

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR: Nancy Foster COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Rosetta Draper, Bobbi Bunch and Benton Wise (Via Telephone). CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITORS: Kay Maxwell, Dalton Williams, Ken Ahlin, Joann Ward, and Frank Ward. Not Present: Councilperson Willie Staley.

Mayor Foster called the meeting to order and Mayor Pro Tem Hayes gave the invocation.

Councilperson Willie Staley was not present.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Draper made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster introduced Kay Maxwell of Southern Carolina Alliance to update Council on what they are currently working on in the County. Mrs. Maxwell said that despite COVID causing a chaotic time, they actually had a good economic year in the Region. Southern Carolina Alliance announced \$369,440.00 in private capital investment in the region. Mrs. Maxwell said there were 8 new companies and 5 expansions in the area. Mrs. Maxwell provided some materials for the Council's review. Mrs. Maxwell presented information regarding the Agriculture Technology Campus in Hampton County. Mrs. Maxwell said this was important for Bamberg County because it would produce 1500 jobs for the Region. Mrs. Maxwell also said Bamberg County was part of a Multi-County Revenue Sharing Agreement which includes Bamberg County and that would provide tax revenue from this project to the County. Mrs. Maxwell stated that Southern Carolina Alliance had 122 projects this past year and won 13 of those projects. Mrs. Maxwell said many meetings this past year were virtual, but the marketing department was still able to meet with 192 companies. Mrs. Maxwell updated Council on the BE Bamberg campaign that was previously presented to Council and some of the projects they did through billboards and social media.

The meeting was turned over to Duncan Williams, Project Manager of Southern Carolina Alliance, who discussed product development. Mr. Williams talked about projects in Denmark and the industrial parks in Bamberg County that are being marketed to businesses looking for a location. Mr. Williams stated that they had a workforce evaluation performed for the County which will garner some federal funds to train the local workforce in partnership with Denmark Technical College. Mr. Williams updated Council on CTG Technologies which is a new plant located in the old Tobul Building. Mr. Williams said they had made major renovations to the facility. Mr. Williams said CTG made plastic coatings for several different products. Mr. Williams informed Council that Phoenix was in the process of expanding and said grants funds were secured for that

project. Mr. Williams also discussed some other potential projects looking at Bamberg County at this time.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the December 14, 2020, meeting. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion. Councilperson Draper made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the January 11, 2021, meeting. Councilperson Draper made the Motion. Councilperson Bunch made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster welcomed Frank and Joann Ward in the audience, as well as Ken Ahlin and thanked them for attending.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Draper made the Second. Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis for an explanation of the Budget and Finance Report. Clerk Chavis informed the Council that all departments were doing well at 60%, which is just a little over where the City was at this time last year. Clerk Chavis stated all departments were doing well and should continue to watch their budgets as we are nearing the end of the fiscal year. Clerk Chavis called the Council's attention to the Community Promotions line item and noted that this account was now depleted and they should keep that in mind for the remainder of the budget year. All approved. The Motion carried.

#### UNDER COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Chief Smoak informed Council that Officer Alex Finley has resigned from the Police Department to go to Orangeburg County. Chief Smoak said there were more cases than citations for the month of January.

Mayor Foster asked if there was any insurance information. Clerk Chavis informed Council that she was working on the Risk Assessment again for the upcoming year's insurance premiums. Clerk Chavis stated the first premium of the year had been paid.

Councilperson Draper said she hears many good things about the fire department and said they are doing an awesome job. Chief Williams reported for the Fire Department that there were 23 calls for the month of January, 3 structure fires, 2 LZ and even rescued a cat from a tree. Mayor Foster asked what was involved with a medical call. Chief Williams stated that their medical first responders are trained to administer basic first aid. Chief Williams said Medshore will often request the fire department go to the scene until they can arrive. Chief Williams said the

department had applied for two FEMA grants. Chief Williams said all of the trucks had been serviced for the year. Chief Williams informed Council that they were teaching the Firefighter I class on a hybrid schedule. Mayor Foster asked if that was conducted in the bay. Chief Williams said these classes would finish in April and then would go to Firefighter II class.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the City had issued 4 business license renewals for the month with 9 new businesses, Blythe Asphalt, DSW Homes, McMillan's Floor Care, Just Alice Cleaning Service, Carolina Refrigeration Services, South Able Online Clothing, Todd's Woodworks, Star Entertainment and Recording Studio, and Oasis One Storage Rental, LLC. Councilperson Hayes further announced that Pegasus Home Fashions is accepting job applications. Councilperson Hayes also announced that the Bamberg Spring Market would be held on the Berm on March 6, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of March 13, 2021. Councilperson Hayes also announced American Pickers will be back in South Carolina.

Councilperson Bunch reported that there was nothing to report for Sanitation. Councilperson Bunch announced that Baseball and Softball registration would be starting next week, and the season would begin at the Ness Sports Complex the week before Spring Break. Councilperson Bunch said spring Soccer had already started at Ness Sports Complex.

#### UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster informed Council that it was time to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Second Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office. Clerk Chavis stated that this is an Agreement we are mandated to have to provide a public defender for anyone who requests one in Magistrate's Court. Clerk Chavis said the Agreement would be in place for another two years.

Mayor Foster stated that the Contract with Waste Management was up for renewal. Mayor Foster informed Council that we originally had a Contract with Tyler Sanitation and they were bought out by Waste Management. Councilperson Bunch asked Clerk Chavis if a committee needed to be formed. Clerk Chavis said she needed Council to advise if they had anything they wanted to add to the proposal. Clerk Chavis that said she needed a Motion to place the ad and advise Waste Management of their 90 day notice. Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to put an ad out for proposals for the Garbage Contract for the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to go out for proposals for the Garbage Contract. Councilperson Hayes made the second. Clerk Chavis said she would send a letter to Waste Management informing them the City would accept proposals. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster stated that it was now time to renew the Landscaping Contract for the Berm and Ness Complex or review the Contract. Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to put an ad out for proposals for the Landscaping Contract for the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Draper made the

Motion to go out for proposals for the Landscaping Contract. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Bunch for an update on the Ordinance regarding debris and large household items. Councilperson Bunch said that she had provided Clerk Chavis with some new language to prepare an amendment to the yard debris ordinance. Clerk Chavis asked if this language was for residential properties and not just city lots. Councilperson Bunch said it was all lots in the City limits. Mayor Foster said they were trying to talk to contractors too to make sure they are hauling off the debris from jobs.

Mayor Foster asked for an update on COVID-19. Clerk Chavis said her latest update on February 27th was 57 new cases in the County and 51 of those being in Bamberg with 44 deaths in the County.

Mayor Foster read a letter of resignation from Bridget Kinard.

Mayor Foster asked for Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Draper made second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for Motion come out of Executive Session. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Hayes made second. All approved. The Motion carried.

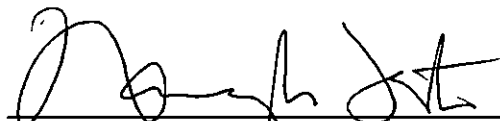
There were no other questions from the press or audience.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk

  
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Mayor