

MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - September 14, 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., September 14, 2009, in the Bamberg County Council Building. **Present:** Chairman Clair P. Guess, III, Councilwoman Dorothy C. Tatum, Councilmen Clint Carter and William Nimmons. **Absent:** Councilwoman Alzena Robinson, Councilmen Isaiah Odom and Chris Wilson. **Others Present:** Administrator Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Thomas M. Thomas, Jerry Halmon, Joyce Searson, Roy Vinson, Lou Ann Carter, Kell Anderson, Richard Ness, Dionne Gleaton and one other visitor.

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 Councilwoman Dorothy Tatum, followed with invocation by Councilman William Nimmons.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, the minutes from the August 10, 2009 meeting (with corrections noted by Councilman Wilson), and August 24, 2009 were approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, the agenda was approved after placing the monthly report from Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (Mr. Kell Anderson), under committee and staff reports and deleting that item from the executive session.

Bamberg County Memorial Hospital CEO Roy Vinson reported that the patient volume was down an average of two patients from June. Surgery case volume, was up from June from 287 to 295 surgeries. Net revenue was down approximately \$39,000 from June. The expenses are up about \$21,000 over June. Year-to-date the expenses are still down almost \$2.8 million. The net income for the nursing home and hospital combined was \$26,000. The \$26,000 net income is split between the two entities, with the 10-month year-to-date income being just above half a million dollars.

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county's expenses for the 2009-2010 budget are on line outside of some unforeseen expenses for the month of August. The expenses included approximately \$5,000 for a backhoe transmission repair, and approximately \$6,000 for drainage pipe for dirt road maintenance and the re-calibration of the landfill scale. Carolina Scales out of Columbia, S.C. handled the scale repair.

County Administrator Rose Dobson-Elliott reported the county is working to implement the statewide court case management system in the magistrate's and clerk of court's offices. She further stated that the county has received state funding for the court case management system of \$82,402 so far. The county will receive an additional \$41,122 for the system upgrade. There will be no cost to the county until 2012, after which time there will be a maintenance cost for software updates and hardware of approximately \$36,000 annually. Bamberg County will still be able to save some money because we will be able to reduce the amount of service needed

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from Smith Data Processing. Administrator Dobson-Elliott invited the Council to visit the L.A.D.S. site (located at the landfill), to view the landscaping that was done, out-of-pocket, by County employees Mr. Allan Searson and Ms. Sandra Waltz. These employees were given kudos for the fine work shown and displayed through their concern and job dedication. The council accepted this report as information.

Mr. Kell Anderson, project manager with the Southern Carolina Alliance, reported that the speculative building at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park is structurally complete, and wiring and painting is yet to be done. He further reported that the Savannah River Site will sponsor a Road to Recovery mobile job fair which will be in Bamberg later in the month. Also, the county is working to launch an awareness campaign about local industries during its Industry Appreciation Celebration on October 8, in Barnwell, S.C. The council accepted this report as information.

On motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved the appointment of Bill Edinger as the District 7 representative for the 2010 Census Committee, and William Williams was appointed to represent District 7 on the Airport Commission.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council gave first reading of an ordinance amending its personnel policy to include an acceptable use policy for the Internet. Administrator Dobson-Elliott said the policy is the next step in the development of the county's Web site. Everyone will have to be assigned a bambergcountysc.gov (e-mail address). When this process is completed, all employees will be mandated to sign off on it, indicating that the policy addendum was received. Presently, our personnel policy does not address the use of the Internet.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Carter, council approved a proclamation sponsored by Councilwoman Tatum to recognize and honor Emma Ruth Dowling of Bamberg for her service and commitment to Bamberg County. At the request of Chairman Guess, Councilwoman Tatum, read the proclamation in its entirety. The proclamation will be framed and presented by Councilwoman Tatum to the family of Ms. Dowling. Ms. Dowling taught for 32 years in the public schools of Bamberg, Allendale, Saluda and Greenwood counties. She was named the county's Outstanding Older American in 1993 and 2006. She served as president of the Bamberg County Hospital Auxiliary and as a member of the county's library board, mental health association, Job Corps advisory board and the American Red Cross chapter.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved the calendar of events after asking Administrator Dobson-Elliott to move the LSCOG Board meeting to another location in Bamberg County for October 8 (preferably check on the Cherry Blossom Room at Voorhees College and the J. Carl Kearsce Building in Bamberg). Initially, the LSCOG Board meeting was scheduled to be held at Denmark-Technical College, as was last year, but it was pointed out by LSCOG board members that they were not satisfied with the quality of the facility or food.

At this time, Chairman Guess called for council, public and media comments and questions. Chairman Guess stated that he met with the Bamberg Board of Public Works and Representative Bakari Sellers and is happy about the county's efforts to create a regional water and wastewater system for municipalities.

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There being no other business for public discussion, on motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m., and council entered in executive session to discuss a contractual matter concerning the hospital.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose R. Shepherd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rose" being particularly prominent.

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council