

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
ON FEBRUARY 11, 2002 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum

COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker,
Betty Wells and Nancy Foster

CLERK: Bruce Watson

VISITORS: Building Inspector Charles Kirkland, Mr. and Mrs.
Pat Baughman, Phyllis Overstreet, Cindy Nichols,
Inspector Charles Kirkland, Fire Chief Timmie Taylor
and Police Chief George Morris

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Foster. He informed Council that Mrs. Mack had called to say she would be unable to attend due to a bad knee which required medical attention.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda as amended to include item IIIa. a report from the Building Inspector. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Building Inspector Kirkland reported to Council that three renovation and addition as well as one demolition permit had been issued. He informed Council that six zoning permits had also been issued.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2002 and January 17, 2002 meetings as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Pat Baughman who introduced himself as a foreigner told Council he had been involved in promoting a small town in Texas named Ballenge, which became known as the Greatest Little Town in Texas. He referred to other little towns like Ellore, SC and another town in British Columbia which have been instrumental in renovating and promoting themselves. Mr. Baughman urged Council to begin cleaning up the downtown area by telling the owners of the buildings to either bring their buildings into compliance or sell them. He said that Council must have the gumption to enforce the code. Mr. Baughman explained to Council that he and three other business partners have plans to purchase the building at the corner of Highway 301 and 78 on the west side in order to

renovate it to use as a printing facility. He explained that the building is in desperate need of repair but that the owner refuses to sell.

Mrs. Foster entered the meeting at that time.

Mr. Baughman expressed that public spirit and pride is needed and he urged Council to demand that the owners fix the buildings up or either sell them.

Mayor McCollum assured Mr. Baughman that Council is ready to move now to address the downtown area.

Mr. Sandifer informed Mr. Baughman that his idea was the same idea that Council had foreseen several months ago when they decided to renovate the barber shop building. He explained that the City owned a dilapidated building and could not force other owners to fix their buildings at that time. Mr. Sandifer said the City now owns a renovated building and can say tonight that other owners must fix up their buildings.

Mr. Baughman said Bamberg must try to achieve some type of cohesion.

Council thanked Mr. Baughman for his comments and thanked him for coming.

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

Under Commission Reports:

Mr. Sandifer saying that enough could not be said about the dedication of Robert and Cindy Hurst to the soccer program, informed Council that 250 kids have signed up to play soccer. Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the baseball program will begin in 30 days.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the Hiers property had been sold to a developer.

Mrs. Johnson reported that she attended City Court this morning and found it to be very interesting.

Chief Morris informed Council that Douglas Kirby who is a certified officer has been selected as the new part-time officer which will save the City in overtime. He told Council that Officer Nevarez is still out after having surgery.

Mrs. Johnson informed Council that she has talked to Nora Sanders concerning the Comprehensive and Housing CDBG Grants that are available. She explained that the Comprehensive Grants can be used to address the cleaning of lots and removal of old cars once a major area is targeted.

Council agreed to apply for one of the types of grants.

Mrs. Wells reported that the Sanitation Department has cleaned up the debris from a house on Hill and Bamberg Streets and that they have been working on the Steedly building and the Barber Shop building.

Mrs. Wells informed Council that Kilgus Publishing was the new Chamber member and that Business After Hours would be held at John Haralson's office on March 12th. She told Council that Earth Mothers was the new business that has opened in town.

Fire Chief Timmie Taylor informed Council that the Lower State Firemen Association will hold their meeting on February 25th at the Bamberg Fire Department and he invited Council to the meeting.

Mrs. Foster reported that the ribbon cutting for the business Matts and Frames which is owned by George and Lillian Folk has been held.

Under Old Business:

Mayor McCollum asked that Council table the discussion of the encroachments until Attorney Hiers could meet with the surveyor at the site. He explained that Attorney Hiers requested this in order to make a recommendation to Council as to how to proceed.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 02-01 setting a time limit for parking in the new downtown parking lot. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

George Folk informed Council that he agreed with the time limit for parking on the new lot but he informed Council that a designated parking area for business owners was needed.

Mrs. Foster asked if any plans have been made to pave the area behind the Steedly building for parking.

Mayor McCollum said no plans have been made at this time.

Mr. Sandifer said he agreed with Mr. and Mrs. Folk that a designated area needed to be found.

Mrs. Johnson said the large parking lot behind Bell Street could be used as a designated parking area.

After some discussion, Mr. Sandifer made the motion to table the discussion until more thought could be put into it. Mrs. Foster made the second. All agreed. The motion carried.

After Mr. Sandifer explained to Council that an extra \$2,000.00 was needed to complete the renovation of the barber shop, he then made the motion to approve another \$2,000.00 for the project. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster thanked Mr. Sandifer for his dedicated hard work on the project.

Mr. Sandifer asked that Council tour the renovated building following the meeting.

Under New Business:

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage, Inc. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Bruce Ellis upon the BPW Commissioners' approval has agreed to install the pipe for the ditch on the west end of the railroad brim if Council will purchase the pipe. Mayor McCollum said that 250 yards of pipe was needed.

Mrs. Johnson voiced that the pipe needed to be purchased and that Council needed to go ahead and approve the money for the project.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that once the barber shop is sold that Council could then appropriate those monies to purchase the pipe.

After some discussion, Mayor McCollum informed Council that he would get a cost figure on buying the pipe before the next meeting.

During the discussion of the problem with illegal use of City dumpsters by out of town residents, Mr. Sandifer mentioned the need for stickers to be placed on each dumpster warning of the violation. Mrs. Johnson then made the motion to pursue ordinance to address the problem of illegal dumping within the City. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to reappoint Mac Moore and Kitty Padgett to the Bamberg Board of Zoning Appeals for another four year term. Mrs. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

With no other business, Mr. Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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