

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Buck Fralick, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Betty Mack, Jerry Halmon, Phyllis Overstreet, Timmie Taylor, Betty Mack, Elizabeth Moody, and Arlene Sease.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilperson Bamberg.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Mr. Shipley said he would not be able to attend.

Mr. Blain Crosby had not arrived to address Council.

Councilperson Bamberg entered the meeting in progress.

After Councilperson Walker asked that the last sentence from the second paragraph on page 556A be struck from the minutes and replaced with the sentence "She said participates can anticipate a \$25.00 increase in premiums by 2010 due to the exposure to non smokers and due to the increase in tobacco related issues", Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting to include the amendment. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that the new completed police car had been received and assigned to Sergeant Kirby. Commissioner Sandifer told Council the officers were not using good judgement when they left their cars running all the time. He said one officer was averaging 7 miles per gallon. He told Council Chief Morris was addressing the issue.

Commissioner Sandifer voiced concerns that the officers were not issuing warnings anymore. He told Council the new officer would be attending the academy on the 20th.

Chief Morris informed Council that the new car had really gone to Assistant Chief Bamberg.

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

Commissioner Bamberg reported that everything was going well with the renewal of the business licenses at this time. She said letters would be sent next month to the businesses who were late in renewing their licenses and then they would be turned over to the Chief Morris.

Commissioner Walker informed Council about the new GASB 45 requirements dealing with other post employment benefits. She told Council they would have to be watching closely due to amendments that have been placed on the legislative docket this year dealing with the new requirement.

Commissioner Fralick presented a crosswalk sign to Council and asked how they felt about placing a sign at each end of the crosswalk in the Core Commercial District.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that there were crosswalk signs already at the Home Federal Savings and Loan Building and at the Antique Shop which looked huge.

Councilperson Walker said they did look huge but that she had seen the signs in place and they didn't look that big. She said she would love to see the signs put up especially due to the constant complaints and due to the speeding 40 mph traffic that was now occurring along Main Street.

Commissioner Fralick mentioned that Council could look at purchasing a radar sign to be included in next year's budget.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to put up the crosswalk signs downtown. Councilman Fralick made the necessary second. All Approved. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fralick informed Council that three sets of parking signs had been ordered for the new back parking lot on Moore Street.

Commissioner Hannibal reminded Council that October was Fire Prevention Month. She said Fire Chief Taylor and other fire fighters had presented a fire safety course at Brabham Oil Company including live demonstrations and educational materials. She told Council that they had also presented a fire safety education course at OCAB.

Chief Taylor informed Council that the chassis for the new fire truck should be finished this week and that the truck was still on schedule. He said the truck was due to arrive in December.

Councilperson Foster asked Chief Taylor if they needed more volunteers?

Chief Taylor told Council they could use a few more volunteers.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that they were assessing the work at the Ness Park. She reported that Foster Park looked good and asked that the Sanitation Department look at cleaning the parking lot in the downtown area. Commissioner Foster informed Council that Phoenix Specialties would be recognized on October 16th at 11:00 a.m. at Foster Park.

Under Old Business:

After some discussion, Councilman Fralick made the motion to have Dianne Wilson come before Council to inform them about the steps necessary to make Bamberg a Smoke Free City. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After some discussion of the need for personal leave days instead of vacation days and sick leave days and after Clerk Watson explained why the labor attorney needed to be involved, Councilperson Foster made the motion to pursue adopting personal leave days. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business:

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to reappoint Marion Dwight, IV to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals for a term ending in October 2012. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to reappoint Pat Cogburn and John Daniels to the Planning Commission for terms ending April 2012. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Mr. Harry Crissy would be conducting a Public Input Workshop as part of the Community Plan on Saturday, October the 18th at 11:00 a.m. in the Kearse Agricultural Building. Mayor McCollum reported that Mr. Crissy had been promoted and moved to Charleston but that he would be completing the Community Plan for the City of Bamberg.

Councilperson Foster said Bamberg County would still be Mr. Crissy's area of responsibility.

After a discussion of a Veteran's Day event, Councilperson Hannibal agreed to organize an event with Mrs. Elizabeth Moody volunteering to help.

Mrs. Arlene Sease, addressing Council on behalf of the Blain Crosby and the Blair D. Crosby Wellnes Center, informed Council that things were going well with the center. She told Council 32 students were enrolled at this time but that the center could serve 125 students. She presented them with a brochure detailing the programs offered at the center. Mrs. Sease invited Council to the celebration that would be taking place at the center on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sease informed Council that the center was is in need of a \$599.00 computer for the students and asked if they would be willing to donate one to the center.

Councilperson Foster, stating that all their donations were limited to \$400.00, made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the Blair D. Crosby Wellness Center for a computer. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that all the requests from the Board of Registrations and Elections had been taken care of by Clerk Watson.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to have Halloween Trick or Treat on Friday, October 31, 2008 this year from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for kids twelve and under. Councilperson Hannibal made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Walker, speaking on behalf of Mrs. Ann Dowling who lived at the corner of Cricket Drive and Cox Avenue and the residents of Cricket and Brook Drives, informed Council they were asking to close the streets on the night of Halloween from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to serve candy and hotdogs. Councilperson Walker said they wished to close the streets to thru traffic but not to the residents and emergency personnel.

After some discussion in which Chief Morris agreed to furnish traffic cones and everyone agreed that no parking along Cox Avenue would be allowed, Councilperson Walker made the motion to grant the request. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements:

Councilperson Foster reminded Council about the ceremony at the Crosby Wellness Center on Thursday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m. She informed Council that the Main Street Market had a lot of great upcoming events scheduled for the public and said the LSCOG had many good programs available to help people during this needy time.

Councilperson Hannibal asked if the tourism study had been done?

Councilperson Foster informed Council that the study was completed and that it showed hunting and outdoor recreation were very important to the area. She told Council the study made mention of Dodge trucks. Councilperson Foster informed Council that the Minolty Group was performing another study which would pull everything together.

Mayor McCollum reminded everyone about the Public Forum this Saturday at the Kears Agricultural Building at 11:00 a.m. for the Community Plan. He told Council that he had attended the first meeting of the Mayors Institute and that a site visit for Bamberg will be planned.

Councilman Sandifer reminded everyone about the meeting with SCDOT at the Civic Center tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

Councilperson Bamberg announced that she had been appointed as pastor of the Bamberg Initiative by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She said they hoped to have their conference in Bamberg this year which should include over 3,000 people.

Councilperson Bamberg said they were looking to try and bring two motels to the Bamberg area.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that she had been contacted by Mr. Burleson who was concerned about the lack of ADA compliance with the Highway 301 widening construction. She said Mr. Burleson was concerned with the steps going into the Little Theatre and other issues on the east side. Councilperson Walker said Mr. Burleson wanted to be on next month's agenda to discuss the problems.

Mayor McCollum said he was not sure what they could do except ask Mr. Brian Hepe of the SCDOT concerning the compliance regulations.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had been contacted by Mr. Dalton Tresvant from Congressman Clyburn's office who informed him that one million dollars has been approved to renovate the Civic Center to be known as the Bamberg National Guard Staging Area. Mayor McCollum voiced that a lot could be done with one million dollars.

Councilperson Foster told Council that the second tourism group wanted to meet with the stakeholders of Bamberg next time.

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

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

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor