

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

- December 7, 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., December 7, 2009, in the Bamberg County Council Building. **Present:** Chairman Clair P. Guess, Councilwomen Dorothy C. Tatum, Alzena Robinson, Councilmen William Nimmons, Chris Wilson, Isaiah Odom and Clint Carter. **Others Present:** Administrator Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Thomas M. Thomas, Betty Milhouse, Johnnie Smith, Sr., Martha Guess, June Gee, Sarah Noel, Roy Vinson, Joseph Johnson, Kell Anderson, Dionne Gleaton, Jerry Halmon, Carl Menist, Bill Johnson, Richard Ness, James Hiers, Lou Ann Carter, Alice Johnson and Bill Weeks.

Bamberg County Council meeting was called to order by Chairman Clair P. Guess, III, 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 November 2, 2009 meeting were approved by the council.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the agenda was approved after adding a resolution regarding Project Winter and a personnel issue with the Treasurer's Office to the executive session.

Plaques and service bars were presented to county employees in recognition of services rendered to Bamberg County. Receiving Five Year Service Plaques were: William Johnson, Johnnie Smith, Sr., Miriam Murden, Sherry S. Thompson and Eddie Williams, Jr. County employees receiving 10 year bars were: Gary Brown and Terra T. Brown. Also, county employees receiving 20 year bars were: Willard H. Duncan, Brenda Kirby, James Hiers, Patti P. Jeffcoat, Joseph H. Johnson, Caroline A. Raysor and Carolyn C. Kinard. Reverend Betty J. Milhouse was recognized for twenty years of service to the county as Bamberg County Deputy Coroner.

Council accepted as information, a financial report from Bamberg County Memorial Hospital CEO Roy Vinson for the month of October. Mr. Vinson reported that the patient volume was up in October to 15 patients per day over 13 in September. Surgical volume was up from 253 surgeries performed in September to 276 in October. The net revenue for the facility was up \$138,000 over September, and the net income was a positive \$20,000 for the month.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved an additional \$200,000 revolving line of credit for the hospital from the \$1.2 million in nursing home proceeds. The hospital will be placed on a 90-day repayment period. Council also authorized the release of funds that will allow the hospital to move forward with implementation of a "swing bed" program to generate additional revenue.

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On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved to increase funding for the solicitor's office of an additional \$29,000. The existing budget was \$47,000. The money will come from the contingency fund. Councilman Wilson stated that this decision was based on the job that the solicitor's office has done since January 1, 2009, going forward to the present.

The council accepted a financial status report from Finance Director Thomas. Mr. Thomas reported that the county was continuing to hold steady with expenses for its 2009-2010 budget. He further stated that the departmental heads continue to receive their monthly breakdown and are fully aware of their spending as it relates the balance on that. As of year to date, we have expended up to 38 percent of our total budget, leaving us with a balance of about \$4,647,000. Some unforeseen expenses last month were a four ton heating pump for the health department that cost \$5,500, and a two and a half ton unit was needed for the 911 Office at a cost of \$1,100 and money was spent on preventative maintenance supplies (public works department). Councilwoman Robinson inquired about the status and requested a written report on office space for the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Bamberg County Administrator Dobson-Elliott reported that she was working with state officials and DHEC on a project to remove dilapidated mobile homes in the county which should start next year. Administrator Dobson-Elliott met with the Liollo Firm and they have installed the crack monitors in various offices in the courthouse. A second meeting is proposed with the firm sometimes in January. On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council referred a request from the Sheriff's office to purchase a new car for \$23,700 through a lease-purchase agreement to the finance committee. It was noted that the new car would replace one that has 171,000 miles and is valued at \$2,000 and would cost \$3,500 to repair. Councilwoman Robinson requested that Administrator Dobson-Elliott take a look at Ms. McManus' street, and see if there is something the county can do to alleviate the complaint of holding water and the roughness for cars traveling.

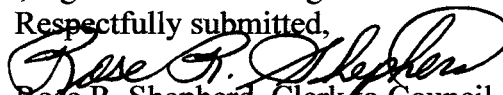
On motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Odom, council approved a resolution authorizing an amendment to the multi-county industrial park agreement between Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale and Hampton counties. The boundaries of Park I will be expanded to include Four Star Industries, which opened a conduit pipe manufacturing plant in the former Kodiak Plant in Allendale.

On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilman Odom, the council approved the calendar of events after adding the following two items: January 18 - Martin Luther King's Birthday and January 25 - Council meeting with the Liollo Firm.

At this time, Chairman Guess called for comments and questions from the council, public and media .

There being no further business to be discussed in public session, on motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, council agreed to adjourn and enter in executive session to discuss an economic development matter, contractual matter, legal matter and a legal matter.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council