

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Dell Brown, Jerry Durgan, Bob Clary and Chief George Morris.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Councilman Walker gave the invocation.

Council approved the agenda to include the deletion of item IV at Mr. Clary's request.

Mr. Clary informed Council that he was working for the Southern Carolina Alliance which use to be the Tri-County Alliance. He explained that the Alliance was here to seek economic develop for the City of Bamberg as well as the County of Bamberg. He assured Council that the Alliance was willing to help in anyway possible. Mr. Clary told Council that the SC Department of Commerce had told the SCA not to expect much help from them due to the budget constraints at the state level.

Mr. Clary informed Council that the Alliance had hired a Virginia company to make contact with companies looking to relocate and who may be wanting to expand.

Mr. Clary informed Council that phase one of the Cross Rhodes Park had been completed and that 36 additional acres had been purchased by the Alliance in order to increase the size of the park. He told Council that the Alliance hoped to start a spec building on the site in the near future.

Mr. Clary told Council that the Alliance was working on an industrial program which would include a social gathering once a month. He said a reception had already been planned for June 24th.

Mr. Clary urged Council to have a representative attend the Bamberg County Economic Development Board meetings at the County Library once a month.

Mr. Clary informed Council that the USA Enterprise Building had been leased by the County to the Mungo Casket Company. He said the new company would be creating 25 jobs which he hoped would increase to 50 jobs by the end of the year.

Mr. Clary urged Council to pass a policy giving tax incentives for new industries willing to locate in the City of Bamberg. He urged Council to forgive the back taxes on the USA Enterprise building in order to get Mungo Casket Company located in Bamberg.

Councilperson Foster entered the meeting in progress.

Mr. Clary told Council that his office would be located at 75 Bell Street.

Mayor McCollum informed Mr. Clary that he had found out today that there were no back taxes owed to the City for the USA Enterprise Building.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that he had served as an ex officio member of the BCEDB and wished to represent the City once again on the board.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilman Sandifer to represent the City on the BCEDB.

Councilman Walker said he thought Council had been told that they could not forgive back taxes owed to the City.

Mr. Clary informed Council that Council needed a policy to be able to abate taxes.

Mayor McCollum asked Clerk Watson to immediately look into a policy that would allow the City to abate taxes for a new industry.

Mr. Clary also informed Council that the SCA was taking over the County's Highway 78 Industrial Park. He went on to explain that he was employed by SCA and that SCA was the economic director for Bamberg County and not himself.

Councilperson Foster inquired as to how the Cross Rhodes Park received its name.

Mr. Clary explained that the property was acquired from the Rhodes Family in Charleston.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilperson Johnson who he said had a conflict.

In the Absence of Mr. Henry Maynard, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the National Youth Sports Program this year. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Auditor Dell Brown from C.C. McGregor and Company presented Council with the 2002-2003 Audit Report. He explained that assets exceeded liabilities to give the City a Fund Equity of \$932,807.00 and that revenues had exceeded expenses by \$136,319.00 for the year. He commended Council on the good report. Auditor Brown said the City was given a Qualified Opinion due to the City not having a list of general fixed assets. He explained that GASB 34 would require a list of fixed assets be generated before next year's audit. He explained that Council would have to decide on a policy for asset values.

Auditor Brown informed Council that the audit of Federal Awards was given an unqualified opinion. He told Council the audit report showed no current or prior findings. He explained that a management letter would not be issued this year since there were no findings to report. He commended Council for staying within their budget guidelines.

Mayor McCollum thanked Auditor Brown for his report and Clerk Watson for the good job.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the 2002-2003 Audit Report as received. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2004 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack 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 reported to Council that things were beginning to happen with economic development in Bamberg County.

Councilman Sandifer presented the request from the Dixie Youth Baseball Program for \$500.00 to Council. After some discussion, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Bamberg Dixie Youth Baseball Program. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that a ten day baseball tournament would be held in June at the Ness Complex mainly due to the great facilities located in Bamberg.

Councilman Sandifer presented the plans for the renovation and addition to the Police Department that had been drawn by Architect West Summers. He explained the proposed project in detail and said he felt the plans needed to be amended to include another 10 foot addition to the storage building to allow for a storage area for the Fire Department. He explained the additional 10 feet would cost approximately \$8,000.00. Councilman Sandifer gave a detailed breakout of the project which included renovations of \$54,000.00, new addition of \$78,000.00, storage building of \$19,600.00, and site work of \$8,000.00 plus a 10% contingency for architect and engineering fees of \$15,960 which brought the total for the project to \$175,560.00.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that with the \$8,000.00 addition to the storage building he was recommending Council borrow \$185,000.00 over a 10 year period to pay for the project.

Council had several questions for Councilman Sandifer.

Councilman Sandifer then made the motion to approve \$185,000.00 for the project and to approve the agreement for Summers & Associates Architects of Orangeburg to serve as the architect for the project. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker asked Councilman Sandifer if the problem at the basketball court at the Ness Complex had been solved.

Councilperson Wells informed Council that five applications had been received for the summer youth workers positions. She said the Sanitation Commission would be interviewing the applicants next week.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that proposals for insurance coverages had been received and that Bruce Watson and Bruce Ellis would review the proposals and then Council would be involved in the process.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that renewal letters for business licenses would soon be going out.

Mayor McCollum reported to Council that the Men of Distinction would cost \$3,400.00 and the stage cost would be \$1,000.00 for the July 4th Celebration this year. He explained that the event would be held on July 3rd.

Councilperson Mack inquired about the vendors for this year's event.

Clerk Watson informed her that advertising for non profit organizations would begin soon.

Mayor McCollum appointed Councilman Sandifer, Councilperson Mack and Councilperson Wells to serve on the July 4th Committee and he appointed Councilperson Wells to serve as chairperson.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve \$7,000.00 for the 2004 July 4th Celebration. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to reappoint Pat Cogburn and John Daniels to the Bamberg Planning Commission for another four year term. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to reappoint Marion Dwight IV to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals for another four year term. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Council voted to come out of the executive session.

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

Councilperson Mack informed Council that she had participated in the USC Salkehatchie leadership Program and that she would be graduating tomorrow. She felt the program was very beneficial.

Phyllis Overstreet informed Council that the Bamberg School District One Leadership Grant would be kicked off at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday at the Richard Carroll School Campus A. She said the children would be given free books at that time. She asked Mayor McCollum to sign a proclamation honoring the event.

With not further business, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Councilperson Wells mad the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the problem had been solved.