

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.

COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Rev. Ella Bamberg, Janeth Walker, Teresa Hannibal and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, Craig Walker, Rita Sease, Vonda Steward, Chief George Morris and a room full of other guests.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with all of Council being present.

Mayor McCollum welcomed Councilpersons Bamberg, Walker and Hannibal as the new members of Council. He informed them that they would be receiving packets including an agenda before each council meeting.

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

Clerk Watson reported the 2007 election results. He said Teresa Hannibal was elected to represent District 1, Rev. Ella Bamberg was elected to represent District 2, Janeth Walker was elected to represent District 3, with Dr. Marion Dwight being elected as Commissioner to the Board of Public Works. Clerk Watson reported that a runoff election would be held on April 17, 2007 between candidates Gilbert Shipley and William Buck Fralick for the District 4 Seat.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting as received. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as presented. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion, Councilperson Foster asked Clerk Watson to explain the negative field in the interest revenue line item.

Clerk Watson explained that interest rates on CDs and reserve funds were up this year bringing in more money than anticipated causing a negative field.

Councilperson Walker asked Clerk Watson to explain the line item entitled other revenues.

Clerk Watson explained that the line item was for revenues received from the sale of property to the SCDOT and from the granting of an easement to Bell South which also exceeded the budget figure causing a negative field.

All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that everything in the Police Department was going well. He reported that all the police cars had bar lights and markings on them at this time.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the City had been requested to send two officers to help with the security for the National Democratic Debate which will be held at State College in Orangeburg on April 26th. He said Chief Morris would decide on which officers would be participating.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the 2007 Baseball Program was kicked off on March 31st with the supper for the coaches. He reported that 400 youths have signed up for this year's program which would consist of 27 teams. Councilman Sandifer voiced that he was proud of the youths who had decided to participate and that he was especially proud of the 65 volunteers involved in this year's program.

Councilperson Foster reported to Council that business license renewals would be going out in June. She said business collections were on target at this time.

Under Old Business.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the 301 Project should be completed in August.

Councilperson Foster told Council that the Advertiser Herald and The Times & Democrat have done a great job of informing people on how to get downtown to shop. She said they were working to have arrows placed directing customers to the rear of the stores. Councilperson Foster said the Channel 19 News Team was in town on Friday to report on the 301 Project.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that Attorney Kemp was still reviewing the policies and procedures for the Civic Center and that hopefully Council would be able to approve them at the next meeting.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Hannibal to the Policy and Procedures Committee for the Civic Center to take Mrs. Mack's place.

Under New Business.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to reappoint Louise Grimes and Jerry Halmon to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another 4 year term. Councilperson Hannibal made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Mayor McCollum explained to Council that he felt an additional 200 chairs and 15 round tables with 3 chair dollies needed to be purchased for the Civic Center, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to purchase them at a cost of \$6,812,95. Councilperson Foster made the second.

During the discussion, Councilperson Bamberg asked if they would be discussing the remodeling of the Civic Center?

Mayor McCollum informed Council that a discussion of the remodeling of the Civic Center would take place at the next meeting.

Councilperson Walker asked how many chairs could be seated at the round tables and if table clothes would be purchased?

Mayor McCollum said he felt tablecloths could be purchased at a later date for around six to eight dollars each.

All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Chief Morris informed Council that his department was having a serious problem with skateboards due to complaints from businesses and churches concerning property damages caused by the skateboards. He explained the City has nothing on the books to address the problems. Chief Morris told Council when the officers took the skateboards then complaints would come from the parents.

Councilperson Bamberg voiced that they were saying it was up to the parents but that it was the lively hood of the children. She asked if there were any areas at the Ness Complex for skateboarding?

Councilman Sandifer said he felt they needed to address using the paved area between the ballfields for a skateboarding area in the future. He explained that grants can be applied for but said the liability issues must be addressed.

Councilperson Foster voiced that Council needed to look at something for skateboarding.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilpersons Bamberg, Walker and Sandifer to discuss a skateboard ordinance and to report to Council at the next meeting. He asked Councilperson Bamberg to serve as the chairperson of the committee.

Chief Morris informed Council that his department was also having problems with panhandling and that there was also nothing on the books to deal with the problem. Chief Morris said the problems were occurring mainly with people asking for money who were found to be untruthful with their requests. He explained that such an ordinance could be touchy since there were some needy people asking for money.

Councilperson Hannibal asked about the permits that were required by the City to solicit money?

Chief Morris informed Council that groups and organizations who wanted to use the streets and parks to raise money were currently required to obtain a permit from City Hall mainly to make the City aware of who was in town and where they were located.

Councilperson Walker asked what the consequences would be for panhandling?

Chief Morris explained that if a fine is not described in the ordinance itself that a \$500.00 fine has been set in the City's ordinances for all offenses without a set fine.

Councilman Sandifer asked how many problems with panhandling occurred within thirty days?

Chief Morris said they have about one per month.

Councilman Sandifer said he was concerned that a needy person could be targeted over and over again.

Chief Morris assured Council that a needy person is always referred to the Ministerial Alliance for help.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Foster and Hannibal as a committee to discuss the issue and to report back to Council at the next meeting for more discussion.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilperson Hannibal to the 2007-2008 Budget Committee to replace Mrs. Betty Mack.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to a contractual matter. Councilperson Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

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

During the announcements, Councilperson Foster read a letter from Mrs. Pinkney thanking Council for her 100th birthday celebration.

During questions from the press and audience, Mrs. Betty Mack asked about the seating capacity of the round tables at the Civic Center?

Mayor McCollum said it all depended on the size of the people but said he felt eight people could be seated at each table.

Mayor McCollum thanked the new council members for listening and for being very attentive during their first meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor