

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Joel Hand, Beulah Hand, Elaine Walters, Phyllis Overstreet, Elizabeth Moody, Jerry Halmon, and Diane Henegar.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Fralick who he said had called to say he would be working.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to approve the agenda to include item 5 under New Business to discuss a request from the Red Raider Baseball team for a donation. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum began the public hearing to receive comments from the public concerning proposed Ordinance 08-3.

With no comments coming from the public, Mayor McCollum closed the public hearing.

Once a typing error had been mentioned, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 as received. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2008 meeting as received. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as presented. Councilperson Foster made second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that Mrs. Ann Morris, the wife of Chief Morris, had passed away on Saturday. Commissioner Sandifer said they had been married for over forty years and said she was a good lady. He told Council her services would be held tomorrow.

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that he had talked to Chief Morris and Paul Sandifer concerning Mrs. Pat Jones' complaints. He said they had agreed not to have the parade line up on Jones Street in the future. Commissioner Sandifer said officers had begun patrolling the area to deal with her speeding complaint.

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that the Police Department was doing well and that they had a rather small court this morning.

Commissioner Bamberg informed Council that renewals of the business licenses were going well and that Chief Morris was continuing to work on the delinquent licenses. She told Council that Chief Morris was needing some of the owners names in order to deal with the delinquent business licenses and that she had talked to Mr. Watson concerning the problem.

Commissioner Walker had no report at that time.

Commissioner Hannibal informed Council that the Fire Department had conducted training for the Community Response Team on January 8th. She reminded everyone that Ladies Night would be this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church. She told Council they were all invited.

Commissioner Foster reported that the Ness Complex looked good and asked about the progress of the Frog Park.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that the Sanitation Department had cleared the lot for the Frog Park and that it looked superb. She said they would need to wait a while for a rain to settle the area. She told Council she was presently looking at playground equipment for the park.

Under Old Business:

Councilman Sandifer, asking if Council wanted to adopt a Smoke Free City Ordinance and move forward, informed Council that he had met again with Mrs. Beulah Hand of the Health Department.

Mrs. Hand presented a ten minute video to Council warning of the dangers of second hand smoke. She told Council they would need to adopt an ordinance in order to make Bamberg a Smoke Free City and she recommended they use the same ordinance that Greenville adopted. Mrs. Hand warned Council that in January all insurance premiums would be increasing by \$25.00 for everyone who smoked.

Commissioner Walker informed Council that in deed the premiums would be increasing by \$25.00 for all employees and members of their families who smoked. She said it could become costly to everyone.

Mayor McCollum asked Clerk Watson to provide Council with a copy of the Greenville ordinance and to place a discussion of becoming a Smoke Free City on next month's agenda.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that it would improve the restaurants in Bamberg and mentioned that some of the restaurants had already banned smoking. He said Council would be relying on the press to help them in the process.

Councilperson Walker said she would like to see a committee put together to study the process and idea of Bamberg becoming a Smoke Free City.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Bamberg, Councilman Sandifer and Councilperson Walker to the committee and asked Councilperson Walker to serve as the chairman.

Councilperson Hannibal asked how the public would be informed.

Councilperson Foster informed her that public hearings would need to be held.

Under New Business:

Council received the recommendation from the Planning Commission that ordinance 08-3 be adopted.

Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to approve on first reading Ordinance 08-3 allowing residential care facilities in the residential districts. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster, saying Mr. Craig Walker was doing a good job with the Bamberg Basketball Program which had over 80 kids involved, recommended donating \$400.00 to the program and that Mr. Walker be asked to seek sponsors for the remaining funds.

Councilperson Hannibal recommended that they donate \$1,000.00 this year since Mr. Walker did not have the financial ability to operate on only \$400.00.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that she helped as a volunteer and that the program incurred a lot of expenses like the costs of uniforms, travel, trophies, and basketballs. She explained that the majority of the kids were from the City of Bamberg but that kids were being served throughout the county.

Councilperson Foster asked if the parents contributed to the program?

Councilperson Walker informed her that the parents paid a \$25.00 registration fee.

Councilperson Bamberg saying Council Donated \$1,000 the first year to get the program started, recommended donating \$1,000.00 again this year and then \$400.00 the third year.

Councilman Sandifer, saying he could agree with the \$1,000.00 donation, told Council the funding needed to be included in next year's budget under recreation.

Councilperson Foster said the program was not a city program but it was Mr. Walker's program.

Councilperson Walker, telling Council she did not understand what Councilperson Foster was saying, informed Council it was not Mr. Walker's program but that he had stepped in to help keep the program going.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that all the programs needed to be put under the recreation budget next year.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Bamberg Basketball Program. Councilperson Hannibal made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of Mr. Clyde Reed's request to have Price Street paved Council agreed they needed to prioritize how the unpaved streets would be paved in the City of Bamberg. Council decided to let the Street Commission discuss and then make a recommendation as to how the unpaved streets would be prioritized.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the Red Raider Baseball Team to help with their travel during the Spring Break Tournament. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the Announcements:

Councilperson Walker thanked the Sanitation Department for all the beautiful work they had performed on the Frog Park. She also thanked Clerk Watson for his help.

Councilperson Walker, informing Council that the Ottley Family who owns a business next to Mr. Glover's property was complaining about the demolition debris, asked Clerk Watson if he had contacted Chief Morris to see how much longer the debris would be on the ground.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Chief Morris had contacted Mr. Glover and informed him he had to proceed with the clean up or he would be forced to bring him back before Judge Gibson.

Councilperson Hannibal voiced concern about the house that was being demolished on Railroad Avenue near Zeigler Street.

Clerk Watson explained that once a demolition permit is issued the owner has six months to complete the demolition unless a dangerous situation exist which the building inspector would address. Clerk Watson said he would contact the building inspector to have him look at the house.

Councilperson Hannibal informed Council that the Veterans' Memorial Wall Committee has met and that everyone was appointed duties. She said they were presently contacting all the towns in the county. Councilperson Hannibal told Council that seed money may be available from an individual who they plan to visit. Councilperson Hannibal told Council that she and Mrs. Moody had visited River Front Park in Charleston and had taken pictures of their veterans' memorial which they would be sharing with Council.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that there were over 27 sites where no street signs existed in the City of Bamberg. He asked who was in charge of replacing the street signs?

Mayor McCollum explained that the county was now in charge of the street signage.

Councilperson Walker voiced that the problem needed to be addressed as soon as possible due to the problems it could cause with the 2010 census.

Councilperson Foster voiced that the street signs did not belong on the telephone poles but that attractive street poles needed to be provided.

Mayor McCollum assured Council that he would draft a letter to the county.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that the McNulty Group would be conducting a public forum as part of the tourism study for the area on January 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. She said everyone was invited and urged them to attend.

Councilperson Foster told Council they needed to address the 301 menu signs for the businesses in the city. She said they were removed during the widening project and needed to be put up again. Councilperson Foster said the City also needed its own website which they needed to discuss. She told Council she wanted to be a part of the discussion.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that it had been three months since they requested the additional parking signs for the downtown parking lots. He said Councilman Fralick had followed up on the request to the Highway Department and said he had also called personally himself.

Councilperson Foster told Council the new parking area on Moore Street needed to be paved. Councilperson Walker said she would like to see plantings along the fenced area to block the view of the BPW's equipment.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the BPW has agreed to gravel the area and plant trees along the fenced area.

Councilperson Foster told Council that some new businesses have located in the downtown area and that they needed to do everything possible to make the area attractive.

With no further business, Councilperson Foster made the motion to adjourn.
Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor