

## MINUTES OF BAMBERG COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - August 10, 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.

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Bamberg County Council met 6:30 p.m., August 10, 2009, in the Bamberg County Council Building. Present: Chairman Clair P. Guess, III, Councilwomen Alzena Robinson and Dorothy C. Tatum, Councilmen Isaiah Odóm, Clint Carter, William Nimmons, and Chris Wilson. **Others Present:** Administrator Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Thomas M. Thomas, Phyllis Overstreet, Kell Anderson, Rufus Jamison, Danny Black, Roy Vinson, Sara Noel, Martha Guess, Carl Menist, Ed Darnell, Michael Kozlarek, Rene Ann Tewkesbury, Kaye Maxwell and Bill Johnson.

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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 Councilwoman Alzena Robinson.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Odom, the minutes from the July 6, 2009 meeting were approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Carter, the agenda was approved after deleting a contractual and legal matter (concerning the hospital) from the executive session.

Bamberg County Memorial Hospital CEO Roy Vinson reported that the facility had revenues of \$470,000 on the positive side, which represented a \$2.5 million upswing over the same time period last year. Again, on the positive side for the month of June, gross revenue was up \$500,000 more than June and net revenue was up \$250,000 more than June. The Council accepted this report as information.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council approved a resolution authorizing an amendment to the multi-county park agreement, effective December 12, 2008, among Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton to expand the boundaries of Park I to allow for inclusion of a proposed expansion by Dixie Narco, Incorporated. Attorney Michael Kozlarek of Parker Poe LLP from Columbia, said under state law, if a project is in a multi-county park, state development incentives are increased and there can be a 100 percent credit on the fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement for the first five years. Dixie Narco plans an approximate \$20 million expansion with up to 1,000 jobs during the next seven years at its existing site in Williston. Since the proposed expansion is unlikely to reach \$20 million, Mr. Kozlarek stated that Bamberg County would receive 1 percent of the fee in lieu of taxes after the fifth year. **Chairman Guess and Councilman Wilson abstained from voting**, noting they had concerns about the resolution, including the fact that the county's attorney had not offered an opinion on the document being considered.

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On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Carter, council accepted the report coming from the public safety committee as information.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council accepted a motion from the executive committee that the current portrait be hung and clearly identified who they are by adding a plaque to list the information. This matter was referred back to the planning committee for the development of a good policy, for the future, such as the policy used for the use of the courthouse grounds. This policy will include artwork and photographs. Councilman Odom opposed the motion.

Finance Director Thomas reported that the county is looking at servicing the public with the convenience of paying taxes with a credit card. On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Wilson, council agreed that Administrator Dobson-Elliott, Finance Director Thomas and Treasurer Alice Johnson, take a look at the possibility of providing this service only if there is no net increase on the bottom line to the county.

Administrator Dobson-Elliott provided the council with a copy of a report noting her activities for the month of July. The council was offered the opportunity to provide information they may want to have included on the county's website. This information should be submitted to the Administrator's office. Other pertinent questions were answered and any other information that was discovered after the preparation of the report was shared among the council.

On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Odom, council gave third reading to an ordinance considering the Bamberg County Planning and Zoning Commission's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Land Development Regulations and Mobile and Manufactured Housing Ordinance. Administrator Dobson-Elliott stated that the council's next step will be to appoint a Zoning and Appeals Board, with the Comprehensive Plan and ordinances going into effect January 1, 2010.

On motion by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Tatum, council appointed members to a 2010 Census committee, which is charged with assisting the county in getting a more accurate count. Committee members are: **Teresa Hannibal**, District 1; **Alzena Robinson**, District 2; **Cindy Hurst**, District 4; **Thelma Ray**, District and **William H. Nimmons, Jr.**, District 6. Councilman Carter and Councilwoman Tatum said they would provide appointees shortly.

Council discussed finalizing the selection of an architect to move forward with a proposed new law enforcement and administrative office building. Administrator Dobson-Elliott reported that of 39 firms which responded to the Request for Qualifications, the list has been trimmed to four. On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Nimmons, council agreed to have the County Administrator bring back information regarding the four architects, with plans, to a called meeting in the next two weeks, so that a final decision can be made.

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

Comments were given from the council and questions were received from the public and media. On motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Wilson, council referred to the

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public safety committee, the matter of road signs being missing and the 911 addresses not be displayed at the appropriate locations/homes. When road signs are missing and addresses are not displayed, can cause problems for emergency services, law enforcement, etc., with locating emergency situations. Rev. Rufus Jamison had concerns regarding visiting areas at the county detention center and the quality of medical and dental treatment the inmates receive.

There being no further business for public discussion, on motion by Councilwoman Tatum, seconded by Councilman Odom the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m., to enter in executive session to discuss an economic development matter from the South Caroling Regional Development Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose R. Shepherd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rose R. Shepherd, Clerk to Council