

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Mack and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Phyllis Overstreet, Jerry Durgan, Sharon Manigault, Gloria Brown, Justine McCants, Jennie Wise, Craig Walker and Rex Williams.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Boykin who he said had called to say he had to attend another important meeting.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include item 2A under Old Business to discuss a request from the United Way to use the armory for a food distribution event. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum began the public hearing to receive public comments on proposed Ordinance 06-11 to rezone the property owned by Gloria Brown, Justine McCants and Sharon Manigault from R-2 to R-3. Mayor McCollum informed Council the Planning Commission was recommending that Ordinance 06-11 not be adopted at this time because they were concerned with how the property may be developed in the future.

Clerk Watson explained the differences between the residential districts and informed Council the main difference was that the R-3 districts would allow double wide manufactured homes. He explained that with over five acres being rezoned that you could possibly have a whole neighborhood of doublewide manufactured homes in close proximity to the R-2 District which could affect the current property values of home owners in the area.

Councilman Sandifer asked Mrs. Brown what her intentions were for the whole piece of property in the future.

Mrs. Brown informed Council that she was only trying to improve her living conditions and would only be adding on to her double wide with another double wide manufactured home to enlarge her home.

Councilperson Mack asked Mrs. Brown how her neighbors felt?

Mrs. Brown informed Council that she had two neighbors with her who supported the rezoning.

Mrs. Sharon McCants Manigault told Council that she had no problem with the rezoning.

Councilman Sandifer asked Mrs. Brown how much land she owned by herself?

She informed him she owned two acres.

Councilman Sandifer, saying he understood the Planning Commission's outlook for the future, informed Mrs. Brown it would be to her benefit to ask to rezone the two acres instead of the 5.73 acres.

Councilperson Foster told Council Mrs. Brown just wanted to enhance her home and that Council would have to do some homework. She said Council would do all they could.

Mrs. Brown informed Council that she had already purchased the double wide manufactured home and would have to pay to have the home held in Orangeburg.

Mr. Craig Walker told Council Mrs. Brown and the other owners were reputable people and the Council should use common sense in looking at the law. He urged Council to find some common ground concerning the matter.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that once the property was rezoned that it could be sold and developed into anything.

Councilperson Foster, saying Mrs. Brown lived in her district and that she was inclined to allow the rezoning, made the motion to approve Ordinance 06-11 on first reading. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2006 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the 301 Widening Project would call for traffic to be diverted down Calhoun Street. He said that over the years citizens in town had complained of speeding and Council in order to accommodate them lowered the speed limits around town. Councilman Sandifer informed Council that this had set up five different speed limits within the City of Bamberg and had thus made the town a speed trap.

Councilperson Foster reminded Council that Calhoun Street was a neighborhood with children.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that a study needed to be done by the SCDOT since they now set the speed limits. He urged Council to allow Mayor McCollum to write the SCDOT to request that a study be done.

Council agreed to have the mayor write the SCDOT to ask for the study.

Mr. Craig Walker informed Council that he lived on Calhoun Street which lacked sidewalks and good lighting. He said the street may see more traffic at higher speeds due to the diversion of traffic. He voiced that the people along Calhoun Street needed to be considered and felt that proper signage was needed at each location where other streets entered Calhoun Street to make everyone aware of the speed limit along Calhoun Street.

Another visitor asked how the citizens would be protected along Calhoun Street on Sundays when the area saw more traffic due to the church in the area?

Councilperson Johnson reported that the Sanitation Department was doing well in spite of the heat. She informed Council that she had received several compliments on the operation of the boom truck. Councilperson Johnson informed Council that Mrs. Lisa Stokes was now the new director of the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce and that the Chamber's Citizen of the Year Banquet would be held on the 21st.

Councilman Walker reported that everything was going well in the Fire Department.

Councilperson Foster reported that business license renewals were coming in at this time.

Under Old Business.

After Clerk Watson explained the new state law in which legislation had been passed making the Secretary of State responsible for handling cable tv franchises with the SC Consumer Affairs Office handling all complaints, Councilman Walker made the motion to have an ordinance drawn up to increase the cable franchise rate from 3% to 5%. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson explained that Surveyor Don Smith was still working on the plat work for the armory so ordinance could be drafted to accept the deeded property.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he wanted the armory to be used to improve the quality of life for all the citizens. He told Council he felt someone was needed to draw up a plan for the use of the armory.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she felt a work session needed to be held to discuss the use of the building.

Mr. Craig Walker urged Council to solicit ideas from the community by allowing public input.

Mayor McCollum assured him that Council would appoint a committee and that a public hearing would be held to receive public input.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to allow the United Way to use the mechanics shop at the armory for two food distribution events. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business.

Council received the recommendation from the Planning Commission not to adopt Ordinance 06-11 at this time.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the millage rate of 105.75 mills and to set the Tax Credit Factor at .001039 for the 2006 tax year. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2006-4 supporting the location of the new Bamberg County Hospital at the 301 Site. Councilman Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2006-5 allowing the transfer of the cable tv franchise from G-Force to Atlantic Broadband. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the hiring of personnel and to discuss negotiations incident to the purchasing of property. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to purchase the properties owned by the NCO Officers Club surrounding the armory property for \$15,000.00. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Councilperson Johnson asked Mayor McCollum if he had talked to SCDOT Officials concerning the merchants' signs and awnings for the buildings downtown?

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had learned the SCDOT would not allow the signs and awnings to remain in the SCDOT right way during the 301 Widening Project. He said SCDOT Officials were responsible for contacting the merchants.

Councilpersons Johnson and Foster voiced that they felt the merchants definitely needed someone to talk to them concerning their signs and awnings.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor