

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON JUNE 14, 2004 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, Betty Wells, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. VISITORS: Phyllis Overstreet, Jack Steadman, Bob McCully, and Chief George Morris.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Walker who he said had called to say he had an emergency at work.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Jack Steadman asked Council's permission for the Trinity United Methodist Church Men's Club to use the railroad birm to conduct a pumpkin sale. He explained that the sale would begin three weeks prior to Halloween and that the area would be kept clean at all times.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Mr. Steadman's request. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Steadman commended the Police Department for the great job the officers had done during Trinity's Sesquicentennial Celebration last Sunday. He also commended the officers for responding to several emergencies at his home.

Councilperson Wells commended the Police Department for their help during Trinity's Celebration.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2004 meeting as received. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports:

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Bamberg City Economic Development Commission had met today and that everything was still moving forward. He explained that the Mungo Company would be locating in the USA Enterprise Building and that they hoped to begin operations in September.

Councilman Sandifer Informed Council that the baseball season had been a great one and that the an All Star Tournament would begin in June.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that there were several incidents involving fights, water pistols, bicycles as well as a knife being pulled at the Ness Complex this year. He said the people involved in the incidents were not participants of the baseball program. He said the problems may mean the posting of an officer at the facility next year. Councilman Sandifer said most of the problems came from adults and he urged Council not to let the problems destroy what had been built in the last few years. He thanked the 75 volunteers who helped with this year's program.

Councilman Sandifer reported that the addition to the Police Department may require alternative housing for the staff during the construction so as not to interfere with the operation of the department.

Chief Morris explained that he and Clerk Watson had met with Mr. Summers on Friday who said he could work around all the problems without having to move the staff.

Councilman Sandifer asked if the building materials for the addition would be purchased locally.

Clerk Watson explained that Mr. West would go out for bids for contractors who in turn would purchase the materials from wherever they could receive the best prices. He explained that we could not dictate that they purchase locally.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she would have all the police officers and staff of the Police Department attend the next meeting so Council could get to know them since new employees had been hired.

Councilperson Wells reported that three Summer Youth Workers had been hired and that they were doing well. She explained that they would be supervised closely this summer. Councilperson Wells informed Council that the Sanitation Department had prepared the birm area and the Guess Lot for Trinity's Celebration.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that Clerk Watson and Manager Ellis were still looking at various health care plans in order to report to Council.

Councilperson Foster reported that it was time to begin the business license renewals. She informed Council that several people had been located who were operating without business licenses.

Under New Business:

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2004-2 to dissolve the SC Rural Water Finance Authority. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve Resolution 2004-3 to approve the plans for the Highway 301 Widening Project. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve Resolution 2004-4 to approve the plans for the drainage along S-503 known as Log Branch Road. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-02 to adopt the 2004-2005 Budget of \$1,657,232.00 and to set the 2004 millage rate at 102.75 mills.

During the discussion, Councilperson Sandifer reminded Council that something had to be done to curb the growth of the budget in the next few years. He said every department had been overspending their budget each year. Councilman Sandifer said the budget had been overspent by \$100,000.00. He told Council that the Budget Committee has recommended a budget that must be adhered to and said you can't spend more than you have budgeted. Councilman Sandifer said Council had allowed the budget to increase to over \$150,000.00 in just a few years with no better services going to the public. Councilman Sandifer explained that all departments were granted their requests this year without having to increase the millage rate. He said this was a good job on behalf of the Budget Committee.

Councilperson Johnson thanked Councilman Sandifer, Councilperson Foster and Councilperson Mack for a job well done with the budget. She informed Council that the Police Department was \$33,000.00 over budget already this year and voiced that they must cut back. She said half of the total budget was for the Police Department. Councilperson Johnson said what the Police Department over spent for items like coffee that they could have given each officer a \$3,000.00 raise. She assured Council that the Police Department would be cutting back.

All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-03 to establish new User Fees for Garbage Collection. Councilperson Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Wells made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the salaries of employees and to discuss negotiations incident to the purchasing of property. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to purchase the property owned by Mr. Al Herbert located on Bell Street for \$2,500.00. All approved. The motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg