

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITOR: Alex Boykin.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilperson Wells. He informed Council that she had called to say she would not be able to attend due to a death in her daughter-in-law's family.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include a discussion on the placement of signs on the railroad birm during Councilman Sandifer's commission report. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2005 meeting as amended to say that a request from the Old Friends Scholarship Program was made in 1985 instead of 1995. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2005 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilperson Foster asked about the costs of the renovation work done at the Ness Complex.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that \$11,470 had been spent on the renovation work.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Summer Baseball program was on target with registration taking place the next two Saturdays. He said they were expecting 500 kids this year. Councilman Sandifer invited Council to the coaches clinic on April 7th at his home on Clear Pond. He said 70 people would be attending to eat and make plans for the baseball season.

Councilman Sandifer reported that the BCEDC had met this morning and that there was nothing new to report. He explained that money was tight.

Councilman Sandifer asked Council to bear with him concerning the Police Dept. addition and renovation project.

Councilman Sandifer saying that Council had agreed not to allow political signs on the railroad birm and that others had been asked to remove their signs in the past, said Mr. Medlin would be willing to do the same.

Councilperson Johnson read Ordinance 47-11 which stated that no advertising signs were allowed on public property. She said the railroad birm was the City's calling card and that political signs should not be allowed. She said she did not have a problem with the church signs.

Clerk Watson explained that Mr. Medlin had asked but that he told Mr. Medlin to go ahead since local election signs were allowed in the past. Clerk Watson said he told him that at worst Council would ask him to move the signs. Clerk Watson said Council needed to make a decision since Commissioner Kilgus was also planning to place his political signs on the birm. Clerk Watson asked Council to clarify the United Way sign that was presently on the birm in case someone asked about that sign.

After more discussion, Councilperson Johnson made the motion not to allow any political signs on the railroad birm. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson wanted the signs removed tomorrow or either have the City remove the signs.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that Mr. Medlin would cooperate and remove the signs.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that the Police Dept. was not doing well. She informed them that they were still trying to hire a new officer.

Mayor McCollum told Council that the officer's slot had not been filled and that they had now advertised locally.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that the department has hired several officers from outside of town and he questioned how far they were now driving the department's cars.

Councilperson Foster voiced that they needed to get a handle on the Police Department.

Councilperson Mack asked if someone had called to complain that their child had been searched by a Bamberg police officer.

Councilperson Johnson replied that the incident had been handled.

Councilman Walker reported that everything in the Fire Dept. was going fine. He informed Council that the old apartments at the corner of Calhoun and Pentecostal Streets

were now a mess. He also mentioned that there were a few burned buildings that needed to be addressed in his district.

Mayor McCollum assured Councilman Walker that Clerk Watson was working on the burned buildings.

Councilman Sandifer asked if a dilapidated structure was on fire does the Fire Dept. decide to let it burn or put the fire out.

Mayor McCollum said all structure fires should be put out due to the liability issues involved.

Councilman Walker informed Council that there was a problem with people leaving the Fred's Store and driving across a vacant lot to get to Calhoun Street.

Councilperson Foster voiced that the property should be posted by the owner and that the problem should be handled by the owner.

Councilperson Mack said she was having trouble with children cutting across her property.

Councilman Sandifer told her she could control her property.

Councilperson Mack said she had no report.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that business license collections were ahead of last year at this time.

Under Old Business.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 05-02 to sell property and grant an easement to the SCDOT. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Councilperson Foster gave a report of the events and their costs for the Sesquicentennial Celebration and after she explained that it would be just to much work to hold all the events during the TreasureFest weekend, Councilperson Sandifer made the motion to spend \$15,000.00 on the event with \$10,000.00 coming out of reserves and with \$5,000.00 to come from the 2005-2006 budget. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of applying for grant funding for the Police Dept. addition and renovation project, Mayor McCollum informed Council that Phyllis Overstreet initially told them it was not worth the effort.

Councilman Sandifer saying they had been discussing the project for nine months, informed Council that an additional \$20,000.00 was needed. He said they needed to look at next year's budget to see if monies could be found.

Councilperson Johnson said other sources should be studied.

Under New Business.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to notify County Council that the City was asking that the Fire Service Contract be increased to \$50,500.00 for the 2005-2006 year. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Clerk Watson explained Ordinance 05-03, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 05-03 to amend Section 35-10. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilman Sandifer, Councilperson Johnson and Councilman Walker as the 2005-2006 Budget Committee. He asked Councilman Sandifer to serve as Chairman. Councilman Sandifer accepted.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to allow the Trinity United Methodist Church Men's Club to hold a yard sale on the railroad birm on May 7th and to allow them to place a self standing banner on the birm advertising the event. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had attended the Governor's Rural Summit last weekend. She said the event was very informative and educational.

Mayor McCollum announced that Mr. Boykin would be sworn in at the next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg

