

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, and Chief George Morris.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda as amended to include Item 7 under New Business an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he had met with Manager Ellis who promised to bring his proposal for the renovation of City Hall to the meeting. He explained that Manager Ellis was not ready at this time. Councilman Sandifer said the idea was for Council and the Commissioners to have some input into the plan before the two groups met to discuss the matter. Councilman Sandifer assured Council that he would stay on the case.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the baseball program would begin in two months.

Councilperson Foster asked Councilman Sandifer if there was any economic development news.

Councilman Sandifer informed her that things were dormant at this time and that money was very tight.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that a lot was going on in the Police Department. She informed Council that Officer Ira James was leaving the department and she wished him the best of luck. Councilperson Johnson said there would be more discussion concerning personnel in the executive session.

Councilman Walker informed Council that things were running well in the Fire Department.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that everything was running smoothly in the Sanitation Department with no major breakdowns during the month.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that licensing renewals would soon start again.

Chief Morris informed Council that the Police Department got through the holiday season without any major problems due mainly to the Ziggy's Social Hall being closed. He said everything in the department was running ok.

Under Old Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 04-08 providing the month in which elections will be held. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of an appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Councilman Sandifer nominated Mr. Jack Izler and Councilperson Johnson nominated Mrs. Louise Grimes. Council voted by ballot in which Mrs. Louise Grimes received 5 votes and Mr. Jack Izler received 2 votes. Mrs. Louise Grimes was appointed to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the seat of the late Mr. Frank Earl.

Under New Business.

After Clerk Watson and Councilman Sandifer explained the problem associated with the selling of land from the Foster Park to the SCDOT for right of way, Councilperson Foster made the motion to sell City parcels in front of the Highway Department Licensing Office and in front of City Hall to the SCDOT for the 301 Widening Project. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson was instructed to draw up the necessary ordinances to sell the parcels.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-09 setting a curfew for children under 17 years of age. Councilperson Wells made the second. During the discussion, Councilperson Johnson asked if there were any provisions for 15 year olds and 16 year olds who had drivers licenses.

Chief Morris explained that the ordinance contained provisions for the minors attending certain events.

All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-10 dealing with drug paraphernalia. Councilperson Foster made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-11 prohibiting urination and defecation in public. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Chief Morris explained the need for Ordinance 05-01, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 05-01 prohibiting the drinking of alcoholic beverages in certain public and private areas. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the City had no policy on how monies generated by the various departments should be handled. He gave an example of the confiscated drug monies and asked Chief Morris to elaborate on how the monies were handled.

Chief Morris informed Council that state and federal laws delegated how confiscated drug monies could be handled and spent.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that all monies should go through the Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilperson Mack voiced that all monies should be turned over to the Clerk/Treasurer and earmarked for each department.

Chief Morris told Council that other departments handle their slush fund money and even use it for events like Christmas parties.

Councilman Sandifer said Council was not talking about money generated from drink machines.

Chief Morris explained that Council had no control over confiscated drug monies. He said the monies had to be put in an interest bearing account until court. He said if the individual was found innocent then the money was returned to him. If the individual was found guilty it was divided between the state, county and city law enforcement departments.

Chief Morris explained that the City's share would then be turned over to the clerk to be placed in the Drug Investigation Fund Account until he decided how it could be spent.

Councilperson Foster asked why the clerk could not be involved earlier in the process.

Chief Morris said the clerk would then have to be involved in the court process also.

Mayor McCollum asked if the City would be in violation of the law if the confiscated monies were initially put in an account by the clerk.

Chief Morris said he was not sure if they would be in violation of the law.

After some more discussion, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

During the announcements, Councilperson Johnson informed Council that they were invited to attend the Golden Harvest event celebrating the distribution of 100 million pounds of food. She said the celebration would be on January 13th at 3:00 p.m. in Augusta.

Councilman Sandifer reminded everyone of the Red Cross Blood Drive that would be held from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. tomorrow at the First Baptist Church.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that they were invited to attend the Job Corp. Graduation at 1:00 p.m. on the last Friday of the month.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that Liberty Tax Service had their grand opening last Saturday.

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

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor