

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 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: Phyllis Overstreet, Pat Jones, and Tony Duncan.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Councilman Sandifer gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone present.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda to include under New Business item 5 a discussion of the Sesqui Centennial Celebration and item 6 a request from the Trinity Men's Club. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Pat Jones informed Council of the problem she was having with noise in her neighborhood which she said was vibrating the plants, bed and phone from 7:00 a.m. until dark. She told them she had been suffering for two months. Mrs. Jones informed Council that she had contacted Chief Morris to ask for police help. She said she also contacted the dispatcher who suggested she get an attorney.

Mrs. Jones said she had since solved her problem but urged Council to enforce the noise ordinance for the health of the kids.

Mayor McCollum voiced that the ordinance needed to be enforced and he asked Councilperson Johnson to meet with Chief Morris to see what could be done.

Mrs. Jones informed Council that she was planning to form a nonprofit organization of youth services in the community. Saying that the kids in the community needed something to do, she asked Council for their support and guidance. She asked Council to help her make the community a better place in which to live.

Mr. Tony Duncan informed Council that the Annual Spring Break Festival has been planned for April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Carroll Primary School. He told Council that this year's theme would be Stop the Violence and he asked Council to proclaim the week of April 7<sup>th</sup> as Stop The Violence Week. Mr. Duncan asked that police officers be present for the event on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as presented. Councilperson Mack made the second. Councilperson Foster asked if prior

year tax revenues, jail cost and Fire Dept. uniform costs had exceeded the budgeted amounts.

Clerk Watson explained that the City had received more delinquent taxes than budgeted and that jail cost had also exceeded the budgeted amount for the year. He explained that the Fire Department did not use all of their uniform expenses last year which led to a lower budgeted amount this year by the Budget Committee. He said they brought on new personnel this year which really caused an over expenditure.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed the Council that the soccer season was well underway. He told Council that a decision needed to be made on how to handle registration fees for non-residents. He asked for Council's input.

Councilperson Johnson asked Councilman Sandifer for his suggestion.

Councilman Sandifer said he felt a few extra dollars needed to be charged to non-residents.

Councilperson Johnson said she felt non-residents should pay additional registration fees.

After some discussion, Councilman Sandifer said he would talk to the program directors to get their feelings on the issue.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he, Mayor McCollum and Clerk Watson had met with a SC Park Official and discovered that the City must find two additional acres for a park to replace the acreage removed from the state system. He asked Councilperson Johnson and Councilman Walker if they had located any available land in their districts.

Councilman Walker said he had talked to Mr. Maynard about some property but said many people in his area did not want a park in their neighborhood.

Councilperson Johnson said she had talked to a lady in Pennsylvania who had six acres but that she would have to contact her again.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that a lot was about to happen with economic development in the area.

Councilman Walker asked what was being done about the building on Highway 78 that had one of its walls blown in last week.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that everything was being done to have the building demolished as quickly as possible.

Clerk Watson informed Council that the building should be down by next week.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had attended the Wildlife Exhibition on February 14<sup>th</sup> and the Federal Forum of Elected Officials on February 20<sup>th</sup>. She told Council that she had also represented the City at the Governor's Rural Summit on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. She said Kathy Schwarting had done a great job as MC for the event.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that Jimmy Sweatman was recovering from his operation very well and would be back to work on Monday. She said everything was going good in the Sanitation Department.

Councilperson Foster asked Councilperson Wells to please be sure the Sanitation Department picks up the trash in the new downtown parking lot each day.

Councilman Walker asked if a sign was to be placed at the new parking lot directing people to the Chamber of Commerce Building on Bell Street.

Mayor McCollum informed Councilman Walker that Council never agreed to have the sign placed.

Under New Business.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Mack, Councilperson Foster and Councilman Sandifer as the 2004-2005 Budget Committee. He asked Councilman Sandifer to Chair the committee.

After Clerk Watson explained the need for Ordinance 04-01 to revise the Abandoned and Junk Vehicle Ordinance, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Ordinance 04-01. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells then made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-01. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that a work session would be held by Council on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. to review and to discuss the new code of ordinances for the City of Bamberg.

Clerk Watson presented each Councilperson and Mayor with a draft copy of the new code of ordinances and explained the process.

After Councilperson Sandifer explained to Council the need for a Sequi Centennial Committee, Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Foster, Councilperson Johnson and Councilperson Wells to the Sesqui Centennial Committee. He asked Councilperson Foster to Chair the committee.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that Laurence Wells was asking permission on behalf of the Trinity United Methodist Church Men's Club to use the railroad birm on

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> for a yard sale. She explained that the proceeds would be used for charity work.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to grant permission to the Men's Club. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Old Business.

After Mayor McCollum informed Council that the BPW had agreed to split the cost of \$50,000.00 to place fire hydrants in the Wren Drive and Robin Drive areas, Councilperson Johnson made the motion to spend \$25,000.00 on the project. Councilman Walker made the second. Councilperson Foster asked if grant monies were available. Mayor McCollum said he would ask Manager Ellis if any money was available. Councilperson Johnson said grant monies were available and that she would talk to Nora Sanders of the LSCOG to see how to apply for them. All of Council approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum updated the Council that Jim Tharp, the developer of the Heritage Center, only gave the owner of the adjacent property permission to open a drive in order to get his vehicles out of his property for one time only. He explained that Mr. Tharp never gave the owner permission to open a permanent drive.

Council agreed that the drive needed to be closed to protect the Heritage Parking Lot.

After some discussion, Mayor McCollum asked Clerk Watson to write the owner explaining Council's stand.

Councilperson Mack asked about the cemetery clean up efforts and said the Job Corp students were waiting to hear from the City.

Councilperson Foster explained that she had contacted a contractor who was willing to contract with the City to maintain the Simons Cemetery. She said she had contacted some of the owners of the Restland Cemetery.

Councilperson Mack asked about the plans for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had contacted several entertainment groups but that he was not impressed with any of them. He said he was waiting to hear from Kathy Rhoad.

Councilperson Mack left the meeting for another engagement.

During questions from the press and audience, Mrs. Jones asked where the new park would be located.

Councilman Sandifer informed her that the City was looking in the Weimer Street and Cox Avenue areas.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor