

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.

COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Phyllis Overstreet, Craig Walker, Richard Kemp, Gene Schwarting, Karen Henderson, Gerlie Walker, William Robinson, Dorothy Robinson, Soloman Odom, Helen Sally and a lobby and meeting room filled to capacity of others.

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

Council approved the agenda to include item 4a under New Business an executive session to discuss the disciplining of employees.

Mayor McCollum began the public hearing to receive comments from the public on proposed Ordinance 06-15.

Mrs. Karen Henderson who lives at 94 Cricket Brook Drive informed Council she was representing concerned citizens of Cricket Brook Drive and the surrounding area. She presented Council with a petition signed by 160 citizens protesting the rezoning of the Cricket Brook Drive area from R-1 to R-3. She said they contest the rezoning of their community and felt it would cause a negative effect on the value of their homes, a positive effect on crime, and would create an unsafe environment for their children in the neighborhood. She said they pay taxes and deserve to be in a quiet neighborhood like others in the City of Bamberg. Mrs. Henderson said they did not want mobile homes or duplex apartments dropped in the middle of their community and would like to remain a quiet neighborhood which would invite other residents to build single family homes there. She said by not rezoning their homes and community would appreciate which would preserve the quality of life for the residents in the area. She said the citizens were asking Council to reconsider the rezoning of the neighborhood.

With no further comments, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to bring the public hearing to a close. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as presented. Councilperson Mack made the second. During the discussion, Clerk Watson

explained the balances of several line items to Councilperson Foster and Councilperson Johnson. All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that Officer Merkle resigned effective January 3, 2007 and that advertising had begun for his replacement. He said four applications had been received at this time.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that Chief Morris was in agreement to mark three police cars but to leave the chief's car unmarked. Councilman Sandifer then made the motion to mark three cars and to place bar lights on six of the cars. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that the Chamber of Commerce had begun placing spreads in the local papers. She said everything was going well in the Sanitation Department and thanked Councilperson Sandifer for helping with the new ten foot by sixteen foot shed. Councilperson Johnson reported that the building to store flammable products had also been repaired.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had attended the Upward Basketball game on Saturday and said it was awesome. She said over 300 people were in attendance. Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had attended the event in Columbia to see guardsmen from South Carolina deployed. She said the event would always remain with her and that tears were shed and prayers were lifted.

Councilman Walker informed Council that the fire truck had been repaired at a cost of \$9,000.00 to \$9,500.00. He reported that everything was going well in the fire Department.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that she had no insurance report but wanted to let them know that the Buildings and Grounds Committee was recommending that a plaque be placed at the Civic Center dedicating the building with the names of the mayor, council, commissioners and the manager of the BPW placed on the plaque.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to accept the recommendation for the plaque. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster reported that 268 business licenses had been purchased so far this year and that 309 business licenses had been purchased during last year.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he, Councilpersons Johnson, Mack and Foster had attended the summit last week with Representative Sellers and Senator Hutto.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that they were excited about the summit. She said Representative Sellers and Senator Hutto were concerned with helping Bamberg

County but said the hospital was a big issue. She said everyone agreed to meet every quarter.

Under Old B usiness.

After Clerk Watson explained some concerns with having the ordinance become effective in July of 2007, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approved the second reading of Ordinance 06-16 to read that it would become effective April 6, 2009. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of policies for the use of the City Civic Center, Councilperson Sandifer voiced concerns with the safety of the building. He said some things needed to be corrected before the building was rented since the City would be held liable if anyone was hurt while using the building.

Councilperson Foster suggested that a committee be appointed to come up with policies for the Civic Center once more studying had been done.

Mayor McCollum asked Councilpersons Mack, Foster and Johnson along with Councilman Sandifer to serve on the committee. They agreed to serve.

Councilpersons Johnson and Mack said they agreed to wait for the committee's recommendation and for the needed repairs to be made before the Civic Center is rented.

Under New Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the Bamberg Youth Basketball Program. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Clerk Watson explained the bidding process for the 301 Streetscape Project and Councilman Sandifer informed Council that there was \$159,000.00 available for the project that was not used in the renovation of the Police Department, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to award the 301 Streetscape Project to Moore Electric for \$209,000.00 as the low bidder with the money to come from the renovation funds and reserves. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Council received the recommendation from the Planning Commission that Ordinance 06-15 be adopted to rezone the Cricket Brook Drive area from R-1 to R-3.

Councilman Sandifer asked if everyone in the room was against the rezoning of the Cricket Brook Drive area?

The audience responded that they were against the rezoning.

Mr. Gene Schwarting, III, and Mr. Richard Kemp explained to the audience their intentions to purchase the vacant lots on Cricket Brook Drive only to build single family homes. They said they had no intentions to bring in double wide manufactured homes or to build duplex apartments.

Zoning Administrator Watson explained the present zoning ordinance and problems associated with the area as zoned.

After more discussion in which the citizens voiced strong oppositions to the rezoning. Mr. Schwarting and Mr. Kemp agreed to talk to the owner Mr. Harry Hiott to see if the lots could be replatted to meet the R-1 requirements.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion not to have the first reading of ordinance 06-15 to rezone Cricket Brook Drive from R-1 to R-3. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried. The ordinance did not move forward for lack of an approved first reading.

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

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

During the announcements, Councilperson Foster informed Council that Mount Carmel Church would be holding a special event on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to honor outstanding individuals in the community.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she would be coordinating with churches in the area to recognize Mrs. Abel and Mrs. Pinkney on their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor