

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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: Chief George Morris, Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, Tim Kentopp, Krystie Tyson, Ernest Bell, Maysa Clark, Bernice Johnson, Chris Moore and Blake Moser.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include an amendment of item 4A to receive a request from Tim Kentopp for the use of the railroad birm for a church celebration. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to amend the agenda to include item 3 under New Business to discuss the cemeteries in town. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2004 as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Tim Kentopp asked Council's permission for limited use of the railroad birm to conduct a First Baptist Church Mission Fair during the weekend of March 28th.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to grant Mr. Kentopp's request. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. During the discussion of the Budget and Finance Reports, Councilperson Wells asked Clerk Watson at what % of the budget should Council be looking at for this time period.

Clerk Watson explained that the revenues and expenses should be at 58% of budget for this time period.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilperson Sandifer reported that the BCEDC met this morning and that good things were about to happen. He informed Council that the 301 Widening Project was still on go.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that soccer sign up began this Saturday. He said they were expecting a big, big season. Councilman Sandifer expressed his appreciation to

Bob and Cindy Hurst for the great job they were doing with the soccer program. He said the City really appreciated efforts of these two individuals who didn't even live in the City of Bamberg.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that the Summer Baseball Program was also beginning to start.

Councilperson Mack asked about the age requirements and fees for the soccer program.

Councilman Sandifer said the kids could start at age 4 and that the registration fee was \$10.00.

Councilperson Johnson said everything in the Police Department was going well.

Chief Morris informed Council that Karen Proveaux had been hired as the new employee for the Police Department.

Councilperson Mack thanked Chief Morris for monitoring the traffic on Carlisle Street in front of Job Corps.

Councilman Walker asked Chief Morris to look at a house on Pentecostal Street as you turn onto Pentecostal Street off of Calhoun Street behind Rockland Industries. He said the property was covered with trash and had a junked car parked in the yard.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that everything was going well in the Sanitation Department.

Councilman Sandifer asked if flashing lights had been placed on the Sanitation Department vehicles.

Clerk Watson informed Council that he had talked to Mr. Sweatman about the lights and that he was ready to order them.

Councilperson Foster asked if locks had been placed on the dumpsters yet.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Jim Reed told him and Mayor McCollum that he would have the locks placed on the dumpsters three weeks ago. Clerk Watson said he would contact Mr. Reed about the locks.

Councilperson Mack welcomed the new SGA Members from Job Corps to the Council meeting.

Councilperson Foster reported that the licensing for the City was going well.

Under New business.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that \$8,000.00 per year had been spent for the July 4th Celebrations. He said Council needed to decide if they wanted to continue supporting the July 4th Celebration as well as the Festival.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that the July 4th Celebration was a great event but that the costs needed to be cut. She felt local entertainers needed to be utilized.

Councilperson Foster also said costs needed to be cut by utilizing local talented entertainers.

Councilman Walker agreed that the costs needed to be cut.

Councilman Sandifer said he wished to continue the July 4th Celebration only if the fireworks show remained as a part of the event.

Mayor McCollum told Council that he would ask Kathy Rhoad to direct the event again this year utilizing local entertainers.

Mayor McCollum explained that Jim Tharp of McCrory Construction Company had given a resident permission to open a drive unto his property at which time the resident pushed a drive unto the Heritage Parking Lot. Mayor McCollum felt the resident misunderstood Mr. Tharp.

After some discussion, Council asked Mayor McCollum and Clerk Watson to contact Mr. Tharp to learn of his intentions.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that she felt Simons Cemetery and Restland Cemetery in Bamberg needed to be taken over by the City since they were historically significant to the City of Bamberg.

Mayor McCollum cautioned that the City must have permission to take the cemeteries over and that they must be sure who was in charge of the cemeteries at this time.

Councilperson Foster explained that Orangeburg had some cemeteries in their jurisdiction deeded to them.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that if the City took over the two cemeteries that it would be obligated to receive the other remaining cemeteries in town if they were asked to do so.

Councilman Walker felt the City should only initially get the cemeteries clean and in good shape.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that if the City intended the Sanitation Department to take over the cemeteries that they presently did not have enough employees to get the job done.

Councilperson Foster said the City could contract out for services to maintain the cemeteries.

Mayor McCollum recognized Krystie Tyson a student at Job Corps who volunteered on behalf of her fellow students to help clean the cemeteries.

Councilperson Mack recommended that the students have adult supervision when they entered the property of the cemeteries.

Mayor McCollum and Councilperson Foster told Council they would try and find out who was in charge of the cemeteries.

Under Old Business.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that Architect West Summers met with him and Clerk Watson to discuss the addition for the Police Department. Councilman Sandifer told everyone that Mr. Summers was the architect for City Hall when it was initially built. He told Council that Mr. Summers assured him the building could be enlarged without making it unattractive utilizing offsetting walls. Councilman Sandifer explained that the cost to add 1,000 to 1,200 square feet of space had since risen from \$25.00 per square foot to \$100.00 per square foot. He said if the cost exceeded 50% of the initial cost of the building that the whole building would have to be brought up to code. Councilman Sandifer said he was proposing to go ahead with the addition which would exceed \$100,000.00 since the officers needed more room. He explained that the other end of the building could be added onto if needed at a later time.

Councilperson Foster asked if Mr. Summers' fees were included in the project costs.

Councilman Sandifer said he was not sure if the price per square foot included his fees.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to pursue the addition to the Police Department. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to come out of the executive session. Councilperson Wells made the necessary second. All agreed. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum announced that no actions had been taken during the executive session.

During the announcements, Councilperson Foster informed Council that a celebration of Black History Month would be held at the Hooten Black house on February 19th from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg