

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Buck Fralick, Teresa Hannibal, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Merrell Stout, Adrine Hatcher, Vernan Able, and Elizabeth Moody.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilman Fralick made the motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting as presented. Councilperson Bamberg made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting as received. Councilperson Foster made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of the Budget and Finance Reports, Councilperson Walker asked Clerk Watson to explain the negative balance for the capital expenditures line item for the Administrative Department.

Clerk Watson explained that \$159,000.00 had been borrowed for the fencing and lights downtown but that \$215,000.00 had been approved by Council which threw the line item into the negative field once everything had been paid.

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

Mrs. Adrine Hatcher after explaining that she coached a traveling softball team which consisted of players from the Bamberg Villa, asked Council to donate \$400.00 to help her purchase uniforms, and to provide travel for the team this year.

Councilperson Hannibal asked what age group she coached.

Mrs. Hatcher informed Council that the players ranged from 13 years of age to 18 years of age.

Councilperson Walker asked how the players were transported?

Mrs. Hatcher said she used her two vehicles and the vehicle of another adult.

Councilperson Foster asked how many children were on the team?

Mrs. Hatcher told Council that 25 children played on the team.

Councilperson Bamberg asked if the team consisted of boys and girls?

Mrs. Hatcher informed her the team was only made up of boys.

Councilman Sandifer asked where the team played?

Mrs. Hatcher explained that they were using the county's field on Highway 601 but that due to damage at the field they had begun using a field in the Colston Community.

Councilman Sandifer asked her if she had ever considered incorporating her team into the city's baseball program?

Mrs. Hatcher told Council that she had talked to Mr. Sandifer and Mr. Davis but that there was a conflict of interest and she kept getting the shuffle. She informed Council that she wished to use the softball field at the Ness Complex on Saturdays and Sundays.

Councilperson Foster assured her that she would talk to Randy Sandifer about her request to use the field.

After some more discussion, Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to donate \$400.00 to Mrs. Hatcher's team. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Commissioner Sandifer saying there was always some problems with the Police Department, informed Council that the Police Commission had met and would be meeting again to discuss some issues with Chief Morris in order to have an understanding with him.

Commissioner Sandifer informed Council that officer Gatlin was requesting permission to travel to attend a child abuse seminar in Georgia. He explained that the only costs to the City would be to pay someone for working her shift while she was gone.

Councilman Sandifer then made the motion to allow Officer Gatlin to attend the training. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Commissioner Bamberg informed Council that everything was going well with the licensing department.

Commissioner Walker informed Council that she attended the MASC insurance meeting on March 19th where she learned about changes dealing with co insurance and prescriptions. She informed Council that medical premiums would be increasing by 4% as compared to the national average increase of 8% to 10%. Commissioner Walker told Council that dental premiums would be increasing by 3% but that life insurance and vision premiums would see no changes. Commissioner Walker informed Council that Medial Claims Management Corporation had been sold to Med Costs who would be the City's new claim manager. She told Council that she would be reporting back to them following another insurance meeting which would be held in the future.

Commissioner Walker informed Council that she had done a study on the supplemental polices available to the City employees. She explained that AFLAC was consistent with the other carriers in the market and the City was receiving good service from AFLAC at this time. Commissioner Walker said she had met with the Insurance Commission and that they had decided to recommend to Council that no changes be made with AFLAC at this time.

Councilperson Walker made the motion to stay with AFLAC at this time. Councilperson Hannibal made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fralick saying he had no report at this time, informed Council that he had talked to Mr. Crider of the SCDOT who said he would be addressing all the issues and signs for the downtown area once he had completed the cleanup in Allendale County.

Commissioner Hannibal saying she had no report at this time, informed Council that the Fire Department has gone out for estimates for a new service truck. She explained that once the proposals had been received it would allow them to come back to Council with estimates for a new service truck.

Commissioner Foster informed Council that fencing had been completed at the Civic Center and Foster Park. She told them two loads of sandclay had been delivered at the Ness Complex and that she, Councilperson Bamberg and Councilman Sandifer have been working on the design of signs stating rules for the childrens park at Foster Park. Commissioner Foster reported that they were also working on a plaque recognizing Phoenix Specialties for their contribution to the childrens park.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the coaches supper which kicked off the Summer League Baseball Program for this year had over 60 people in attendance this year.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he had notice trash at the corner of the childrens park that was not being addressed by the Sanitation Department on a daily basis. He said there was no pride in Bamberg.

Commissioner Fralick assured Council that he would contact Mr. Sweatman about the problem.

Commissioner Foster also mentioned that the shrubbery near the childrens park looked terrible.

Merrell Stout informed Council that he was the new owner and operator of Southland Sanitation and that he has new plans for the company. He said he hoped Council was satisfied with their service but that he was not. He informed them that he would be making a considerable amount of investments in the company, would be moving his facilities as well as upgrading his fleet. Mr. Stout told Council that he would be investing in the most modern of technologies in order to better serve Bamberg. Mr. Stout said they had always had a wonderful working relationship with Bamberg and wished to renew their contract when the contract comes up for renewal.

Councilperson Walker asked Mr. Stout why he purchased the company?

Mr. Stout informed her that most waste companies started with no professional training which he planned to improve on. He said he wanted to make the company grow.

Councilperson Hannibal asked where his business was located?

Mr. Stout said they were located in Gaston, SC and at present had 50 trucks and over 140 employees.

Councilperson Hannibal asked if they employed anyone from the Bamberg area?

Mr. Stout informed her that his driver, Cynthia, was from the Bamberg area but that he was not sure if others were from the area.

Councilperson Foster asked if the contract needed to be negotiated at this time.

Clerk Watson explained that their present contract allowed Southland Sanitation the right to negotiate with the City to extend their contract before the City decided to go out for new bids. He said Council would need to decide what they wished to do because the contract expired in July.

Councilperson Foster said she wished the drivers would cleanup around their dumpsters when they dumped them.

Mr. Stout agreed this needed to be done.

Councilperson Hannibal informed Mr. Stout that his drivers were not closing the gates around the dumpsters once they were serviced.

Mr. Stout assured her the problem would be addressed.

Mr. Stout thanked Council for allowing him to speak to them and Council thanked him for coming.

Under Old Business.

After discussion of the PARD Grant and Council reviewing the proposed layout of the parking lot at the Civic Center, Councilperson Foster made the motion to move forward with Architect West Summers doing the engineering and going out for bids on the proposed parking lot. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Once Council discussed the proposed Veterans Memorial Park, Councilperson Hannibal made the motion to have Councilman Sandifer purse the building of the park once permission had been granted by Rockland Industries to use their property. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that she had met with Representative Sellers who wished to see a complete set of plans including funding and equipment for the kiddie

park in the Cricketbrook Drive area. She asked that planning be referred to the Buildings and Parks Commission and that she be allowed to sit in on the planning for the park.

Council agreed to this.

Under New Business:

During the discussion of ordinance for awnings in the Core Commercial District, Councilperson Foster voiced that they needed something to pull the downtown look together.

Councilperson Walker said she agreed that guidelines were needed for the awnings in order to quickly promote uniformity in the downtown area.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Mr. Crider of the SCDOT was waiting on Council before issuing any encroachment permits.

Councilman Fralick said he had visited Beaufort, SC and their awnings looked great.

Councilperson Hannibal recommended that the Buildings Commission look into this issue and report back to Council with their recommendations.

Council agreed to allow this.

Clerk Watson asked Council to be thinking about who they would like to appoint to the Planning Commission to fill the seat that was now open due to the passing of Mr. Ed McDonald who served for many years. He informed them that they needed to appoint someone who was willing to serve and receive the needed certification that was now being required.

Councilperson Hannibal asked if the City's Planning Commission and the County's Planning Commission ever met together?

Clerk Watson said not to his knowledge because the county has not been involved in zoning and planning to any degree.

Councilperson Walker asked when the comprehensive plan needed to be reviewed?

Clerk Watson informed her it needed to be updated by next year.

Councilman Fralick informed Council that the Sanitation Department was in desperate need of a backhoe since their old one had blown an engine. He told Council that the BPW had offered to donate their old backhoe to the City once they acquired a new one. Councilman Fralick asked Council if they wanted to wait on the BPW backhoe?

Councilman Sandifer recommended that they look for a good used backhoe which could be included in the 2008-2009 budget. Council agreed to have a used backhoe included in the new budget.

During the announcements, Councilperson Bamberg informed Council that property owners who lived out of town were neglecting their properties.

Clerk Watson explained the process the City had in place to address such properties.

Councilperson Walker informed Council that the residents of Calhoun Street had received The Adopt A Highway Yearly Award for their work in picking up trash along Calhoun Street. She informed Council that over 2,535 pounds of trash had been picked up in Bamberg County last year.

Mrs. Elizabeth Moody, saying Councilperson Hannibal was trying to make the Bridge Street area beautiful, informed Council that they needed Bridge Street paved and wanted nice sidewalks in the area. She said Councilperson Hannibal was doing a fantastic job.

Mayor McCollum informed Mrs. Moody that they had made her requests known to the Highway Department.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor