

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Wells, Berry Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Fire Chief Timmie Taylor, Chief George Morris, Henry Maynard, Phyllis Overstreet, Cindy Nichols, Louise Grimes and Mr. Capers.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Clerk Watson gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except for Councilperson Foster. Clerk Watson said she had called to say she had another meeting and that she may be a few minutes late.

Mrs. Mack made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2003 meeting as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as received. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports.

Mr. Sandifer reported that the sports program was dormant except for the Little League Football Program that was in full swing. He informed Council that Kirk Morrell was directing this year's program.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that City Hall had been painted and that the job was complete.

He told Council that things were brewing in the economic development area and that he would have more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Walker reported that the Fire Commission and Insurance Commission had a very constructive meeting to discuss insurance coverage for the volunteer firefighters. He said a report would be given later during the meeting.

Mrs. Wells reported that the City no longer has the Summer Youth Workers and that the Sanitation Department was short one man due to the sudden death of employee Larry Kizer. Mrs. Wells praised Mr. Kizer and said he was a good man.

Mrs. Wells informed Council that advertising for another employee had begun and that interviews would begin next week. She closed by saying that the Sanitation Department was very busy preparing for next week's festival.

Mrs. Mack informed Council that the Fire Commission and Insurance Commission had met with Mayor McCollum and Clerk Watson to discuss an insurance policy to cover

volunteer firefighters' lost wages due to any injuries that might occur while fighting fires. She explained that the policy would be in addition to the City's workers compensation coverage for volunteers. Mrs. Mack said the policy would cost \$1,985.00 to cover 22 volunteers with a \$20,000.00 accidental death benefit and a \$400.00 weekly wage benefit. Mrs. Mack then recommended that Council approve paying for the policy.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to pay \$1,985.00 for the volunteer firefighters policy. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Old Business.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he met with the pastor of the Bamberg Church of God and that they had decided that the best location for the church sign would be 48 inches back from Highway 78 and 48 inches from the entrance to Heritage Park. He explained that the proposed church sign would be 24 inches by 24 inches and should cause no problems were it will be located. Mrs. Sandifer recommended to Council that the sign should be allowed especially since the church's old sign had been removed during the development of the birm.

Mrs. Mack made the motion to allow the Bamberg Church of God to replace the sign. Mrs. Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business.

Mr. Walker presented Council with the 2003-2004 Fire Service Contract for Bamberg County. He explained that the contract was the same as last year's contract and that the City of Bamberg would provide fire services to the County at a cost of \$10,125.00 per quarter.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve the Fire Service Contract with Bamberg County. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion, Mrs. Sandifer informed Council that he had met with Chief Taylor to discuss next year's contract. Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the Fire Department was presently making 40% of their calls in the City and 60% of their calls out of the City on county calls. He told Council that the City had purchased the new pumper tanker just to answer out of town calls and felt more monies needed to be received to offset the cost of the tanker.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that the County was getting a good deal. He said \$40,500.00 a year was not enough to offset the Fire Department's Budget.

Mrs. Foster entered the meeting in progress.

Mr. Sandifer recommended accepting this year's contract but said they wanted to look at an increase in next year's contract.

Chief Taylor said he would like to see a 10% increase in next year's contract to offset the increases in the cost of doing business.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the City's landfill cost from the County increased more than 10% this year alone.

After the discussion, all approved the 2003-2004 Fire Services Contract with Bamberg County. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Shalom Mission Cottage. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum explained the problem the City was having with tractor trailers tearing up the city streets, sidewalks and problems they were causing by parking in residential areas. He told Council he noticed a log truck parked on a sidewalk for two days last week.

Clerk Watson explained that he had contacted other cities to see how they were dealing with the problems. He said Aiken had spent two years discussing the issue but that Greenwood had a very simple ordinance dealing with the problem of tractor trailers in the residential areas. Clerk Watson informed Council that some cities use zoning to address the issue and some just draw up a regular ordinance to address the problems. Clerk Watson urged Council to keep it as simple as possible and to just draw up a regular ordinance.

Clerk Watson said Greenwood's ordinance stated that the parking or storage of tractor-trailer rigs or cabs is not permitted in the residential district with the exception of vehicles not exceeding one-half ton in loading capacity.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that he felt the proposed wording was not broad enough. He said you would have pulpwood trucks parking in the residential districts if you didn't specify them also.

After some discussion, Mrs. Foster made the motion to have an ordinance drawn up using Greenwood's language. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer thanked Chief Morris for addressing the problems with parking at the High School.

During the announcements, Mrs. Foster reminded everyone about the open house at the Spann House on Midway Street on September 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

She informed Council that a reception would be held at the Hooten Black House on the 18th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to kick off the festival.

Mayor McCollum reminded Council that the new Gambro Dialysis Center would be having their open house and ribbon cutting Friday beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Johnson recognized Deacon Capers who was the local Boy Scout Leader. Deacon Capers presented Council with a review of the Boy Scout Programs for the past year. He explained that the organization now had 37 Cub Scouts, 12 Boy Scouts, and 5 Adventurers. Deacon Capers told Council they were receiving youths from throughout the county. He said they were having a problem getting leaders to donate their time. Deacon Capers asked Council for their continued support.

Mayor McCollum asked Deacon Capers to come to the next meeting to request their annual contribution and he also asked Deacon Capers to bring the Scouts so they could be recognized.

Mr. Henry Maynard informed Council that 350 youths were served by the Summer Youth Program this year. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. Mr. Maynard told Council he had seen youths from the program who eventually went on to college and who then received good jobs.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that Mr. Maynard had served under General Patton during World War II and asked him to ride in the festival parade to honor veterans. Mrs. Sandifer offered to even make him a sign for the car he would be riding in.

Mr. Maynard said that was fine with him.

Mrs. Johnson reminded Council that Deacon Capers had also served 20 years in the service.

After an adjournment, Mayor McCollum called the meeting back to order.

He informed Council that James Samuel, owner of the church on Rhoad Park Street, had contacted him to say he wanted to sell the church and two acres of property to the City.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that additional parking was needed at the Ness Complex.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to the purchasing of property. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

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

Mrs. Foster made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg