

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Bo Griffin, Janeth Walker, Buzzy Bunch, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Franklin Bamberg, Craig Walker, Phyllis Overstreet, Nancy Hiers, and Fire Chief Timmie Taylor.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilpersons Bamberg and Bunch. He informed Council that Councilperson Bamberg had called to say she would not be able to attend due to her job.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda to include the addition of item number 2 under New Business the discussion of the donation of property by the US Group to the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Bunch entered the meeting in progress.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009 meeting as received. Councilman Bunch made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting as received. Councilperson Hannibal made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Commissioner Griffin told Council he had no report at that time but informed them the Chamber of Commerce had held The Tour Of Homes which was a success.

Councilperson Foster informed Council nine homes were on The Tour Of Homes with proceeds from the event going to the MAMAS Animal Shelter. She encouraged everyone to adopt a pet from the shelter for Christmas.

Commissioner Walker informed Council that the transition to the SC Employee Insurance Program was going smoothly. She told Council she and Clerk Watson had met with representatives from EIP on November 24th and that they would be attending training sessions on January 13th and 14th. She informed Council that representatives from EIP would be in Bamberg in early January to sign up the employees for the program.

Commissioner Bunch had no report at that time.

Commissioner Hannibal referred to Fire Chief Timmie Taylor who informed Council that the Fire Department had received another equipment grant to purchase needed equipment for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that the Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Commission had met to discuss several things. Commissioner Foster said the Commission was recommending that Council consider another sign for the downtown area listing the businesses downtown. She said they were also recommending the City get its own website separate from the BPW so the merchants could advertise on the site for a small fee. Commissioner Foster informed Council they had discussed the need for someone to inspect the parks regularly due to finding loose bolts on some of the playground equipment in the parks. She said the Commission was recommending that Commissioner Griffin work with Mr. Thomas of the Sanitation Department to have Mr. Bishop of the department be assigned to inspect the parks on a regular basis. Commissioner Foster, saying the grant website from the Municipal Association was not being utilized, said the Commission was recommending they look at having someone help them utilize the website and apply for the available grants.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that the Commission had met with Mr. Walker and agreed to provide him with an additional \$1,000.00 from the recreation line items for a total of \$2,000.00 for the Bamberg Youth Basketball Program this year.

Mr. Craig Walker informed Council that he had appeared before the Recreation Commission requesting \$4,000.00 for the Bamberg Youth Basketball Program this year and received \$2,000.00. Mr. Walker told Council that Clerk Watson had recommended that the shortfall of an additional \$2,000.00 could possibly come from Community Promotions like the Bamberg Youth Football Program received in the past. Mr. Walker explained to Council that his program was bursting at the seams and that the program was providing needy kids with positive contact with the coaches and other kids at least 18 hours a week. Mr. Walker told Council he was requesting an additional \$2,000.00 to be considered as a one time request to make up for the shortfall.

Mayor McCollum asked Mr. Walker how the additional monies would be utilized.

Mr. Walker explained the monies would be used to purchase safer portable goals, upgrade the benches, provide guest speakers, provide training for the coaches and referees, to provide an awards program and to provide uniforms for the kids.

Councilperson Hannibal said they were fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers providing such a good program which her nephew participated in and which she attended. She told Council they needed to commit to the program and support it. Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to provide the \$2,000.00 to come from Community Promotions. Councilperson Walker made the second.

Councilman Griffin asked Clerk Watson how much was provided for the Football Program?

Clerk Watson explained that in past years \$3,000.00 from Community Promotions was provided to the Football Program to help purchase needed helmets, pads and uniforms to get them started.

Councilman Griffin said he understood the need for the additional monies.

Councilpersons Hannibal, Walker, and Griffin voted in favor of the motion. There was no opposition. The motion carried.

Under Old Business:

After Mayor McCollum and Clerk Watson explained to Council where they stood concerning the funding for the staging area at the Civic Center, Councilperson Foster made the motion to move forward with submitting the application to FEMA for around \$450,000.00 to \$500,000.00 for the staging area renovations at the Civic Center. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business:

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve on first reading Ordinance 09-7 amending the code of ordinances dealing with panhandling. Councilman Griffin made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Hannibal asked about the number of yard sales per year.

Clerk Watson explained that everyone was allowed two permits a year in order to regulate the yard sales in the neighborhoods.

Mayor McCollum explained that until Ordinance 09-7 was adopted that Chief Morris could step in at anytime to deal with any unsafe conditions caused by people in the right of ways.

After some discussion, Councilman Griffin made the motion to move forward with an ordinance to receive the property that US Group wished to donate to the City of Bamberg on Elm Street. Councilperson Hannibal made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements:

Councilman Griffin voiced that the reception that was held at the Civic Center for Buddy Sandifer and Jimmy Sweatmen was very nice. He also commended the Employee Christmas Dinner Committee for the great job they had done with this year's event.

Councilperson Walker asked Mayor McCollum and Councilperson Walker if the Christmas tree at the Civic Center could be left up until after the 26th of December so the people attending the Lewis Butler School Reunion could also enjoy the tree.

Everyone thought it would be a good idea to leave the tree up.

Councilperson Hannibal informed Council that Mr. Don Gordon of the Mayors Institute had provided her with a scholarship to attend the Dick Riley Institute this year which she had just completed receiving her certificate which she showed Council. Councilperson Hannibal said the program was a very good program which involved projects where they were involved in helping other communities. She urged Councilman Griffin to attend next year.

Mayor McCollum commended members of Council for giving up their own time to attend such meetings in order to make Bamberg a better place in which to live.

Councilperson Foster wished everyone a Merry Christmas and urged them to shop in Bamberg.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Mr. Harry Crissy had stopped by today to gather more information in order to complete the Downtown Plan which he hoped to have completed by the end of January.

Mayor McCollum, referring to the ribbon cutting at Crosby's Chicken this weekend, told Council the businesses in Bamberg were investing a lot of money in Bamberg and said Council could not let it stop now.

Councilperson Walker thanked everyone who participated in the ribbon cutting for the FROG Park on November 30th and especially thanked everyone who made the park a reality.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor