

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Alex Boykin, Jr., Betty Mack and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Rose Elliotte, Craig & Janeth Walker, Rev. Tim Futrell, Bonnie Strickland, Douglas Stokes, Franklin Bamberg, Chester Hightower, and Phyllis Overstreet.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Robert Hurst informed Council that Phoenix Specialty would be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and that the employees had decided to do community projects in Denmark and Bamberg to celebrate the event. He explained that Phoenix had decided to donate monies to refurbish the Foster Park in Bamberg. He wanted to be allowed to work with the Parks Commission to decide how thousands of dollars could be spent once donated.

Mayor McCollum thanked Mr. Hurst and asked the Parks Commission to work with Mr. Hurst and then report back to Council on their recommendations for refurbishing Foster Park.

Councilman Sandifer thanked Mr. Hurst for all he and his wife, Cindy, have done for the City of Bamberg's soccer program for the past 17 years. He also thanked him for being involved with the 4th of July Celebration each year.

Councilperson Foster told Mr. Hurst that Council appreciated his involvement so much.

Councilman Boykin voiced that Phoenix Specialty's economic impact to the region was phenomenal.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Mr. Ted Robertson who heads up the Bamberg County Litter Control Program was asking to be allowed to place a tent on the railroad birm in November for a week in observance of Litter Control Week.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to grant the request. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Chester Hightower asked Council for permission to close off Second Street between Carlisle and North Street from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. for his second annual neighborhood block party.

Councilman Boykin made the motion to grant the request. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Douglas Stokes informed Council about the Upward Bamberg Basketball Program that he, Rev. Tim Futrell and Mrs. Bonnie Strickland were planning. He explained the program was a sports ministry offered by the First Baptist Church of Bamberg. He asked Council's permission to utilize the armory so the teams could hold practices during the week. He explained that the Games would be played on Saturdays in the high school gym.

Mrs. Bonnie Strickland presented Council with a pamphlet explaining the program and invited them to the organizational meeting on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church. She explained that the program would be in combination with other community basketball programs. Mrs. Strickland said the program would begin in December with games starting in January and continuing through February. She said the program served kids from kindergarten to the 6th grade.

Councilman Sandifer commended Mr. Stokes for his basketball programs in the past years. He asked if the Upward Basketball Program had ever been offered in Bamberg and asked how many kids they hoped to involve?

Mr. Stokes informed Council that this was the first year and that they hoped to reach 100 kids.

Councilman Sandifer asked if the program was affiliated with any one religion?

Mrs. Strickland informed Council that it was a Christian based program.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that if they granted the use to any one religious group then other religious groups could request use of the building and it must be granted.

Mrs. Strickland informed Council that the program was non denominational and was open to everyone.

Councilman Boykin said he felt it was a great program but he cautioned that once Council decided on the multi uses of the armory that it may not be suitable for basketball play in the future. He said he would like to see the schools house the practices as well as the games in the future.

Councilperson Johnson asked if it was the same program as the one in St. George?

Mr. Stokes said it was the same program.

Councilman Boykin voiced that there were three gyms in the City of Bamberg located at the schools and that it would be redundant to spend tax dollars when other gyms could be utilized.

Mayor McCollum said he felt if the program did not go well then Council could stop it at anytime.

Councilperson Foster asked if the old basketball program would be combined with the Upward Basketball Program?

Mr. Stokes informed her that they would be combined.

After more discussion, Councilperson Johnson made the motion to have the Buildings Commission review the request and make the final decision. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Rev. Tim Futrell informed Council that once one group is given the use of the building then any group must be given access regardless of religious affiliation.

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

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he felt the timing for the Charrette Process was not right due to being involved in the middle of the 301 Widening Project. Councilman Sandifer voiced that the time was not right and that \$8,000.00 was not in this year's budget for the process. Councilman Sandifer asked Council to consider delaying the Charrett Process until the 301 Project was finished.

Councilperson Foster said she thought it was an ideal time to begin the Charrette Process since the lighting and fencing had already been planned.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that it would be confusing to have both projects going on at one time and felt it may be hard to get support from the business owners.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that until the merchants see the results of the 301 Widening Project they would not accept anything.

Councilperson Foster said the merchants have already been told they needed to renovate their buildings.

Councilman Boykin explained that the Charrette Process would give the merchants and public a way to buy into the program. He said Barnwell did this but admitted they were not in the middle of another project. He explained that the Charrette Process is required as part of the Master Plan which is required by the SC Department of Commerce. Councilman Boykin said the finish point of the 301 Widening Project was known which would become the beginning point for the Charrette Process.

Councilperson Mack agreed that funding was not in this year's budget.

Mayor McCollum voiced that he felt the 301 Project needed to be accomplished in order to ask the merchants to buy into the Charrette Process.

After some discussion, Council agreed to delay the Charrette Process at this time.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Police Department had hired another officer and was now at full force. He told Council that applications for the Victim Assistance/Office Assistant were now being taken.

After some discussion of Halloween, Councilperson Foster made the motion to allow Halloween Trick or Treating from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. this year. Councilman Walker made the second. All agreed. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that everything was going well in the Sanitation Department. She said Mr. Seymore was doing more work in one day than it took him in three days due to the new equipment. Councilperson Johnson, saying the Sanitation Department had some expensive equipment, asked Council to consider letting them move the equipment into the garage building at the armory.

Councilman Sandifer said he agreed but felt the Buildings Commission needed to look into her request since Chief Taylor had requested one of the bays in the building for the Fire Department so they could maintain their trucks.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to have the Building Commission review the requests and to make a decision. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson reported that the Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Banquet with a full house in attendance.

Councilman Walker reported that the Fire Department was running smoothly.

Councilman Boykin informed everyone that Council had held a public hearing to receive comments on the Armory. He told Council that since the last meeting two sets of bleachers and trashcans had been placed at the basketball court at the Ness Complex. He informed Council that quotes were being received for resurfacing and painting of lines on the courts and to replace the fence at this time. Councilman Boykin told Council that water would soon be installed at the courts.

Councilperson Foster reported that delinquent license holders would be turned over to the Police Department for enforcement proceedings this week.

Under Old Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve on second reading Ordinance 06-12. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve on second reading Ordinance 06-13. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve on second reading Ordinance 06-14. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that public comments were taken during the public hearing concerning the Armory. He asked the Buildings Commission to discuss the use of the property and to make a recommendation to Council concerning the development and repairs of the property.

Mrs. Rose Elliotte, Bamberg County Administrator, informed Council that County Council was hoping to work with the City to upgrade the Armory. She asked to be allowed to attend the Buildings Commission meeting.

Under New Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve on first reading Ordinance 06-10 to accept the Armory Property. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor