

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2004 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: Phyllis Overstreet, Jerry Durgan, Thurman Nichols, Bill Kilgus, Fire Chief Timmie Taylor, County Councilman Johnny Williamson, County Councilman Chris Wilson, and Mary Headen.

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

Councilperson Foster made the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to the Fire Service Contract. 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.

Mayor McCollum announced that no action had been taken in executive session. He explained that the issue of the Fire Service Contract would involve further study.

Councilman Sandifer informed the audience that the issue of the Fire Service Contract had become more complex since last week. He explained that City Council had met with County Council last week to discuss the issue. Councilman Sandifer said the Bamberg Fire Department didn't expect a pat on the back but they didn't appreciate the County Fire Service Members coming to Bamberg and cutting them down. He said a lot of damage had been done at this time to the relationships within the County Fire Service. Councilman Sandifer went on to say that Chief Taylor caught most of the darts. Councilman Sandifer told the group that Mr. Epperson should not be trying to tell us what to do since his department still has an ISO 10 rating and since we have an ISO 4 rating. Councilman Sandifer said he was proud to serve with such a dedicated department so please don't come in here and cut us down.

Mayor McCollum informed the audience that the City of Bamberg was still covering the rural areas and that City Council would make their final decision a month from tonight.

Councilman Sandifer thanked Dr. Watson and Mr. Nichols and others who spoke on the City's behalf.

Councilperson Foster said she was anxious to get the issue resolved.

Mr. Nichols said he felt the City and County needed more cooperation.

Dr. Watson thanked Council for their concerns.

Mrs. Mary Headen informed Council that she had five children who had participated in the soccer and baseball programs at the Ness Complex but said when those programs

ended she had to go out of county to find recreation programs for her kids. She told Council the City needed a fulltime recreation program.

Councilperson Johnson asked her how old her kids were.

Mrs. Headen said they ranged from eight years old to thirteen years old.

Mayor McCollum informed Mrs. Headen that Council had discussed this but really depended on volunteers. He said it was a matter of having the funding to provide a fulltime program.

Councilman Sandifer said the City of Bamberg's tax base was not as good as areas like Orangeburg. He said the City didn't have the money for a fulltime program and that Council couldn't raise the taxes to fund a \$32,000.00 position.

Councilperson Foster also said the monies weren't available.

Mrs. Headen said she realized such a service could not be free and said you must charge fees for the programs.

Councilman Sandifer assured Mrs. Headen that he would look into such a program.

Councilperson Johnson invited Mrs. Headen and her kids to become involved in the local scouting programs.

Councilperson Foster said the City needed to look into such a program.

Councilperson Mack voiced that staffing such a program would be a problem.

Mayor McCollum thanked Mrs. Headen for coming and said Councilman Sandifer would look into such a program.

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

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2004 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Clerk Watson explained a few changes in the report.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer reported that Mungo Casket Company was still moving in. He reported that the sports programs were dormant at this time but that repairs to the facilities would be made this winter.

Councilperson Foster asked if there was any news concerning the Cross Rhodes Park.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that a company was hoping to locate in the park but they were waiting on DHEC to approve their permits to operate.

Mayor McCollum explained that the company was involved in recycling pharmaceutical drugs. He informed Council that Mungo Casket Company would be starting their sewing operations this week.

Councilman Sandifer also informed Council that plans were to add lights to the other ball field and to the other side of the soccer field this winter. He said Manager Ellis of the BPW had agreed to help with the project.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that next month she would be introducing Regina Gatling as the new police officer for the City.

Councilman Sandifer asked if she was certified.

Councilperson Johnson explained that Mrs. Gatlin would be attending the Police Academy for her certification.

Councilman Walker reported that the Fire Department was doing fine. He asked Clerk Watson if he had received any information concerning the fire hydrant plans for the Wren Street area.

Clerk Watson informed Council he had heard nothing at this time.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Manager Ellis had promised to have the plans completed by the end of the year.

Councilman Walker inquired about the building inspector.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Bamberg County had just hired a new inspector who should begin work on problems within the City very soon. He explained that Administrator Clark had been serving as the interim inspector.

Councilperson Johnson urged Mayor McCollum to check on the hydrant plans.

Chief Taylor urged Council to make sure the new building inspector coordinated with him concerning fire code compliances before he approved any final inspections.

Councilperson Wells reported that things were running smoothly in the Sanitation Department. She praised the department for the quick clean up following the festival.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that licensing procedures were on track for the year.

Under Old Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the second reading of ordinance 04-06 adopting and enacting a new code of ordinances for the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson informed Council that the appraisal of the Faust Street Community Park had been completed and sent to Mr. Marshall Johnson of the South Carolina PRT.

Under New Business.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to have Halloween this year on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for children twelve years of age and under. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 04-07 to amend the business license ordinance provisions for insurance companies and for brokers for non-admitted fire and casualty insurers. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Councilperson Mack urged Council to attend the Job Corp Make A Difference Day on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Job Corp Facility.

County Councilman Chris Wilson told Council he was sorry he was late but that he didn't get out of court until late this evening. He said he appreciated Council's consideration of the Fire Service Contract.

Councilman Wilson informed Council that a friend of his had complimented the City on how well the City was looking.

Chief Taylor informed Council that the Fire Dept. would begin their Fire Prevention Program tomorrow and that 504 fire extinguishers and 504 smoke detectors had been acquired through a grant which would be distributed to the public.

Councilman Sandifer told Council if the dept answered a call and noticed that fire detectors were not in place that the dept. would install a detector before they left the scene.

Chief Taylor informed Council that landlords were required to furnish smoke detectors in their places for rent according to state law.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor of Bamberg