

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT; Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Alex Boykin, Jr., Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson.

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

All members of Council were present.

Councilperson Johnson asked that the agenda be amended to discuss summer youth workers.

Councilman Sandifer, saying there was no money in the proposed budget for summer youth workers, objected. He said Councilperson Johnson was a part of the Budget Committee and that the Committee had decided not to include any summer youth workers in the budget.

Mayor McCollum said the summer youth workers would be discussed during the budget presentation anyway.

Councilman Sandifer, Chairman of the Budget Committee, thanked Councilperson Johnson, Councilman Walker and Clerk Watson for their help in preparing the 2005-2006 Budget. He said although he had some good news he wanted to make Council aware that over the last five years the budget had increased by \$317,000.00 which was \$63,400.00 annually or \$1,200.00 per week. Councilman Sandifer asked where would the budget be in 2010. He said the City had made improvements but overall services had not been increased. He told Council they needed to be cautious with the budget in the future.

Councilman Sandifer said the good news was that they have been able to provide the same services without raising taxes. Councilman Sandifer said overall the 2005-2006 Budget was fine. He said it called for no tax increase or increase for garbage services.

Councilman Sandifer said he was very sorry that Councilperson Johnson was asking for summer workers to be included in the budget but that the budget had already been balanced.

Councilperson Johnson said she had learned that the City could not depend on the community service workers being available as once thought when the Budget Committee was discussing the summer youth workers. She informed Council that Mr. Sweatman was asking for help. She said the summer workers were needed if the town was to be kept clean. Councilperson Johnson informed Council that the Sanitation Dept. was responsible for the railroad birm, the three parks and at the same time they were tearing down buildings. She said Mr. Sweatman even had to cut grass himself.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he felt the problem dealt with lack of proper supervision. He said he had watched during lunch when he felt an hour was lost by the Dept. when the mowing equipment was parked at 11:30 a.m. until when it was started again at 1:30 p.m. He said the City was not getting work from the regular employees much less the summer workers.

Councilperson Johnson said Mr. Sweatman requested help and said he never asked the City for anything. She went on to say that Mr. Sweatman should be supervising instead of having to cut grass.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Budget Committee realized the Sanitation Dept. needed new equipment and was proposing that a boom truck be purchased for around \$80,000.00 using reserve funds instead of making it a part of the budget.

Councilman Sandifer said he would agree to two summer workers.

Councilman Boykin, saying something was just blaring out at him, voiced that the Sanitation Dept. needed an efficient supervisor. He said maybe Mr. Sweatman didn't need to supervise.

Councilperson Foster asked if two summer workers could do the work.

Councilman Boykin voice that an efficient supervisor could get just as much work out of two people as an inefficient supervisor could get out of ten people.

Councilperson Johnson saying the birm was a fulltime job not counting the City Festival and July 4th Celebration voiced that three summer workers were needed.

Councilperson Foster asked Councilperson Johnson if she would supervise them.

Councilperson Johnson said she would supervise them. She told Council that she had already had some good talks with the Sanitation Crew about their job performances.

Councilman Sandifer, informing Council that they went over the whole budget and that it was balanced, said as Chairman of the Budget Committee he suggested that only two summers workers be hired.

Councilperson Johnson, saying she knew what needed to be done, asked Clerk Watson if monies could be found.

Clerk Watson informed Council that he could find an extra five to seven thousand dollars somewhere in the projected revenues.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to hire two summer workers. Councilperson Mack made the second. During the discussion, Councilperson Johnson said three workers were

needed as requested by Mr. Sweatman. Councilman Boykin said he would agree to two workers if Mr. Seatman was asked to do a better job of supervising. All agreed to the motion except Councilperson Johnson who opposed. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed the Council that with a budget of \$1,723,000.00 including a cost of living increase that you would expect the budget to grow around \$50,000.00 each year. He told Council they were doing a good job. He said the City had not been extravagant in its spending.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the payroll was the biggest challenge. He questioned if it was necessary to have two officers on duty at all times. He asked if the 21% overtime was really necessary. He informed Council that 234 tickets had been written last year between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. which he said was less than one ticket per night.

Councilperson Foster said the officers also checked store doors at night.

Councilman Boykin reminded Council that law enforcement officers have been killed in Bamberg County. He said officers may not feel secure on duty by themselves.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that at present only one officer is on duty between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Councilperson Johnson, saying she agreed with Councilman Sandifer, told Council that towns like Olar, Govan, and Ehrhardt only have one officer on duty at any one time. She said at nights between Monday and Thursday there just wasn't much going on.

Councilman Sandifer said a study needed to be done.

Councilman Boykin said the law enforcement officers would not like this.

Councilman Sandifer explained that the budget did include \$4,000.00 for a new firing range for the Police Department.

Clerk Watson went over the highlights of the 2005-2006 Budget which he said included no roll back of tax millage nor an increase in tax millage. He explained that the budget had grown only 3.9% which he said Council could be very proud of.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Budget Committee was making two recommendations to Council at this time. He said they were recommending that community promotions be limited to \$400.00 per organization instead of \$500.00 and that all office supplies for every department be ordered by the Clerk/Treasurer.

Council agree with the proposed budget of \$1,723,000.00 including the agreed upon changes that had been discussed.

Councilperson Johnson thanked Clerk Watson, Councilman Sandifer and Councilman Walker for the good job they had done with the budget.

Councilman Walker praised Council for working as a family. He said when all is said and done we work together very well. He said Councilman Sandifer and Clerk Watson were great guys. He said he hoped it would remain this way in the future.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the salaries of employees. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor