

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Buck Fralick, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Phyllis Overstreet, Billy Varn, Rita Sease, Franklin and Vergie Bamberg, Richard Kemp and Jerry Durgan.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Councilperson Foster gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with all of Council being present.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda as amended to include item 5A a report from Billy Varn on the Downtown Reopening Celebration, Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Richard Kemp informed Council that he and Gene Schwarting, III wanted to donate an 8,000 square foot lot on Cricket Brook Drive to the City for a playground area. He told Council that community leaders wanted to know what kind of equipment the City would be placing in the playground area.

Councilperson Walker told Mr. Kemp Council appreciated what they were doing. She said she perceived a kiddie park for children up to seven years of age complete with a seesaw and merry-go-round.

Councilperson Foster said she would like to see the citizens in the area involved.

Councilperson Walker informed Council the residents had been asked and that they were supportive of the playground area.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that it was a good idea. He said once before Council tried to place a playground in the area but the residents didn't want one in their backyard.

Councilperson Walker told Council that Representative Sellers said he would seek funding for the playground area and that he was very confident that the funding could be found.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to accept the property with the understanding that it would be developed into a kiddie park. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2007 meeting as received. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Billy Warn, representing the downtown business owners, gave a detailed account of the planned grand opening ceremony for Main Street which he said would be held on October 27th. He informed Council that the parade would begin at 10:00 a.m. and asked Council to help in having the Sanitation Dept. available to clean up after the parade. Mr. Varn told Council that Jimmy Burch would be the Grand Marshall for the event.

Council received the Budget and Finance Reports. During the discussion, Councilperson Foster asked Clerk Watson to explain the figures for the line item Capital Expenditures for the Administrative Department.

Clerk Watson explained that the line item include the \$159,000.00 Police Department Renovation monies which Council had agreed to spend for the lighting and fencing downtown since the monies would not be used to renovate the Police Department. He explained that when the monies where put into this year's budget it threw the line item into a negative balance.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that there was not much to report on economic development. He told Council that all the other police officers were being trained as SROs except the chief and assistant chief. He said the Department was running well.

Councilperson Foster asked about the new industry which was going into the old Infinite Creations Building?

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that an industry named Kicking Horse would be locating in the old building. He said the industry would be investing over two million dollars and employing twelve employees. He explained that the company had to spend money to completely rewire the building and to replace the a/c units due to vandalism of the building.

Commissioner Sandifer reminded Council that tonight at midnight would be the deadline for Denmark to appeal the judge's ruling concerning the Certificate Of Need for the new hospital.

Commissioner Bamberg informed Council that business license renewals were still coming in and that everyone had until November before enforcement proceedings would begin. She said the collections were in good shape.

Commissioner Walker updated Council on the legislative issues pertaining to the workers compensations laws for SC. She informed Council that new legislation deals with how employees are allowed to communicate with employers but that the most important part of legislation would mean the Second Injury Fund would be playing out. She explained this was a major accomplishment for the MASC this year.

Commissioner Fralick had no report at this time.

Commissioner Hannibal reported that the Fire Department was doing well. She informed Council that the first week in October has been designated as Fire Prevention Week. She explained that Firefighter Paul Sandifer and other firemen would be going into the schools that week to teach the kids about fire safety. She said she planned on attending some of the events at the schools.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that the dedication ceremony honoring Coach Al Ramsey has been planned for 11:00 a.m. on September 22nd at the Foster Park. She explained that the family would be placing a bench and planting a tree in his memory and that the City would also be placing a bench in his memory.

Councilperson Hannibal asked if the rest of the park would be finished before the event?

Commissioner Foster explained that the City would hopefully have the other benches and tables placed at the park before the event but that Phoenix Specialties' playground equipment may not be in place by then.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that she was waiting on a bid for the painting of the tennis court fence.

Commissioner Foster reported that the Ness Complex was in good shape and that an old sign would be removed. She explained that Job Corps may be helping to plant pin palms in the planters at the park.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the planters could be removed if needed.

Councilperson Hannibal informed Council that the planters as placed were really in the way when you tried to drive around them.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that several events have been held at the Civic Center and that an area has been planted around the Civic Center sign.

Under Old Business.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that the Buildings Commission was recommending that the Civic Center not be used for the Upward Basketball Program this year for the requested three month period. She said the Commission felt if allowed the building could not be rented for three months and that they were very concerned with the cost of utilities for the building. Councilperson Foster said the Commission was looking at other avenues to help with the Upward Basketball Program.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to deny the Upward Basketball Program's request to use the Civic Center this year but to assist in helping them find another facility. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that the Buildings Commission wanted to accommodate the National Guard but felt that due to the costs of utilities and other expenses of the Civic Center that the National Guard would have to be expected to help with the operating costs of an office. She said the Commission recommended that they consider using the Jasper Varn Building.

Mayor McCollum told Council that Srgt. Fletcher had already looked at the Jasper Varn Building but felt it was too large. He said Srgt. Fletcher had no funds available at this time and thanked the city for their consideration. Mayor McCollum said he left the offer open until after the renovation of the Civic Center.

Councilperson Bamberg, apologizing to Council for not being present at the last council meeting, informed Council that the Skateboard Committee met with Clerk Watson to discuss a skateboard park. She told Council that SMIRF guidelines requested the City to have a six foot fence around the park with a supervisor on duty at all times. Councilperson Bamberg said the insurance premiums would cost the City \$9,000.00 a year. Councilperson Bamberg said the Skateboard Committee was recommending that a skateboard park not be considered at this time but that Ordinance 07-5 be adopted and enforced.

Councilperson Bamberg made the motion not to consider a skateboard park at this time. Councilperson Fralick made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Bamberg made the motion to approved on second reading Ordinance 07-5 dealing with skateboards in the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum asked the Police Commission to see that Ordinance 07-5 was enforced.

Councilperson Sandifer, saying the Police Department was doing a good job enforcing the curfew and golf cart ordinances, assured Council that the Skateboard Ordinance would be enforced.

Councilperson Foster assured everyone that skateboards could still be operated on private property and private driveways with permission.

Under New Business.

During the discussion of the 2007 Bar-B-Q Cookoff, Councilperson Hannibal asked what the expenses would be for the event?

Clerk Watson explained that trophies would have to be purchased and that prize monies of \$3,000.00 would be awarded to the competing teams. He said entrance fees would be collected but that \$3,500 would be needed from the City to go forward with the event.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Bar-B-Q Cookoff has always been a part of the Festival and needed to be held in order to keep the event alive and in good standing with the State Bar-B-Q Association.

Councilperson Walker asked if receipts were maintained by the City for the monies spent?

Clerk Watson explained that \$3,000.00 was given to Mr. Ligon Hutto for the prize awards and that the other costs were billed to the City.

Councilperson Foster said she would like to see Mr. Hutto get a few sponsors to help with the costs of the event.

Councilperson Sandifer made the motion to continue the event and that up to \$3,500.00 be donated by the City. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the Announcements, Councilperson Foster reminded Council about the LUCA training that would take place tomorrow at the LSCOG Office in Barnwell.

Councilperson Foster reminded Council about the dedication ceremony for Al Ramsey to be held at 11:00 a.m. on September 22nd at the Foster Park.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that the SCDOT had been doing work on the sidewalks on Walnut Street. She thanked Clerk Watson for his help in ordering Children At Play signs for Calhoun Street and Cricket Brook Drive.

During questions from the press and audience, Mr. Franklin Bamberg asked why Children At Play signs were only being placed at the ends of Calhoun Street?

Councilperson Walker explained that due to SCDOT regulations and specifications they were only allowing the signs to be placed near the speed limit signs on Calhoun Street.

Mrs. Elizabeth informed Council that some concerns on Bridge Street had been taken care of but that a skateboard ramp was still on the sidewalk on Bridge Street.

Councilperson Hannibal assured her that the new Skateboard Ordinance would now allow the City to address the problems.

Mrs. Rita Sease asked if the Upward Basketball Program could not find another location would the City help with funds for another location?

Councilperson Foster said the City had a \$400.00 cap on donations for such programs.

Mrs. Sease asked if everyone would be paying to use the Civic Center?

Clerk Watson explained that for private events like receptions, parties and dances that everyone paid the rental fee but that the side rooms have been used by the SCDOT and other groups for training and clinics at no charge.

Mayor McCollum explained that the Civic Center has also been used for food distributions for the needy at no charge.

Mrs. Betty Mack informed Council that the school referendum would be discussed at the High School on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Fralick made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor