

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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: Janeth Walker, Craig Walker, Jerry Durgan, Virginia Kemp, Jamie Brabham, Charlie & Becky Swindell, Joel Hand, Lisa Stokes, and Douglas Stokes.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

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

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2006 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilman Sandifer asked if the purchasing of the additional police car had caused the police department's capital expenditures line item to be at 127%?

Clerk Watson explained that Council had to approve an additional \$14,000.00 to purchase a new car to replace the car that was totaled and that it had taken the line item over budget.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that everything in the Police Department was running smoothly. He told Council the Department was at full staff.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that the Sanitation Department was doing well and there were no complaints. She told Council that the Chamber of Commerce had a beautiful spread in the Times and Democrat this week.

Councilman Walker informed Council that the Fire Department was running well. He mentioned that an abandoned house on Pentecostal Street needed to be looked at by the Police Department.

Councilman Boykin informed Council that the outdoor basketball courts at the Ness Complex had been completed. He said bleachers, nets, and trash cans had been placed at the courts and that the fence was repaired and a water fountain was installed. Councilman Boykin told Council that the late Mr. Al Ramsey was a key player who was involved with the tennis program for the school as well as the sports programs with the City.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that Mr. Ramsey worked superbly at the school and with the City. He said Mr. Ramsey was very conscientious about the tennis courts at Foster Park and did everything possible to maintain the courts. Mr. Sandifer told Council that Mr. Ramsey was an asset to the school and the City. He reminded Council that plaques had been placed at the Ness Complex honoring Doctor Glenn and the late Councilperson Vernessa Williams for their contributions to the Ness Complex.

Councilman Boykin asked Council for a motion to support the placement of a park bench with a plaque at Foster Park honoring the late Mr. Al Ramsey.

Councilperson Johnson said it was good idea. She said Mr. Ramsey was a wonderful person and a great coach.

Councilman Walker voiced that he had seen the amazing work Mr. Ramsey did with children and said he was a great commentator.

Councilperson Mack said she always heard positive things about Mr. Ramsey.

Councilman Boykin voiced that Mr. Ramsey got along with everyone.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to place a bench with a plaque in honor of Mr. Ramsey at the tennis court at Foster Park. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that worker's compensation costs would be increasing 5% this year but that the City of Bamberg would be saving \$4,285.00 this year due to its low number of claims.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that business licenses were in. She asked Clerk Watson to provide her with the number of business licenses issued in 2006 for the next meeting.

Under Old Business.

Clerk Watson informed Council that the procedures necessary to rezone the Cricket Brook Drive area were well under way.

Under New Business.

Clerk Watson explaining the time frames necessary to advertise and file for the April election voiced concerns to Council that redistricting so close to an election could be very confusing to those who wish to file for the election since they may not know for sure which district seat to file for. He cautioned that such confusion could possibly lead to a complaint which would call for a second election. Clerk Watson explained that the Justice Department's preclearance may not even be finalized before the filing deadline. Clerk Watson explained that if Council approved of Plan 2 that they could move to adopt Ordinance 06-16 but just decide on a later effective date.

Councilperson Johnson said she had no problem with Plan 2 but that she felt the plan needed to come into effect after the April election.

Councilman Boykin made the motion to approve Ordinance 06-16 on first reading but to change the effective date to July 1, 2007. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker told Council he had studied and was concerned with the situation and felt it was a good idea to make the ordinance effective after the election.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the request from the American Red Cross to use the City Civic Center for a bingo fundraiser on March 30, 2007. Councilperson Johnson made the second. During the discussion, Councilman Sandifer voiced that he felt Council needed to purchase several hundred chairs and some tables for the City Civic Center. Mayor McCollum told Council that he agreed and that he was tired of hauling chairs and tables. He informed Council that he had priced chairs at around \$21.94 each. He urged Council to consider purchasing plastic tables. All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the use of the City Civic Center on March 17<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup> by Mrs. Moody for food distributions. Councilman Boykin made the second. During the discussion, Councilperson Johnson informed Council that two elderly people had been injured during the last food distribution. Councilperson Foster asked that they be requested to remove all of their empty boxes after the food distributions. All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that that Clerk Watson and Chief Morris had agreed that the litter ordinance for the City of Bamberg was adequate at this time to handle any litter violations. He said if names were found in the litter it would be up to Chief Morris to fine the individuals who could then plead their case before the judge.

Mayor McCollum presented Council with copies of Richland County's policies concerning the use of their facilities. He said the policies had received national

recognition and urged Council to look over the policies so they could discuss developing policies for the City Civic Center.

During the announcements, Councilperson Johnson voiced that she felt Council needed to talk to the downtown merchants concerning the 301 Widening Project. She said she planned to meet with them on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor McCollum then called for a Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the 301 Widening Project with the merchants.

Councilman Boykin, saying he had enjoyed serving on Council, informed Council that he would be relinquishing his seat effective December 31<sup>st</sup> due to moving out of his district.

Councilperson Johnson told Councilman Boykin that they had enjoyed working with him.

Mayor McCollum told Councilman Boykin that he had added a lot to Council and asked him to put his announcement in writing to Council.

During the question from the press and audience, Mrs. Alzena Robinson thanked Council for postponing the effective date for the redistricting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor