hampton County Rotary Club. Attorney Richard Ness, Attorney Chris Wilson, Watson Carter, Councilwoman Dorothy Tatum and Doretta Elliott made monetary contributions to assist the Rotary Club with the purchase of the dictionaries. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that this project will be ongoing in Bamberg County. Council accepted this report as information.

Council conducted a public hearing for an amendment to the Bamberg County personnel policy to include an acceptable-use policy for the Internet. No public comments were made.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Wilson, council gave third reading to an ordinance amending the county's personnel policy to include an acceptable-use policy for the Internet. All employees with computer/internet access will be assigned individual email addresses for Bamberg County for conducting county business.

Council honored the request from Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board for an appointee from Bamberg County to serve for the category of private sector. On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council appointed Annette Hill, human resource director at Tobul Accumulators. Also, another motion was made by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council reappointed John Bennett to serve an additional term to the Workforce Development Board.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved the calendar of events as presented.

At this time, Vice Chairman Robinson called for council, public and media comments and questions. Councilwoman Tatum responded by giving positive comments regarding the Liollo Architectural Firm presentation.

There being no further business for discussion in public session, on motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Wilson, council adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council