

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2003 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Chief George Morris, Officer James Smoak, Rev. Michael James, Cindy Nichols and Phyllis Overstreet.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the agenda as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Rev. Michael James of the Bamberg Church of God informed Council that his church had a sign on Highway 78 in front of the new Piggly Wiggly on the railroad birm that was removed during the construction of the new Piggly Wiggly. He explained that the church wished to replace the sign with a shorter sign no higher than three feet. He explained that it was important for the church to have the sign located close to the same area.

Mrs. Foster voiced that Council had made a ruling not to allow any signs on the railroad birm for beautification purposes.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that he felt the sign was already in place at one time and should be allowed to be replaced.

Mrs. Johnson voiced that the sign should be grandfathered in.

Mayor McCollum reminded everyone that they had to be careful that the sign would not interfere with the attention of drivers at the intersection. He asked if the sign could be placed on the opposite side of the street.

After some discussion, Council agreed to have Mr. Sandifer meet with Rev. James to see where the sign could be placed. Mr. Sandifer would report to Council at the next meeting.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2003 meeting as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2003 meeting as received. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the Budget and Fianance Reports as presented. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the painting of City Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Department had been completed.

Mr. Sandifer told Council that due to the Pony League Field being located next to the Little League Fields that three people had been hit by fowl balls this season. He explained that some shifting of fields would have to be done before the next season. Mr. Sandifer said some new fields would also be added before the next season. Mr. Sandifer told Council that grant money was available to help with the improvements. He said other plans would be made to improve the parking at the same time.

Mr. Sandifer said plans for the changes and improvements would be presented to Council at a later date. He closed by thanking the volunteers who helped with the baseball programs this year.

Mrs. Johnson reported to Council that Officer Gene Hines would be retiring from the Police Department on August 13th after 22 years of service to the City. She said other things would be discussed during the executive session.

Chief Morris informed Council that Officer Hines was retiring due to his health. He informed Council that the department had received a mini grant of \$7,200.00 to purchase video car cameras.

Chief Morris told Council that since the changes were made in the department that Officer Mathis had solved several cases as the investigation officer. He said Officer Mathis is presently coordinating with the three county task force in order to hold their next meeting here in Bamberg.

Chief Morris informed Council that Officer Mathis has speakers that will come present a drug program to the schools and who will present other programs to the area churches.

Chief Morris explained to Council that due to the State's increase in assessments this year that most of the fine money would be going to Columbia. He said this makes it hard on people who get minor speeding tickets.

Mrs. Wells reported that the Sanitation Department had been very busy due to the wet weather. She informed Council that the Summer Workers Program would end on August 22nd. She said the youth workers had done a great job this summer.

Mr. Walker thanked the Sanitation Department for cleaning the lot in front of his home.

Chief Morris informed Mr. Walker that the City didn't clean the lot but that family members of the property owners must have cleaned the lot.

Mr. Walker asked Mrs. Wells to please have the Sanitation Department remove the dead tree at the corner of Society and Pentecostal Streets from the sidewalk. He mentioned that the whole sidewalk needed cleaning.

Mrs. Foster reported that the City had nine new businesses last year which brought the number of businesses in the City to 202. She said the businesses generated \$173,000.00 in license revenues.

Mr. Wells made the motion to approve the final reading of Ordinance 03-08 to close a section of Railroad Avenue. Mrs. Mack made the second All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve setting the Tax Credit Factor at .001395 and the Millage Rate at 1023/4 mills for the year 2003. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer asked Clerk Watson if the monies had been received as mentioned at the last Council meeting.

Clerk Watson explained that the monies had been received and that the auditors would make the entries to place the monies where they needed to be placed.

Mr. Walker made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the disciplining of employees. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Mayor McCollum announced that no actions had been taken.

During the announcements, Mr. Sandifer told Council that the event for Mrs. Maggie Dunbar was very nice. He told Mrs. Johnson that she had done a tremendous job organizing the event.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he was making a complaint concerning the buses and cars that were continuously parking on the sidewalks for two to three hours at a time around the High School. He said residents were always calling him to complain about the problem. Mr. Sandifer said everyone must walk in the street when they walk by the area.

Chief Morris said he was told the buses only parked on the sidewalks for a few minutes but that he had an officer who would take care of the problem.

Clerk Watson and Chief Morris made Council aware that complaints were constantly coming in concerning tractors and trailers in the residential areas. Chief Morris said he had received complaints about the noise from the tractors. Clerk Watson explained that

the tractors and trailers were tearing up sidewalks, curbing, the shoulders of the streets as well as paving on the streets in the residential areas as they made their turns.

Mayor McCollum asked that a discussion be placed on next month's agenda concerning the problem. He asked Chief Morris to present Council with a recommendation concerning the problems.

Phyllis Overstreet informed Council that Brabham Oil tankers were turning onto Midway Street from Carlisle Street instead of turning off Highway 78 onto Veterans Avenue when returning to the office.

Cindy Nichols asked who was in charge of the fire hydrants in town because the hydrant at the corner of Midway Street and Carlisle Street had been running for over a year.

Council informed her that the BPW was responsible for the hydrants in town.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor