

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
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: Dell Brown, Paul Sandifer,
Tommy Trantham, Kim Trantham, N.S. Reese, Nellie Roberson, Betty McCollum, Virgie
Bamberg, Franklin Bamberg, Sr., Jimmie Shephard, Mayor Carrie Simmons, Gerald
Wright, Randy Maxwell, and Rev. Larry Cash.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Councilman Boykin and Councilperson Mack.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve the agenda to include the amendments of items 8 & 9 under New Business to include an executive session to discuss the disciplining of an employee, and to discuss a request from the Bamberg County Hospital to hold a yard sale on the Railroad Birm. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack entered the meeting in progress.

Mayor McCollum began the Public Hearings to receive comments on proposed Ordinances 05-05 and 05-06. With no comments from the public, Mayor McCollum brought the Public Hearings to a close.

Auditor Dell Brown presented Council with the final 2003-2004 Audit Report which he said included implementation of GASB 34 guidelines and which accounted for the City's fixed assets. Auditor Brown said the audit report gave the City an unqualified clean opinion with no findings. He said the audit report showed assets exceeded liabilities to give the City a \$2,339,845.00 net worth. Auditor Brown said expenses had exceeded revenues by \$25,746.00 which was mainly due to the increase in unexpected costs of landfill tipping fees. Auditor Brown informed Council that the compliance letter stated no disagreements or difficulties were encountered with the management of the City of Bamberg.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the 2003-2004 Audit Report as presented. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Nellie Roberson saying no names would be mentioned presented Council with a 1953 agreement between the SCDOT and the City of Bamberg in which she said proved the City accepted responsibility for the right of ways, drainage and ditches along Brickle Street.

Mayor McCollum reminded Mrs. Roberson that any mention of any ongoing litigation with the City would not be discussed.

Mrs. Roberson said the agreement proved the City was liable for all the ditches and flooding problems throughout the City.

Mayor McCollum assured Mrs. Roberson that a lot had been done to correct the problems and he advised her to file a complaint with the City which he said would be passed on to the City's lawyers.

Mrs. Roberson asked that her handouts be made a part of the record.

After hearing a request from Beth Pregnall that the City donate to the United Way for displaced families of Hurricane Katrina, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the United Way for families who would be relocated in Bamberg. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After hearing Paul Sandifer's request for the City to sponsor one band for the Christmas Parade, Councilperson Johnson made the motion to donate \$400.00 to sponsor one band. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2005 meeting as received. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2005 meeting as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Clerk Watson explained that the cost for the new Grapple Loader Truck of around \$92,000.00 had to be recorded as a capital expense in the Sanitation Department, Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as presented. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved.

Under New Business.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the BCEDC had met today and that things were going kind of slow. He told Council everything in the Police Department was running well except that the cost of fuel for the Department had increased by \$500.00 this month due to the high cost of gas.

Chief Morris said the department was at full staff with everyone being healthy. He said he had talked to the officers about conserving fuel.

Councilperson Johnson informed Council that she had been unable to make contact with anyone associated with the Bamberg Chamber of Commerce. She told Council the new Grapple Loader Truck had been received and that they were now looking at winter clothes for the Sanitation Department.

Councilperson Foster asked Councilperson Johnson to please have the Sanitation Department place pine straw around the plants at the Downtown Parking Lot.

Councilman Walker informed Council that everything in the Fire Department was going well. He told Council the problems with the ditches along Calhoun Street by the Bamberg's house had still not been addressed and that the lots of Mr. Virgil Hicks by the Bamberg's house were unkept.

Clerk Watson informed Council that he was still trying to make contact with Mr. Hicks concerning which lot he wanted to deed to the City.

Mayor McCollum told Council he would contact Gene Cooner concerning the progress of the ditches down Calhoun Street.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that the Youth Football Program was doing well. He said Councilman Boykin and Gene Schwarting, III. were doing a great job.

Councilperson Foster informed Council that business license renewals were still being received. She said license revenues were a big part of the City's budget.

Under Old Business.

After Clerk Watson informed Council that Attorney Brailsford had cautioned Council about granting any easement to Bell South, Councilman Sandifer asked that a representative from Bell South meet with Council to discuss the matter.

Under New Business.

Council received the recommendations from the planning Commission that Ordinances 05-05 and 05-06 be adopted.

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the first readings of Ordinances 05-05 and 05-06. Councilperson Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2005-3 adopting the National Incident Management System. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve Trinity United Methodist Church's request to use the Railroad Birm from October 9th until October 31st for their Pumpkin Patch. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Council agreed to bury a time capsule for the City of Bamberg under the flagpole at City Hall. Councilperson Foster informed Council that Sonny Calder was willing to donate the capsule.

After hearing a request from Mayor Simmons of Denmark for the City of Bamberg to help them with removal of yard debris a few days a month, Councilperson Foster made the motion to donate the City's old grapple loader truck to Denmark. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer asked that Mayor Simmons draft a letter relieving the City of Bamberg of any liability associated with the old truck once they received it.

Mayor Simmons said that would not be a problem.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to allow the Bamberg County Hospital to have a yard sale on the railroad birm on October 8th at the Heritage Center Park. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the disciplining of an employee. Councilperson Mack 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.

Mayor McCollum announced that no actions had been taken in the executive session.

During the announcements, Councilperson Foster informed Council that she had attended the opening of Allendale Incorporated which located in Fairfax, SC.

Mrs. Nellie Roberson informed Council that it was not fair that another lady was allowed to approach the Mayor before the meeting to speak to him and yet she was given a time limit in which to speak. She said other speakers were not given time limits. Mrs. Roberson told Council it was not fair that they controlled what she had to say. She asked Councilman Sandifer why he would not come out to their neighborhood to address their problems.

Councilman Sandifer said he would go out to her neighborhood at any time but he said he didn't appreciate her calling him at midnight.

Mayor McCollum told Mrs. Roberson once again that if she wanted to file a suit to bring it to City Hall.

Mr. Bamberg asked how many families would be relocating in Bamberg due to Hurricane Katrina?

Mayor McCollum informed him that they were not sure at this time.

Mr. Bamberg said they would be willing to help.

Mr. Bamberg voiced that all of the properties owned by Mr. Virgil Hicks near his house needed to be cut. He said the ditches needed to be addressed and said the SCDOT did not just run low on gas.

Councilperson Foster assured Mr. Bamberg that she would talk to Mr. Hicks concerning his lots.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor