

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003 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: Sergeant Dyer, Phyllis Overstreet, Cindy Nichols, Attorney Roy Laney, Jack Steadman, Chief George Morris, Franklin Bamberg, Rita Sease, Fire Chief Timmie Taylor, and Wayne Hughes.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Mrs. Mack who joined the meeting shortly.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include the amendment of item 8a. to recognize Mr. Jack Steadman. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum began the Public Hearing to receive public comments on proposed Ordinance 02-21. There were no comments or questions. Mayor McCollum brought the hearing to a close.

Sergeant Dyer of the SC National Guard informed Council that he was the Career Counselor for the Bamberg Area. He told them his goal was to make a difference for every young person in Bamberg. Sergeant Dyer told Council that the National Guard has many in school programs at this time. He explained that his goal was to train individuals and then bring them back to Bamberg to become productive citizens. Sergeant Dyer praised the Bamberg School District for having a 74% passing rate on the Military Entrance Exam which he said was outstanding. Sergeant Dyer closed by telling Council to call on him at anytime and he invited them to visit the unit whenever possible.

Mayor McCollum began the Wayne Hughes Hearing before Council for his violation of the Junked Car Ordinance.

Mr. Hughes began by informing Council that he had moved 76 cars and was waiting to hear from owners of another 36 cars before he could dispose of them. He informed Council that he wanted to build a small area in which to keep a few vehicles.

Mrs. Sease asked what he planned to do with the embankment that he had created.

Mr. Hughes said he planned to bring in dirt to fill in the ditch but that he had no plans for the birm. He said he might level it down at a later date.

Mr. Walker told Mr. Hughes that he hoped he would push the birm down mainly for the safety of the town's police officers.

Mr. Bamberg asked if there was a time frame in which the birm must be removed.

Clerk Watson explained that there was no ordinance saying a birm could not be built unless it became unsafe or unsanitary which would be left to the discretion of the Chief.

Mr. Sandifer asked if he couldn't just push the birm into the ditch to cover it.

Mr. Hughes said he hated to give the dirt away.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mr. Hughes how many junked cars were left.

Mr. Hughes said he had 32 cars left which on which he was waiting to hear from the owners before he could dispose of them.

Chief Morris informed Council that after Mr. Hughes' hearing tonight that Council must decide either to move forward, drop the case, or give Mr. Hughes more time to move the remaining cars. Chief Morris said Mr. Hughes was making an effort to comply. He asked Council to let him know how to proceed.

Mr. Hughes asked for another 30 days.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to extend Mr. Hughes another 30 days in which to bring the cars for which he has been cited into compliance. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Sease voiced that she felt Council was being too lenient with Mr. Hughes since other owners of junked cars were required to move their cars within a certain time frame.

Mrs. Johnson informed Mrs. Sease that Mr. Hughes was dealing with 130 cars.

Mrs. Mack stated that other owners did not use the appeal process to come before Council.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2002 meeting as received. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2002 meeting as received. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Reports as presented. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Jack Steadman asked Council's permission to allow the Methodist Men's Club to use the birm in front of their church in order to sell pumpkins next October. He explained that funds raised from the sell have been put to good use in the community. He said the sale would be held during the last two weeks of October.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to honor Mr. Steadman's request. Mrs. Foster made the second. Mrs. Johnson asked that the rotten pumpkins be removed daily. All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

Under Commission Reports:

Mr. Sandifer reported that the problem with the hiding area at Foster Park had been dealt with. He said the area had been cleaned and opened up. Mr. Sandifer said citizens were requesting a board fence along the back of the property to block their view of the park in order to give them some privacy. Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he told the citizens that a privacy fence may be considered in next year's budget.

Mr. Sandifer told Council that the soccer program would begin in February.

Mrs. Mack informed Council that improvements have been made in the number of kids playing hookie from school.

Mrs. Wells reported that things were going well in the Sanitation Department.

Mrs. Foster reported that business licenses were up to date.

Mr. Walker asked Chief Morris to look into the unkept apartments at the corner of Pentecostal Street and Calhoun Street. He said they were a disgrace.

Under New Business:

Council received a recommendation from the Planning Commission that Ordinance 02-21 be adopted to rezone property of Mr. Grimes to HC.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 02-21. Mrs. Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Council received the bids to finance the new fire truck, Mrs. Foster made the motion to finance the truck through Home Federal Savings and Loan at a rate of 3.502%. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

After Council received the bids to pull and store junked cars for the City, Mrs. Johnson made the motion to have Jeff's Car Care pull the cars for the City. Mrs. Johnson made the second. Once the motion was amended to read to pull the cars for a 12 month period, all approved of the amended motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mrs. Wells 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 approved. The motion carried.

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

During the announcements, Mayor McCollum announced that SCDOT Officials would be meeting with Council next Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to present the plans for the widening 301 Project.

Mr. Sandifer announced that the Fireman's Banquet would be held Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Johnson announced that she was still trying to secure Percy Sledge for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. She said she would inform Council on Tuesday about her results.

Mr. Sandifer asked if the fireworks show was still on for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mayor McCollum informed him that as far as he knew the fireworks show would continue. He said Mrs. Kathy Rhodes would serve as chairperson for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration again this year.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he felt the City needed to have an award to recognize an outstanding citizen each year. After some discussion, Council felt that was a good idea.

Mrs. Mack informed Council that Mr. Adam Willis who lived in her district was willing to donate some shade trees for the railroad birm.

Mayor McCollum asked Mrs. Wells, Mr. Sandifer and Mrs. Mack who served on the Beautification Committee to discuss the placing of shade trees on the birm and then report their recommendation to Council.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor of Bamberg