

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JULY 11, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack, Alex Boykin, Jr., Nancy Foster. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, and Gene Schwarting, III.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda as amended to include item 3A to receive a request from the Bamberg Youth Football Program. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Gene Schwarting, III informed Council that he was now the director of the Bamberg Youth Football Program. He informed Council that the league needed new jerseys, pants and most of all new helmets. He told Council they needed 65 new helmets immediately in order to insure the safety of the kids. Mr. Schwarting told Council the costs to replace the helmets would be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,500.00. He asked Council to please consider donating \$2,500.00.

After some discussion, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$2,500.00 to the Bamberg Youth Football Program to come from the Recreation Department's Budget. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Ella Reed was not present for the meeting.

Councilman Sandifer asked what Mrs. Reed's complaint was about?

Councilperson Johnson explained that Mrs. Reed had applied as a vendor for the July 4th Celebration but was denied since her group was not a church group or charitable organization as required.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2005 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2005 meeting held at 6:00 p.m. as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2005 meeting held at 6:15 p.m. as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2005 as amended to remove Councilman Boykin's name from those attending. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson went over the June Budget and Finance Report with Council. He explained that the report showed some overages in expenditures in some departments but that it also showed some unexpected revenues for the year. Clerk Watson said overall revenues had exceeded expenditures by \$94,062.00 for the year. He said the City was in very good shape.

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

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the good report meant Council would not have to dip into reserves to purchase the grapple loader truck for the Sanitation Department.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he and Clerk Watson had met with all the officers in the Police Department this morning. He said they were trying to get a handle on the overtime paid in the department which amounted to \$23,175.00 over the budget for the year. Councilman Sandifer voiced that another officer could be hired for what was being paid in overtime. Councilman Sandifer said a reserve officer program may be considered which would be controlled by the chief. Councilman Sandifer said the meeting was a good meeting but reiterated that overtime needed to be managed better.

Mayor McCollum said Council may want to look at hiring another officer if the City could save money.

Councilman Sandifer said Council wanted to work with the officers.

Councilman Walker asked if Walker' Club was still open.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he was still trying to open but that the Police Department was forcing compliance on him every week.

Councilman Boykin informed Council that everything was going well in the Recreation Department. He told Council that money had been appropriated to light the new ball field at the Ness Park.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that renewal notices for business licenses were sent out last week.

Councilperson Johnson asked how the Bamberg Chamber of Commerce was doing.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that the Chamber was not very active at this time.

Councilperson Foster asked Councilperson Johnson to please have the Sanitation Department clean the cigarette butts from the new downtown parking lot.

Councilperson Johnson assured her the problem would be addressed.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that Job Corps students have implemented a program in which they will perform 10 hours of community service work per week in order to give back to the community.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he had received many good compliments concerning the July 4th Celebration.

Councilperson Foster said she had also heard great things concerning the event.

Councilman Boykin asked if Tobul Accumulators and Phoenix Specialties had been thanked for the fireworks display?

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had already called thanking them for their participation in the celebration.

Councilperson Mack informed Council that the Sanitation Department did a great job with the clean up after the event.

Under Old Business.

Clerk Watson explained to Council that the new Bamberg County Fire Contract had been changed to reflect a \$10,000.00 increase for the City this year. He said the contract now stood at \$50,500.00 for the year.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the meeting with County Council last year paid off this year. He said Council still needed to understand that the Bamberg Fire Department is a City department and not a county department like the rest of the units in the County Fire Plan. He said good things came from the events of last year.

Mayor McCollum explained that a group had met with Mike Sullivan of the SCDOT concerning the 301 Widening Project. He said at present due to limited funding that they were recommending that the project proceed in phases. Mayor McCollum told Council that the SCDOT was recommending that phase one include the widening of the section on Highway 78, the shifting of the 301/78 intersection, and the widening of section 301 through the Core Commercial District southward. He explained that this phase would include addressing the drainage problem south of town including Brickle Street and that the SCDOT was looking at including the placing of lights, buffer fencing, and brick

crossings on Main Street. Mayor McCollum explained that the SCDOT needed a letter of support from Council in order to proceed with the \$4,600,000.00 phase.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve SCDOT's proposal to start phase one. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum asked Clerk Watson to draft a letter to SCDOT notifying them of Council's support.

Councilman Boykin asked who would be approving the work along Main Street once the SCDOT decided to include the lighting, fencing and crosswalks?

Mayor McCollum assured Council they would be updated before any concrete plans were made.

Councilman Boykin made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the hiring of personnel. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilman Walker made the motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mack made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor