

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 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: Chief George Morris, Chief Timmie Taylor, Gary Williams, Phyllis Overstreet, Cindy Nichols, Nancy Watson, Jim Kemp and Bob McCully.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the agenda as amended to include item Va. an executive session to receive legal advice. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Auditor Keith Dooley presented the 2000-2001 Audit Report for the City of Bamberg to Council. He informed Council that the report gave the City a Clean Opinion and said the City was in very good fiscal condition. Mr. Dooley reported that assets exceeded liabilities to give the City \$717,188.00 in total fund equity. Mr. Dooley informed Council that revenues for the year exceeded expenses by \$42,329.00 and commended Council for this. He told Council that the audit showed that Council budgeted conservatively which he considered good. Auditor Dooley did point out to Council that the Board of Public Works expenses for the year exceeded revenues by \$341,867.00 which he said Council needed to be aware of. Auditor Dooley pointed out that all investments were secured and that his auditors could find no evidence of noncompliance or incidents of any internal control weaknesses. He informed Council that in the year 2003 the City will be forced to comply with GASB 34 guidelines for financial reporting. Mr. Dooley said the City of Bamberg is in much better shape than most small cities its size.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the 2000-2001 Audit Report as presented. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Jim Kemp and Mrs. Nancy Watson, children of the late Judge Robert Watson Kemp, informed Council that the family wanted to donate two palmetto trees and several crape myrtle trees to the City in honor of their father and his service to the State and community. They asked that the trees be planted on the railroad birm between Faust and Cannon Streets.

Councilperson Foster read to Council a brief biography covering Judge Kemp's life.

Mr. Sandifer asked if a plaque would be placed by the family. Mr. Kemp informed Council that they plan on placing a plaque in honor of Judge Kemp on the birm.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to accept the donation from the Kemp Family. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum asked the Beautification Committee to work with the Kemp Family in placing the trees.

Mr. Walker praised Judge Kemp as being a very nice man who was always pleasant to be around.

Mayor McCollum said it was an honor to have had Judge Kemp as a Bambergian and to still have his family living in the town.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2001 meeting as received. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports.

Mr. Walker reported that Gary Williams had been hired as the new engineer for the Fire Department. He informed Council that the Fire Commission had interviewed two really good applicants for the position.

Mrs. Wells reported that the Sanitation Department has been busy cleaning up after the snow and ice storm and has also been helping with the renovation of the barber shop. She informed Council that new members to the Chamber of Commerce included Low Country Auto Restoration, Friend and Gifts, and the Denmark Diner. Mrs. Wells informed Council that Business After Hours will be held at the State Farm Insurance Office of Johnny Haralson this month.

Mrs. Mack informed Council that the City has received information that the worker's compensation premiums will be increasing due to the September 11th terrorist attacks. She told Council that the City has been encouraged to take the \$10,000.00 deductible on their worker's compensation coverage this year.

Mrs. Foster reported that business license receipts are on schedule for this time period as compared to last year.

Chief Morris informed Council that the Police Department has received the rechargeable lights under the Equipment Grant. He also informed Council that Officer Juan Nevarez would be out indefinitely pending a possible knee surgery for the injury he received while

on duty. Chief Morris informed Council that businesses have not been asked to declare their coin operated machines when they apply for their business licenses and that he has been busy locating such businesses with these machines in order to make them license their machines.

Under Old Business.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 01-05 to amend Section 6-1-13 of City Ordinancing. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer presented Council with the plaque that will be placed in honor of Mrs. Brooker at the new parking lot as promised to the Brooker Family for their donation of their building which made up one third of the parking lot area. He asked that the Brooker Family be invited to the unveiling of the plaque which will take place during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the parking lot.

Mrs. Mack asked that the unveiling take place around 11:30 a.m. so she could attend. Mayor McCollum informed Council that the ribbon cutting would be handled by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve \$636.00 for the plaque honoring Mrs. Brooker. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve Resolution 2002-1 approving the \$10,000.00 deductible for the worker's compensation coverage. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved.

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

Mr. Sandifer informed Chief Morris that employees of the Finance Company at the corner of Main Highway and Elm Street are still parking on the sidewalk all day long.

Chief Morris said he would look into this.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to table the discussion of the renovation of the barber shop until a later date. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to donate \$500.00 to Boy Scout Troop 17. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum and Clerk Watson explained to Council the problem of three mobile homes that were placed on City property which is located on the Hunters Chapel Road. Mayor McCollum informed Council that he would be talking to City Attorney Monroe Hiers in order to have some answers for them at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson on behalf of the Hunger Action Committee thanked the citizens of Bamberg and City Council for their donation towards the surplus truck which distributed 20,000 pounds of surplus items and produce. She thanked the various volunteers, departments, and agencies involved in the distribution. Mrs. Johnson informed Council that the HAC would be meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month and is presently looking for more volunteers. She explained that the food distributions are scheduled for every 2nd Saturday.

Mrs. Mack announced that the Job Corps graduation will be held on June 26th this year.

Chief Timmie Taylor announced that the Fire Department's Ladies Night will be held at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. He invited each member of Council.

Chief Morris explained the problems he is having with trash on Mr. Gatlin's property due to having no trash carts in the area. After some discussion, Mayor McCollum asked that three green carts be placed in the parking lot of Piggly Wiggly and the Family Dollar Store.

Mrs. Wells would contact Mr. Sweatmen about the placement of the carts.

After Clerk Watson explained the problem with people who live in the country bringing their garbage and placing it in the store owners private containers, Mayor McCollum asked that possible ordinance to prevent this be discussed at the next meeting. Mayor McCollum also said this may become a county issue.

During questions from the press and audience, Phyllis Overstreet asked what items were distributed by the HAC. Mrs. Johnson informed her that canned goods, sodas, crackers, paper towels, napkins and cereals were just some of the items distributed by the HAC.

Cindy Nichols asked about the status of the Building Inspector.

Mayor McCollum informed her that Mr. Kirkland was scheduled to return to work on January 18th. During some discussion of this, Mr. Sandifer made the motion to have Inspector Kirkland meet with Council one day prior to returning to work from his suspension. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Bob McCully advised Council to look at not allowing mobile homes into the City of Bamberg and to also follow through on the mobile homes that were brought in under the hardship cases which no longer are considered hardship cases.

Mr. McCully asked if anything has been done about a recreational facility in the southwest quadrant of the City.

Mr. Sandifer informed him that Council has not forgotten about this but that they are presently talking to a property owner about securing land for such a facility.

Mr. McCully mentioned that PRT grant funds are available to help establish recreational facilities. He praised Council on their good audit report.

With no further business, Mr. Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg