

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2005 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: Chief George Morris, Kim Trantham, Dalton Cornforth, Chester Hightower, Kathy Rhoad, Warren Hammett, Phyllis Overstreet, and Jerry Durgan.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Alex Boykin.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the agenda to include the amendments of IVa the recognition of Kim Trantham and Dalton Cornforth to request permission to have a Halloween Carnival on the railroad birm and item 5 under New Business an executive session to discuss a personnel problem. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Chester Hightower asked Council's permission to close off Second Street from Carlisle Street to North Street on November 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a neighborhood block party.

Councilperson Foster asked him if all the neighbors were aware of his request.

Mr. Hightower said they were and that everyone was in favor of the party. He said he was trying to promote harmony within the neighborhood.

Chief Morris asked if alcohol would be served?

Mr. Hightower said he would not be serving alcohol himself.

Chief Morris reminded him of the open container ordinance and the noise ordinance for the City of Bamberg.

Councilperson Foster said the noise might disturb other neighbors in the area.

Councilman Sandifer said he saw nothing wrong with the request but told Mr. Hightower that the City had the open container ordinance and the noise ordinance and that Council must be reassured that he would obey them. Councilman Sandifer said once he violated the ordinances then the party must cease.

Mr. Hightower assured Council that there would be no drinking in the street.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to honor the request. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Dalton Cornforth asked Council's permission to use the railroad birm for a Halloween Carnival on October 29th from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to raise money for the BE Senior Class Trip.

Councilperson Foster asked what activities would be taking place on the birm?

Mr. Cornforth informed Council that a dunking booth, a fishing game, a ball toss game and a hayride would be taking place on the birm.

Councilperson Mack asked who would be supervising the event?

Mrs. Kim Trantham said parents of the youth would be supervising the event.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the Halloween Carnival on the birm for October 29th. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Hospital Administrator Warren Hammett explained to Council the process involved in trying to build a new county hospital. He said County Council recommended initially two sites which consisted of one at the County Industrial Park and one at the BPW property on Highway 301 in Bamberg. He said once the engineers and DHEC were involved in the process that everyone favored the BPW site on Highway 301. He explained that this site consisted of 55 acres. Mr. Hammett informed Council that a Certificate of Need was being developed and explained that it would need Council's support in the future. He said that the Certificate of Need and the application would be sent to HUD. Mr. Hammett informed Council that the initial visit with HUD Officials in Washington went very well for the new hospital. Mr. Hammett explained that the new hospital would be funded with bonds and that there would be no tax increases or any liability for the citizens of Bamberg. He said if everything went as planned that groundbreaking for the new 40 bed facility would begin in the summer of 2006. Mr. Hammett went on to say the project would be a 25 million dollar project which was the biggest project ever for Bamberg County.

Councilman Sandifer thanked Mr. Hammett for his support of the community. He asked him how many people would be employed at the new hospital?

Mr. Hammett told Council that 280 employees would be employed at the new hospital. He said the proposed BPW site had a four lane highway and utilities already in proximity to the site. Mr. Hammett said it would take an additional one and a half million dollars to make improvements such as a four lane road and utility infrastructure to the County Industrial Park before groundbreadking could even begin. He explained that this money would have to come directly from the hospital. Mr. Hammett said DHEC was concerned with the airport being close to the County Industrial Park and that the engineers were concerned with all the wetlands at the County Industrial Park which would have to be dealt with.

Mayor McCollum asked if there were any stumbling blocks and if there was anything Council could do at this point?

Mr. Hammett said he would need letters of support from Council and he informed Council that they were working with the BPW to secure the property. He said there would always be some opposition to the project.

Councilperson Johnson asked if HUD was aware of the percent of LMI families in Bamberg County?

Mr. Hammett said the hospital's policy was to treat everyone and that the hospital has a charity policy which was 400% of the poverty level.

Mayor McCollum wished Mr. Hammett the best of luck and assured him that Council would be glad to recommend anything to help with the project.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2005 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2005 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that on September 26th they decided to ask that all police cars be returned to City Hall. He said the request was not received very well by the department.

Councilman Sandifer said he went to talk to Chief Morris about record keeping for the police cars. He said his suggestions were not well received at that time either. Councilman Sandifer said it was like beating your head against the wall but that he was going to keep trying.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that a letter had been received from Mayor Simmons of Denmark thanking the City for the donation of the grapple loading truck to them. She said the Sanitation Department was working very hard and she praised Mr. Sweatman for his hard work. Councilperson Johnson told Council that the Chamber of Commerce was presently looking for a new director.

Councilman Walker presented the proposed policy for the Bamberg Fire Department from the Bamberg Fire Commission. The Commission proposed that the first priority be

to protect life and property of City taxpayers. The second priority would be to honor the Fire Contract with Bamberg County Council by sending one pumper and one tanker to all structural fires and by sending only one tanker to all other calls. The third priority would be to give mutual aid to other departments by sending one pumper when called.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to adopt the Commission's proposed policy as presented. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that past due notices for business licenses had been sent.

Under Old Business.

After Mayor McCollum explained that he wished to donate the approved \$400.00 for the United Way instead to the local DSS office as needed, Councilperson Foster made the motion not to give the money to the United Way but instead to give it to the local DSS office as needed. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business.

After much discussion concerning a tree ordinance request by Mr. Jonathan Walsh in which Councilman Sandifer and Councilperson Johnson voiced opposition to and which Councilperson Foster voiced support of, Councilperson Johnson made the motion to table the discussion. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve Resolution 2005-4 pertaining to Halloween and Trick or Treat for October 31, 2005. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the Christmas Parade Permit for December 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Clerk Watson informed Council that that low bidder James Heating and Air had installed the A/C unit with the Fire Commission's approval, Councilperson Foster made the motion to pay James Heating and Air \$3,895.00 for the A/C unit installed at the Fire Department. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel problem. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

After some discussion of the marking and the selling of police cars, Councilman Foster made the motion to have all the cars numbered. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to sell the two police cars at Jeff Black's junk yard. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Council asked Mayor McCollum to send a letter to all departments reminding them of the ordinance that describes how all City property shall be disposed of.

During the announcements, Mayor McCollum read the thank you note from Clerk Watson thanking Council for the memorial that was sent in honor of Martha Watson who was his mother.

Councilperson Foster reminded everyone of the Sesquicentennial Gala Event which would be held at the Little Theater this Saturday.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that due to the Sesquicentennial Year she felt a picture of Mayor and Council needed to be placed at City Hall.

Councilperson Foster voiced that it would be great to have pictures of all the past and present Mayors of Bamberg shown at City Hall.

Council decided to discuss the ideas at the next Council meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor