

A MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAMBERG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009 AT 5:15 P.M. AT CITY HALL.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Carl Kilgus, and Commissioner Buddy Sandifer.
MANAGER: Bruce Ellis. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Phyllis Schwarting, Nancy Hiers, and Jason Miller.

Chairman Kilgus called the meeting to order and Commissioner Sandifer gave the invocation.

Commissioner Sandifer made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting as received. Chairman Kilgus made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Commissioner Sandifer made the motion to amend the agenda to include item 2A to consider the request from Mr. Mac Clinkscales for a donation to the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage. Chairman Kilgus made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Chairman Kilgus informed the Commissioners that the Shalom Zone was requesting \$400.00 this year. He recommended the BPW donate \$200.00 this year which was the same as the City was donating. Commissioner Sandifer made the motion to donate \$200.00 this year. Chairman Kilgus made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Chairman Kilgus informed the Commissioners that the Budget and Finance Reports looked routine. Commissioner Sandifer made the motion to receive the Budget and Finance Reports as presented. Chairman Kilgus made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Superintendent Phyllis Schwarting thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to come before them tonight. She told the Commissioners that the District One School Board had decided to look at a new school to house grades 4K through the sixth grade after receiving 20 million dollars in stimulus monies interest free. She explained the school would replace the two Richard Carroll Schools on McMillan Street. Mrs. Schwarting explained the new school would cost 21 million dollars and would require an additional 8 million dollars with interest being paid on 25% of the funding. She told the Commissioners the School Board had decided to go to the people on March 16th with a bond referendum for 29 million dollars to be repaid in 30 years so they could make the decision.

Superintendent Shcwarting told the Commissioners that what she was asking for tonight would be contingent upon the bond referendum passing. She said the School District would save 15 million dollars in interest which was a no brainer due to the tough economic situation. Mrs. Shcwarting saying she had talked to Mr. Ellis, asked if it would be possible for the land that they had promised to the hospital could be used to build the new school.

Chairman Kilgus asked if she meant purchasing the land or having the land given to the school district?

Mrs. Schwarting said she meant the land being given to the school district.

Manager Ellis explained the land was never given to the hospital. He said they later found out the BPW could not donate the land to the hospital.

Mrs. Schwarting asked if the Commissioners were made aware of this because she had contacted each of them and they said they were not aware of it at that time.

Mr. Ellis said Chairman Clary and the Commissioners were made aware of what he had learned from the attorneys.

Mrs. Schwarting said she had talked to the Commissioners who did not know.

Manager saying he was not going to argue the matter in an open meeting, said he learned the BPW could buy property to expand their infrastructure in order to operate their system but could not donate the property. He said the BPW had \$310,000.00 invested in the property which was a drop in the bucket compared to a 29 million dollar overall project.

Chairman Kilgus asked Mrs. Schwarting if the School District could buy the property?

Mrs. Schwarting asked if water and sewer was available at the property.

Mr. Ellis said the water and sewer would have to be developed for the property.

Commissioner Sandifer asked if the property was large enough for three schools?

Mrs. Phyllis said the property was large enough for the three schools but not sure it could house the sports fields. She explained they hoped to spend 21 million dollars on the new school and the remaining 8 million dollars on renovations of the High School and Middle School. She said the 29 million dollars was the best shot they had.

Commissioner Sandifer asked how old the two schools were.

Mrs. Schwarting said the two schools in question were built around 1930. She said they had issues with mold and rotting floors which were significant hazards.

Chairman Kilgus asked if the 29 million dollars would be interest free?

Mrs. Schwarting said 20 million dollars would be interest free and 9 million would have part interest due on it.

Chairman Kilgus asked what the bond referendum would due to the millage rates?

Mrs. Schwarting said the school district millage was now at 69 mills which would increase to 123 mills.

Chairman Kilgus asked how long it would take to build the proposed school?

Mrs. Schwarting said they were looking at 18 to 21 months.

Mrs. Schwarting told the Commissioners that a mill only brought in \$16,000.00 to the Bamberg School District where a mill in Beaufort County brought in 1.8 million dollars. She told the Commissioners they had a public education system which they could be proud of and said the new school would be good for attracting new businesses as well as making Bamberg a bedroom community due to the locating of the new Boeing Plant.

Commissioner Sandifer asked if anyone was looking at the property at this time?

Manager Ellis said he would have to see but reminded the Commissioners that the land would have to be purchased.

Mrs. Schwarting asked if the bond referendum passed would the Commissioners consider letting them purchase the land and be willing to support them in the closing of McMillan Street.

Commissioner Sandifer, saying the closing of McMillan Street would be a City Council decision, said he would be in agreement with School District One purchasing the property.

Manager Ellis voiced that passing the bond referendum with the present economy would be a tough sale.

Mrs. Schwarting said it was a decision the people would need to make for themselves once they were told how much it would cost them. She asked the Commissioners if the bond referendum passed would they consider selling the property?

The Commissioners agreed they would consider selling the property at a later date.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners the BPW had put down crushed stone and packed the area for the parking lot on Moore Street. He explained that parking bumpers had been placed for around fifty parking spaces and told the Commissioners that additional lighting had been placed at the parking lot. Manager Ellis said they planned to erect a fence at the back of the parking lot and explained that the parking lot could be paved in the future due to the hard packing the lot had received.

Under Manager's Report:

Manager Ellis presented the Commissioners with an e-mail he had received from their natural gas supplier so the Commissioners could become familiar with what they do.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that a representative from Carolina Energy wanted to meet with them in January concerning gas purchases for the BPW.

Manager Ellis reported that the BPW had \$12,500.00 to the City during the month of November and that they had provided \$27,750.00 worth of cash and in-kind work to the City during November.

Commissioner Sandifer asked if the BPW could take over the lighting for the parking lot downtown which would include changing the bulbs in the lights when needed.

Manager Ellis said he had offered to help with the lights.

Clerk Watson informed the Commissioners that Manager Ellis had let the City workers use the BPW bucket truck to replace the bulbs so they could learn to maintain all the old lights in the downtown area.

Commissioner Sandifer said that was a good idea.

Manager Ellis presented a letter from the hospital saying they appreciated the willingness of the BPW to let them have the property but that they would no longer be needing the property in the future.

During the announcements, Commissioner Sandifer told Manager Ellis the town looked good for Christmas. He said the citizens appreciated the additional Christmas lights this year.

Chairman Kilgus asked if plans had been made for the Employee Christmas Dinner?

Commissioner Sandifer informed him that he and Manager Ellis were working on the plans for the dinner.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Chairman-BPW

Commissioner-BPW

Commissioner-BPW