

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2002 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: Cindy Nichols, Larry Clark, Phyllis Overstreet, and Chief George Morris.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Mrs. Mack gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

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

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2002 and July 8, 2002 meetings as received. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as received. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson informed Council that delinquent taxes stood at around \$132,000 at the end of June as compared to \$158,000 for the same time last year.

Under Commission Reports:

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the Bamberg City Economic Development Commission had met today and that things were beginning to happen in Bamberg. He announced that a groundbreaking ceremony would be taking place soon.

Mr. Sandifer reported that this year's recreation program was the best ever. He said 80 volunteers had participated in the soccer and baseball programs which involved over 550 kids. He thanked all the volunteers for their efforts.

Chief Morris reported that a new police car had been purchased and that the 88 Caprice patrol car had been put out for sealed bids.

Mr. Walker reported everything was going nicely in the Fire Department.

Mrs. Wells reported that everything in the Sanitation Department was running smoothly. She said the summer youth workers were still on the job.

Mrs. Foster reported that business license renewals were coming in. She informed Council that she has asked Clerk Watson for a list of the new businesses so ribbon cutting ceremonies could be planned.

Under Old Business:

County Administrator Larry Clark informed Council that the County is interested in pursuing a countywide building inspection program. He explained that the County has started a Building Inspection Department and said that he felt consolidating services would be the right thing to do. Mr. Clark said the program would save the taxpayers money and that the County would handle the permits and permitting fees. Mr. Clark explained that the inspector would also be involved in condemnation proceedings as well as dealing with unsafe structures.

Mr. Clark informed Council that the County has advertised for an inspector and that a salary range of \$27,000.00 has been set. He said the inspector would be expected to be kind and considerant as he served the people. Mr. Clark informed Council that Denmark and Ehrhardt have also shown interest in the program.

Mr. Sandifer asked when he would have an inspector on board.

Mr. Clark said he expected to have a countywide inspector within two weeks.

Clerk Watson informed Council that Mr. Clark has assured him that City of Bamberg Zoning would be met before any permits were issued.

Mr. Walker asked how the program would be funded.

Mr. Clark explained that according to his calculations building permits would totally support the program.

Mr. Sandifer then made the motion to support a countywide endeavor to hire a countywide building inspector. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Lisa Stokes asked Council to consider donating to the National Guard Family Support Day to be held on September 15th at the Ness Complex since the Summer Basketball Program had ended. After some discussion, Mrs. Foster made the motion to donate \$250.00 to the Family Support Day. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business:

Mrs. Foster made the motion to set the 2002 Tax Crediot Factor at .001300. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the 2002-2003 County Fire Contract for \$10,125.00. Mrs. Mack made the second. Mrs. Sandifer assured Council that the Fire Department had no problem with the contract. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum explained that a public hearing has been scheduled between residents of Creekside Drive and SCDOT Officials for August 20th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor McCollum said members of Council could attend but would not be involved.

Council received a recommendation from the Planning Commission that Ordinance 02-15 be adopted to rezone the property of Al Herbert from R-3 to HC.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum explained to Council that Council needed to approve the agreement to allow some of the 3.2 million dollars of federal funds for the Highway 301 Widening Project to be used to construct a \$200,000.00 parking area along Railroad Avenue.

Clerk Watson explained that the SCDOT agreed to allow this since parking would be removed in front of Dr. Green's office and along Main Street during their widening project. He also explained that they also agreed to allow the use of these monies as a swap out for approximately four acres of City property that would be taken when the 78/301 intersection is shifted to the north during the project.

Mr. Sandifer asked that Attorney Hiers be allowed to review the agreement.

Mrs. Foster then made the motion to go ahead with the agreement once Attorney Hiers had given his approval. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to the location of a business in the area. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Mayor McCollum announced that no actions had been taken.

Mayor McCollum told Mrs. Foster that Council sends their sympathy to her due to the passing of her mother. He also told Mr. Sandifer that Council sends their sympathy to him due to the passing of his sister.

During questions from the press and audience, Phyllis Overstreet informed Council that the next First Steps Meeting would be held on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. in the district office building in Denmark. She urged everyone to get involved in this worthwhile program.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg