

A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Bo Griffin, Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Buzzy Bunch, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Phyllis Overstreet, Jerry Halmon, Chief George Morris, Rex Williams, Dwayne Dokes, and Franklin Bamberg.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilperson Hannibal who he said had called to say she would not be able to attend due to work related travel.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum recognized Mr. Rex Williams and told him he had three minutes in which to present his requests to Council.

Mr. Williams presented folders and pictures to Council. He told Mayor McCollum at the last meeting he said they were not appointed as directors and that FOSAD was not recognized as participating in the basketball program when Council previously approved the lighting which meant they approved of the program. Mr. Williams said he wanted to ask Councilperson Walker a question.

Councilman Griffin immediately said point of order and said he must address the Chair.

Mr. Williams referred to page two saying the citizens of Bamberg County petitioned Council for a program at the Ness Complex and that Councilman Boykin had approved the deal. He said if they were not directors of the program why did council buy them nets and basketballs for the program. Mr. Williams asked Council to uphold the issues with them and told Council the sign at the park said it was donated to the public and people and not just one specific group. Mr. Williams said there was not proper seating at the basketball courts and that they were here so Council could address their requests before the budget deadline. Mr. Williams asked if Council's actions were not racial and bias then why were they having such obstacles with Council.

Mayor McCollum told Mr. Williams that he was asking Councilperson Foster and her commission to review his requests and then to make a recommendation to Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Williams asked why the improvements had not been made and said he was tired of their shenanigans.

Mayor McCollum told Mr. Williams his time was up and asked him to be seated.

Mr. Williams replied that he would rather stand.

Mayor McCollum told Mr. Williams to have a seat or he would ask him to leave the room.

Councilperson Foster saying she had one question asked Mr. Williams where he lived.

Mr. Williams said he lived at 3721 Roseville Road.

Councilperson Foster told Mr. Williams that he did not even live in town.

Mr. Dwayne Dokes told Council he lived at 87 Walnut Street and asked for his pictures back.

Councilperson Walker asked what specifically were their issues?

Mr. Dokes said the pictures were in the packet and told her that they had asked for certain things at the courts. He told her that Councilperson Foster had removed the seating only to replace them with old bleachers.

Councilman Bunch, saying he could answer the issue with the bleachers, told Council he used the bleachers during the baseball season because they belonged to the Ness Complex and not just one specific program. Councilman Bunch voiced the bleachers could be moved back and forth at anytime as they were needed.

Mr. Dokes said they were not accommodated with the bleachers and had to keep coming back to Council.

Councilman Bunch told Council that when the bleachers were borrowed they were taken back which had been over a year.

Councilperson Bamberg made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting as received. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to accept the Budget and Finance Reports as information. Councilman Griffin made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Commissioner Griffin informed Council that the issue discussed at the last meeting concerning Southland Sanitation coming into town early had been addressed by Mr. Watson who he thanked.

Commissioner Bamberg informed Council that she had been visiting businesses concerning their licenses. She said everything concerning the business licensing seemed to be going great. Clerk Watson said the licensing renewals were going well and Chief

Morris informed Council that he still had some seasonal businesses which needed to renew their licenses.

Commissioner Walker told Council she really had no report at that time. Clerk Watson informed Council that the switch over to the new health insurance carrier had gone very well with only a few minor problems which had been addressed. He told Council that they had been notified by the South Carolina Employee Insurance Program that they may see a premium increase beginning in January of 2011 but that he did not know the details yet.

Commissioner Bunch told Council he had no report at that time. Chief Morris informed Council that the used police car had been received and that the old car would be placed in the next auction held by Cogburn Auction Company.

Commissioner Foster reported that the trash receptacles at Foster Park were running over from the weekend and that the grass needed to be mowed. She voiced that the plastic timbers that were placed around the playground at the Ness Park did not look as neat as the ones at Frog Park and that the job did not look good. She said there was a pile of roots which the children were playing on at the park which also needed to be removed. Commissioner Foster asked Commissioner Griffin to have the Sanitation Department address her concerns.

Under New Business:

Mayor McCollum informed Council that they had spent \$10,000.00 on last year's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. He told them funds were tight and that the new budget was coming up. He asked them to consider just what they could afford this year.

Councilperson Walker said she would like to see a committee appointed so they could look at the budget for the event.

Mayor McCollum appointed the ladies on Council to the committee and appointed Councilperson Walker to chair the committee.

Commissioner Foster said she forgot to mention in her report that people were parking by the basketball courts at the Ness Complex using drugs, and that the area had also become a lover's lane. She said people were also driving on the playing fields. She asked Chief Morris to have his officers become more visible at the park to address the problems.

During the announcements, Councilperson Foster informed everyone that the Salkehatchie Stew Event would be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center to include key guests, a low country boil and shag band for entertainment. She said on Saturday the event would include an all day event at the studio of Jim Harrison in Denmark. Councilperson Foster told Council tickets for the low country boil would cost \$15.00.

During questions from the press and audience, Mr. Dokes asked if the community would be asked to get involve in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mayor McCollum said they must first decide if they were going to have the event.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor