

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.

COUNCILPERSONS: Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster.

CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Craig & Janeth Walker, Phyllis Overstreet, Rev. Daryl Croft, Christi Kinsey, Willie Smalls, Henry Smalls, Jerry Durgan, Linda Hudson, Mr. & Mrs. Dobson, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Bamberg, Tony Duncan, and Rita Sease.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Sandifer, Councilman Boykin and Councilperson Foster. He informed Council that Councilman Sandifer was out of town and that Councilperson Foster had called to say she would be running a few minutes late.

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

Mr. Tony Duncan informed Council that the 10th Annual Spring Fling Festival would be held on April 29th. He invited Council and asked for help with police security.

Councilperson Johnson, thanking Mr. Duncan for all that he does, made the motion to allow Mr. Duncan to have the Spring Fling Festival annually without having to come before Council each year. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Reverend Daryl Croft, pastor of the House of Praise Church in Columbia, informed Council that the International Alliance Ministries, Inc. which is affiliated with his church is negotiating with Mr. Ed Gatlin to purchase the old Piggly Wiggly Building. He explained that the IAM would be using the building for a cross cultural ministry to provide instruction for the workforce, family oriented courses, food and clothing distribution, preschool and after school programs, a prison ministry, youth programs and a TV and radio ministry.

Rev. Croft informed Council that they would be applying for a CCLC Grant to fund the ministry. Mrs. Christi Kinsey distributed a memorandum of support to the members of Council for their support. She explained that the International Alliance Ministries, Inc. was a 501C organization. Rev. Croft told Council he just wanted to give something back to his hometown and that the programs would give the kids something to do.

Councilperson Johnson congratulated Rev. Croft for providing such a wonderful program for the citizens of Bamberg.

Mrs. Linda Hudson of the Hospice Care Of The Tri-County informed Council of the services that her organization makes available to the terminally ill. She informed Council that they were based in Orangeburg County and that they would be having an open house

on June 15th. Mrs. Hudson assured Council that they cared for everyone regardless of their financial ability. She said she just wanted them to be aware of the services they provided and voiced that no one needed to die in pain.

Councilperson Mack and Johnson informed Council of the great experiences they had utilizing Hospice Care for their loved ones.

Mrs. Phyllis Overstreet asked Council to please consider helping the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage, Inc. secure a grant from the SC Budget and Control Board. She explained that monies were available for 501C organizations but that the SC Budget and Control Board would rather see the monies come through a City.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had checked on the request and that he saw no problem with the pass through.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to support the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage, Inc. in securing the grant which would be passed through the City. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum began the Public Hearing to receive comments from the public on proposed Ordinance 06-4.

Mr. Henry Smalls informed Council that he was here on behalf of his brother Willie Smalls to help him improve his standard of living. He explained that his brother had lived in Bamberg for 32 years and that he was looking to purchase an 80 ft. by 24 ft. manufactured home to improve his standard of living. Mr. Smalls said they later learned that double wide manufactured homes were not allowed in the R-1 Districts and that they were now asking to have their property rezoned to R-3 which would allow them.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had heard from adjoining landowners Dorothy Odom and Mr. Granum who had no problem with the rezoning.

Councilperson Foster entered the meeting in progress.

Mayor McCollum presented Council with the recommendation from the Planning Commission in which they recommended that Ordinance 06-4 be adopted to allow for the rezoning.

With no further comments, Mayor McCollum brought the Public Hearing to a close.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation that Ordinance 06-4 be adopted. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2006 meeting as presented. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports:

Councilperson Johnson and Councilman Walker informed Council that everything was going well in the Sanitation and Fire Departments.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that she had been notified that medical insurance premiums for the City would be increasing by only 3% for the new year. She said this was delightful news.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that it would soon be renewal time for business licenses once again. She asked Clerk Watson to please provide her with a count of the new businesses for the next meeting.

After some discussion, Council decided that the word suitable would have to be deleted from the agreement with Bell South for an easement. They decided to table the second reading of Ordinance 05-10 until both parties could agree on the wording in the easement agreement.

Mr. Dobson informed Council that he and his wife would like to open an adult day care facility at their home. He explained that there were no adult day care facilities in Bamberg County and that older adults needed such care. Mr. Dobson explained that the adults would be kept there five hours a day with supervision and that a nurse would be on duty.

Mayor McCollum said he was concerned that the facility may not be acceptable in the residential districts with an unlimited number of adults being cared for in one house with such a small yard.

Mr. Dobson said they hoped to care for 15 adults.

Councilperson Foster explained that DHEC would be regulating the facilities.

Councilperson Johnson said Council had discussed this and that the facilities were needed.

Mr. Dobson explained that he planned to turn his home into a facility and that they would be moving out.

Clerk Watson explained to Council that they needed to look at the zoning as a whole and give him input as to whether they wanted to see facilities put in residential districts as a special exception or allow residential home care for the elderly in residential districts only if home owners would be caring for a set number of elderly individuals as a special exception. He said they needed to give him some direction as to how many adults they wanted to allow at any one place.

Councilperson Johnson and Mack both felt facilities needed to be allowed in residential districts and to let DHEC guidelines regulate the number of individuals cared for at any one facility.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to allow adult day care facilities in the residential districts as a special exception to be regulated by DHEC. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business:

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Ordinance 06-2 on first reading to annex 57.43 acres of City and BPW property into the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve Ordinance 06-3 on first reading to amend Section 14-31 to adopt new technical codes for the City of Bamberg. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve Ordinance 06-4 on first reading to rezone properties. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to allow the Trinity United Methodist Men's Club to hold annual community wide yard sales on the birm without having to come before Council each year. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to reappoint Gene Schwarting, Jr. and Spann Brabham to the Bamberg Planning Commission for another four year term. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to reappoint Kitty Padgett and Mac Moore to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another four year term. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the Announcements:

Councilperson Foster informed Council that she expected them to be present at the May 6th grand opening of the Discovery Center in Blackville which would be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that she and Councilperson Johnson had attended the baseball program kick off supper last Thursday evening at Councilman Sandifer's pond house. She said everyone was excited about this year's program.

Mr. Craig Walker, telling Council that he was here tonight on behalf of the residents who lived on Calhoun Street, informed Council that they were concerned with the traffic on their street. Mr. Walker told Council that for fifteen years the residents had been back and forth between City Council and the SCDOT trying to secure sidewalks down Calhoun Street to insure safety for the children and residents in the area. He told Council that he had learned from other areas that enhancement grant funding was available and that the contact person was Mrs. JoAnn Woodward at the state level. He urged Council to seek an enhancement grant for sidewalks along Calhoun Street.

Mr. Walker presented Council with a letter addressed to the SCDOT on behalf of the residents of Calhoun Street describing the problems they were having. The letter made the SCDOT aware of the street's surfacing problems, the safety concerns and the need for sidewalks, the excessive amount of truck traffic and speeding automobiles as well as the unkept and stagnant ditches in the area. Mr. Walker presented the letter as well as a signed petition from the residents along Calhoun Street and asked that they be made a part of the minutes so Council would also be made aware of the problems.

Councilperson Mack assured Mr. Walker that Mr. Gene Cooner of the SCDOT had been contacted by the City on several occasions to help address many areas in town. She voiced that sidewalks and speed zones were needed in many areas.

Councilperson Johnson voiced that Cox Avenue also needed sidewalks.

Councilperson Foster voiced that Race Street has always needed sidewalks.

Mayor McCollum voiced that Mr. Walker and the residents were correct and that sidewalks were needed along Calhoun Street.

Councilman Walker voiced that he had been trying for years to address the problems of sidewalks and drainage along Calhoun Street.

Mr. Walker urged Council to target the available enhancement funding to help alleviate the problems.

Mayor McCollum assured him and the residents that he would contact the LSCOG immediately to get more information on the available enhancement funding.

Councilman Walker assured them he would be talking to Mr. Crider who was the new SCDOT Resident Engineer for Bamberg County.

Mrs. Rita Sease informed Council that she felt their complaints seemed to be falling on deaf ears on Council's part. She said she had to clean her own ditch and pay for it herself.

Mr. Franklin Bamberg informed Council that the piping under Calhoun Street needed to be lowered to drain the standing water in the ditches in the area.

Councilperson Johnson assured Mrs. Sease that Council had always made the SCDOT aware of their problems.

Councilperson Mack assured Mrs. Sease that Council did not have deaf ears but that they had to request that the SCDOT address the problems.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor