

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Janeth Walker, Buck Fralick, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, West Summers, Rita Sease, Virgie Bamberg, Franklin Bamberg, Mildred Wiggins, Chief George Morris, Elizabeth Moody, Vernon Able and Dessie Evans.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilperson Bamberg who was in the hospital.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda as received. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Walker asked that the minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting be amended to read that Commissioner Walker informed Council that the MASC has a Law Enforcement Tech Grant Program dealing with protective vests this year in which \$100,000.00 in monies would be available for city police departments to apply for on a first come first serve basis.

Councilperson Hannibal asked that the minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting be amended to read that Mr. Able asked Councilperson Hannibal to look into a crosswalk at McMillan and Bridge Streets.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2007 with the requested amendments. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as presented. Councilman Fralick made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Architect West Summers presented Council with Alternate Plans A, B, and C for the renovation of the Civic Center along with the project costs of each alternate plan. He explained each alternate plan and assured Council that the building was not a fire danger. Mr. Summers informed Council that the building would have to meet code if 50% of the value of the building was spent during the renovation. He said the amount of renovation would depend on the phases, the changes, and the funds available.

Mr. Summers presented a detail sketch of the alternate plans to Council and said he would be available to meet the wishes of Council.

Councilperson Foster voiced that the Buildings and Grounds Commission would like to review the alternate plans. She asked if the figures presented could be used for grant purposes?

Mr. Summers explained that the figures were only estimates but suggested that they be doubled when applying for grant funding.

Councilperson Walker, saying the difference from the highest to the lowest plan ranged from \$200,000.00, asked if there were other alternate plans they could review.

Mr. Summers explained that they could pick and choose from each of the plans to come up with phases they wished to consider.

Mayor McCollum asked Mr. Summers to explain the built up roof repairs.

Mr. Summers explained that there were two types of roofs a built up replacement roof and a metal roof.

Councilperson Walker explained to council that Mr. Craig Walker could not be present tonight.

Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Bamberg Youth Basketball Program as requested by Mr. Craig Walker. Councilperson Walker made the second.

During the discussion, Councilman Sandifer commended Mr. Walker for the job he had done with the program and explained that Council needed a financial report on the program so Council would see how the tax monies were being spent.

Councilperson Walker said Mr. Walker had a financial report.

Councilman Sandifer explained that the baseball program also depended on sponsors to help fund their program.

Councilperson Foster asked how much was given to the Upward Basketball Program last year?

Councilman Sandifer explained that they were just allowed to use the building last year.

Councilperson Foster asked who paid for the utilities for the basketball program?

Councilperson Walker explained that the school paid the utility bill for the gym.

Councilperson Foster asked if they had any other sponsors at this time?

Councilperson Walker said they had no other sponsors at this time.

Councilperson Foster and Councilman Sandifer said they had no objection to donating \$1,000.00 as long as it was understood that the amount could change from year to year and if a financial statement could be presented each year.

All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Commissioner Sandifer read the memo Chief Morris had sent to all his officers. He explained that they were having problems with break-in after break-in. Councilman Sandifer informed Council that gasoline costs for the Police Department were \$3,000.00 last month.

Commissioner Walker had no report.

Commissioner Fralick had no report for the Sanitation Department but informed Council that things with the Chamber of Commerce would be rather quiet during the first of the year.

Commissioner Hannibal informed Council that Phil Myers was the Fire Department's new firefighter and that he was already certified. She said the department now had 18 firefighters and 3 engineers. Commissioner Hannibal told Council that \$1,250.00 was being applied for under the equipment grant which would cover the costs of Mr. Myers's bunker gear. She informed Council that the Fire Department Ladies Night would be held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Commissioner Foster reported that the Sanitation Department was doing a great job and said her commission was working on the Civic Center. She asked that straw be put around the sign at the Civic Center. Commissioner Foster informed Council that on February 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> that Phoenix Specialties would be installing their playground equipment at the Foster Park which they were donating to the City.

Under Old Business.

After Clerk Watson informed Council what other towns were doing with their unkept lots and Chief Morris voiced his concerns, Councilperson Walker said something needed to be done so the City's economic efforts would not be impacted. Councilperson Walker suggested that the problem be deferred to the Streets and Sanitation Commission.

Council agreed to this.

Mayor McCollum deferred the problem to the Streets and Sanitation Commission for review.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to approve on second reading Ordinance 07-6 accepting deeded property from K & S Properties Of The Lowcountry. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve placing signs designating the parking areas downtown. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster voiced that signs needed to be place at the crosswalks downtown and said more crosswalks were also needed.

Mayor McCollum agreed that more crosswalks were needed. He said he would check with the Highway Department to see what could be done.

Councilman Fralick asked if anything had been done with the turn lanes on Highway 78 and the arrows on Highway 301?

Councilperson Foster said nothing had been done.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he has contacted the SCDOT about the problem.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the disciplining of personnel. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to come out of the executive session. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Councilperson Hannibal informed Council that she had talked to Mr. Bobby Crider at the Highway Department concerning the need for crosswalks at Binnicker Bridge Road and McMillan Street and also the apartments which he said would be done.

Councilperson Walker asked that the Sanitation Department look into the overflowing brick trash can on Highway 78 near Glover's Body Shop.

Councilman Fralick assured her that he would take care of the problem.

Mrs. Moody presented Council with a request signed by 961 citizens requesting that Council and the BCEDC look into bringing another super market into Bamberg. She informed Council that Pam Barnwell was interested in running the super market. Mrs. Moody said Piggly Wiggly was robbing them blind.

Mrs. Moody, saying they were trying to attract people to Bamberg, told Council Main Street looked beautiful but that the stores looked atrocious.

Mayor McCollum urged Mrs. Moody to move forward with their proposal for another super market. He explained that the stores downtown were private properties which would have to be addressed by the owners.

Council thanked Mrs. Moody for coming.

Mr. Vernam Able voice that he felt Council's agenda was done incorrectly. He said they didn't allow the citizens time to address the issues.

Mayor McCollum explained that the agenda was done in advance and that he could call to get on the agenda.

Mr. Able asked when would they ask him about what was being discussed on the agenda?

Mayor McCollum and Councilperson Sandifer explained that they were elected to serve the citizens and to make the decisions.

Councilperson Walker said she understood how he felt but said she ran and was elected to her seat. She said she was a constituent at one time and learned that you must trust whom you elected.

Councilperson Hannibal said she felt Mr. Able was concerned that the agenda was not being put in the paper.

After more discussion, Councilperson Foster made the motion to adjourn. Councilperson Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor