

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2004 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMGBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.

COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS : Bob McCully, Phyllis Overstreet, and Henry Maynard.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the agenda would have to be amended to include a request from Mr. Maynard for the National Youth Sports Program.

Councilman Sandifer informed council that Council had agreed not to amend the agenda during a Council meeting.

Mayor McCollum assured Mr. Maynard that he would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Mayor McCollum informed the Council that Auditor Del Brown was unable to finish the audit report and would be attending the next Council Meeting to give the finalized audit report.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2004 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the march 22, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as received. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that a tentative draft of the addition to the Police Department would be presented at the next meeting. He said the addition would cost around \$125,000.00 and would have to be included in next year's budget.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the baseball sign up had begun and that the directors had decided to raise the fees for out of town participates to \$45.00 with the in town fees remaining at \$25.00. He explained that Lexington charged \$65.00 for in town

and \$95.00 for out of town participates and that Aiken charged \$65.00 for in town participates.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that parking was continuing to be a problem at the Ness Park and that plans have been made to develop a parking area at the backsides of the little league fields towards Birch Street.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that 65 volunteers would be participating in this year's program. He said the program could not operate without these volunteers.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that the Police Department was in the process of hiring a new office employee. She said the new employees were needed and that she plans on asking the new employees to attend the next Council meeting.

Councilman Walker informed Council that everything was running smoothly in the Fire Department.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that the Sanitation Crew had trimmed the trees on the railroad birm and that things were running well. She informed Council that straw would soon be placed around the trees on the railroad birm.

Councilperson Mack had no report.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that everything was up to date with the licensing.

Under New Business:

Councilperson Foster made the motion to allow the closing of Cannon Street form 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on June 13th for the Trinity United Methodist Church's Sesqui Centennial Celebration. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the hiring of three Summer Youth Workers again this year. Councilperson Wells made the second. During the discussion, Councilman Sandifer voiced that he felt the City was not getting their monies worth from the summer workers mainly because they needed better supervision. He said the youths should not be turned loose on their own but that they needed to be supervised at all times.

Councilperson Wells assured Councilman Sandifer that she would talk to Mr. Sweatman in more detail concerning the supervision of the youth workers.

Councilperson Johnson said the youths should be made aware that the Council and the Mayor would be watching.

Councilperson Mack said she felt each worker should be assigned to a full time worker.

All of Council approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the study and engineering plans for the lighting of the railroad birm came to a total cost of \$12,736.00. He informed Council that the projected total cost of the project came to a total of \$125,000.00. Mayor McCollum

informed Council that Representative Rhoad would only say that he could maybe help the City secure \$15,000.00 for the project.

Mayor McCollum told Council that he felt the City did not need to go forward at this time with the project due to the plans for the addition to the Police Department.

After some discussion, Councilman Walker made the motion to pay the \$12,736.00 bill from ERC for the preliminary work. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to table the lighting project. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Clerk Watson explained the process of having the MASC and their sub contractors help the City negotiate a new Cable TV Franchise, Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2004-1 to enter into a Cable TV Management Service Agreement with the MASC for the cost of \$3,733.00. Councilperson Wells made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to the purchasing of property. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

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

During questions from the press and audience, Phyllis Overstreet announced that the Job Corp. Student National Youth Service Day would be held on Saturday at the schools in Bamberg.

Mr. Henry Maynard informed Council that he was there tonight on behalf of the NYSP. He told Council that the physicals for the 400 youths had begun and he told Council that the Bamberg School District would be furnishing a bus for this year's program.

Mayor McCollum thanked Mr. Maynard for coming and explained the purpose for the agenda.

Mr. Bob McCully asked Council to consider placing their executive sessions after the questions and answer period on the agenda. He voiced that someone from the City needed to make a public statement on what had occurred in the City for the last 30 days at each Council meeting. He voiced that the public was not being informed and that Council needed to do more than have a race horse meeting.

Mayor McCollum informed Mr. McCully that he felt the citizens were not being cheated.

Mr. McCully saying this was not a secret society, asked that someone give a 30 day update at each meeting.

Councilman Walker said the public didn't even attend the Council meetings in order to receive such a report.

Councilman Sandifer asked Mr. McCully to explain how he would run things.

Mr. McCully told Council he didn't mean to criticize them and said they were doing many worthwhile things in the City of Bamberg.

Phyllis Overstreet told Council she appreciated them having the executive session where it was placed on the agenda so she could ask questions concerning the executive sessions. She said Council appeared to be trying to get information to the public.

Mayor McCollum thanked Mr. McCully for his information.

Councilperson Foster assured Mr. McCully that Council does intend to find grant monies to light the railroad birm.

Mr. McCully urged Council to see if they were getting a square deal from the BPW as far as a franchise fee goes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg