

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker and Betty Wells. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Franklin Bamberg, Cindy Nichols, Phyllis Overstreet, Lee Johnson, Chief George Morris and Fire Chief Timmie Taylor.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Foster. Clerk Watson informed Council that Mrs. Mack had a death in her family and that Mrs. Foster had called to say she would be running late.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include the amendment to the executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Lee Johnson, Divisional Vice President of Northland Communication Corporation, asked permission from Council to transfer the Cable TV Franchise to G Force, LLC. He explained that G Force would own the property but that Northland Communications would still be managing and running the cable system.

Mr. Sandifer asked if the name would be changed.

Mr. Johnson explained that the billing would still be under the name of Northland Cable TV.

Mr. Sandifer made Mr. Johnson aware that he was receiving some complaints from a BPW supervisor that they were having trouble getting Northland Cable to transfer their lines to new poles once the BPW replaced the old poles. He said there were now two poles in some residents' yards.

Mr. Johnson assured Mr. Sandifer that he would take care of the problem immediately.

Mayor McCollum thanked Mr. Johnson for coming.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2003 meeting as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2003 meeting as received. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Phyllis Overstreet, the grant writer for Bamberg School District One, informed Council that she was here to ask the City to act as a pass through for a \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 Department of Public Safety Grant. She explained that the grant would be to educate kids on firearm safety and gang violence. Mrs. Overstreet told Council that the City would receive the monies and that the school district would administrate the grant. Mrs.

Overstreet explained that a school district could not receive the grant and that there would be no cost to the City.

Mr. Sandifer asked what age group the grant would target.

Mrs. Overstreet explained that the grant would be used in the Middle School to promote firearm and hunting safety. She informed Council of a recent incident that occurred at the school.

Chief Morris explained that going through the City was no problem since resource officers would be utilized in the grant. He told Council he was in favor of the grant and felt it was a good idea.

Mr. Walker said it bothered him that one kid was sent home and the other was sent to alternative school for the firearm incident. He said he felt both of the kids should have been sent to alternative school.

Mayor McCollum said he was sure the grant was needed.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve going after the Department of Public Safety Grant to teach firearm safety. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the budget and finance report as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that everything was running smoothly and that the Soccer Program would be starting soon. He told Council that work has begun on the ballfields for this year's program.

Mayor McCollum urged each member of Council to attend at least one ballgame this year to actually to see what a great program they have.

Mrs. Wells told Council everything in the Sanitation Department was running smoothly.

Mr. Walker informed Mrs. Wells that the apartments off Calhoun Street were looking very bad and that a house at the corner of Middle Street and Pentecostal Street needed some trees cut. He also mentioned that a house behind the one on Middle Street and Pentecostal Street needed to also be addressed.

Under Old Business:

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 02-21 to rezone the property of James Grimes to HC. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson informed Council that Percy Sledge was all booked up for the date of July 4th. She informed them that she was now looking at the Swinging Medallions, the Platters or either Marvin Sease as possible entertainment for the event.

Mr. Sandifer asked about the fireworks show for the July 4th Celebration.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that Kathy Rhode would be contacting Jim Tobul about the fireworks display. He told Council that the sound system and stage had been secured.

Under New Business:

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 03-01 to borrow \$150,000.00 from Home Federal Savings and Loan for the new fire truck. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve Resolution 2001-1 authorizing the transfer of the Cable TV Franchise to G Force, LLC. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the request from the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage to close a portion of Society Street for seven hours on April 12, 2003. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he was receiving complaints from residents in his district concerning vehicles including school buses being parked on the sidewalks around the High School.

Chief Taylor said there was also a problem with no fire lane being provided around the school due to how the vehicles were being parked.

Chief Morris explained that illegally parked vehicles on the sidewalks could be given a ticket but that the fire lane would have to be addressed by someone else.

Mayor McCollum asked Chief Morris to look into the problem.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the compensation and employment of an individual and to receive legal advice. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Mayor McCollum announced that no actions had been taken.

During questions from the press and audience, Phyllis Overstreet asked why the Shalom Zone Mission Cottage wanted to close the street.

Clerk Watson explained that they were having a program to make the youth in the community aware of the problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse.

Fire Chief Timmie Taylor asked Council if anything could be done with the lot on Sunset Street which had cut tree debris laying all over it which he said was an eye sore.

He explained there would be a problem with termites and fires if the debris was left on the lot.

Clerk Watson explained that there is no ordinance dealing with the forest practices of cutting timber on undeveloped lots within the City.

Chief Morris said he knew of no ordinance that he could use to deal with the problem.

After some discussion, Clerk Watson was asked to contact other cities to see if they have ordinances dealing with the problem.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg