

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2003 AT 5:30 P.M
AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.
COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack,
Betty Wells, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Mayor Protem Sandifer gave the invocation.

Mayor McCollum thanked the Budget Committee Members for their hard work in preparing the proposed 2003-2004 budget. Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Sandifer, thanked Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Wells, Mayor McCollum, and Clerk Watson for their help in preparing the budget.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the Budget Committee had heard from each department and that nothing out of the ordinary was requested. Mr. Sandifer told Council that the budget called for a 3 mill increase this year which he said was the first millage increase in three years. He explained that the salaries of the employees were in line with other cities. Mr. Sandifer told Council that the budget was at first balanced without a tax increase but that nothing had been done for the employees. He went on to say that the 3% cost of living raise this year would have been exceeded by the rise in medical insurance premiums for the employees. He said it wasn't fair for the employees to receive a 3% cost of living raise and still be taking home \$400.00 less due to the rise in medical premiums.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the proposed budget would include a 3 mill increase which would bring in \$13,000.00. He said the 3 mill increase would mean an \$18.00 increase in taxes for homeowners who own a \$100,000.00 home.

Mr. Sandifer went over the highlights for the proposed budget. He explained that the biggest change in the budget would be a \$75,000.00 increase in Sanitation Department expenses due to the County deciding to start charging the City \$38.00 per ton for commercial garbage as a tipping fee. Mr. Sandifer said it was not fair for this increase to be passed on to the taxpayers but that the increase would have to be passed on to the business owners.

Mayor McCollum said he also felt it was not fair for the taxpayers to have to pay for this tipping fee. Most of Council felt the tipping fees for commercial garbage would have to be passed on to the business owners.

Mrs. Foster voiced that Council needed to be concerned about the increasing cost that the businesses were now facing.

Clerk Watson explained that the increase in tipping fees would mean an increase in dumpster charges of \$55.00 per month. He went on to explain that the budget stood at \$1,595,108.00 for the 2003-2004 year. Clerk Watson explained the budget in great detail.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to go into executive session to discuss salaries of employees. Mrs. Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to come out of the executive session. Mrs. Foster made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that Mrs. Mack and Clerk Watson have been asked to look at alternative medical insurance plans before next year.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the proposed 2003-2004 Budget of \$1,595,108.00 as presented. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson explained the ordinances that would have to be adopted in order to implement the 2003-2004 Budget.

With no further business, Mrs. Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg