

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JULY 8, 2002 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, David Walker, Betty Wells, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Cindy Nichols, Lisa Stokes, Phyllis Overstreet, and Jacqueline Johnson.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Mack. Clerk Watson informed Council that Mrs. Mack had notified him that she would not be able to attend.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve the agenda to include amendments of a request by Mrs. Lisa Stokes and to include items 3A to present awards to Tobul Accumulators and Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing Co. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer, saying that Bamberg was a small town that does big things due to its volunteers, thanked Tobul Accumulators and Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing Company for providing the fireworks show at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Mr. Sandifer presented Robert Hurst and Ed Swogger with plaques on behalf of the City of Bamberg for their community support.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2002 meeting as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2002 meeting as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2002 meeting as received. Mr. Sandifer made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to approve the June Budget and Finance Report as received. Mr. Walker made the second. During the discussion, Clerk Watson explained to Council that they ended the year with revenues exceeding expenses by \$10,854.00 and with \$701,579.00 in available cash and reserve funds. All approved of the motion. The motion carried.

During the commission reports, Mr. Sandifer reported that the Sanitation Barber Shop is now Bamberg Medical Supplies operated by Mr. Mike Williams. He said he has been working with Mr. Williams on the lease of the building and that everyone was happy at this time.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that a District Little League Tournament is being held at the Ness Complex this week.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that everything is still looking good on the development of the shopping center. He said things were about to happen for Bamberg.

Mrs. Wells reported that things in the Sanitation Department were moving right along. She informed Council that Rev. Jim Dennis and his wife Caroline praised the Fire Department for their quick response to their house fire on Saturday.

Mrs. Foster informed Council that business license renewal notices would be sent out next week.

Little Wayne Hughes informed Council that he had received a letter from Chief Morris stating that his wrecked and dismantled vehicles would have to be moved. Mr. Hughes explained that the vehicles have been there since his grandfather ran the business. Mr. Hughes said he needed the cars in order to operate his business.

Mayor McCollum said the city ordinance prohibited the wrecked and dismantled vehicles from being in the City and explained that junkyards were not allowed under the zoning ordinance. He explained that the City was asking that they be moved in order to improve the appearance of the town.

Mr. Foster asked if once parts were removed could the cars be sold for scrape.

Mr. Hughes said they could but that some people didn't want their cars back. He said that was how he made a living.

Mr. Sandifer asked if he charged to store the cars.

Mr. Hughes said he doesn't charge storage on cars he is working on but that he does charge a towing fee.

Mr. Sandifer asked how many of the cars could he get titles for.

Mr. Hughes said he could get titles on four cars and that most of the cars were owned by people who would return for the cars when they got enough money to pay their bill.

Mr. Sandifer asked on how many of the cars that he had repaired was he still waiting for the owners to pay their bills.

Mr. Hughes said there were 25 to 30 cars that still had bills outstanding.

Mayor McCollum read to Council the definition of wrecked vehicles from the City ordinance.

Mr. Sandifer said that they were not going to please everyone but that they needed to define junked and inoperable vehicles.

Mrs. Foster said she realized this but that everyone wanted to clean up the town.

Mr. Hughes said he didn't want to collect junk or start a junkyard.

Mayor McCollum said if they run or drive then they were not junk. He voiced that they had to do something to improve the looks of the town.

Mr. Hughes said he would help.

Mr. Walker told Mr. Hughes that Council would work with him and thanked him for coming.

Under Old Business.

Mrs. Foster reported to Council that the Dilapidated Buildings Committee had met and reviewed other ordinances from various towns that dealt with the same problems. Mrs. Foster said the Committee was looking at dealing with the health and safety problems created by buildings in the Core Commercial District. She explained that the Committee felt any structural problems as well as open windows and peeling paint needed to be dealt with. Mrs. Foster said the Committee was very concerned with buildings that have no roofs or floors.

Mr. Sandifer asked how many buildings were they talking about.

Mrs. Foster explained that the Committee was not looking at any specific building but would recommend that enforcement be done on all buildings in the CC District that would be addressed by the ordinance.

She informed Council that the Committee has looked at ordinance done by the City of Aiken and other towns and would be making a recommendation to Council next month.

Under New Business.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to reappoint Gene Schwarting, Jr. and Spann Brabham to the Planning Commission. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the employment of personnel and to discuss negotiations incident to the locating of a business. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Mayor McCollum announced that no action had been taken.

During questions from the press and audience, Cindy Nichols asked if proof of insurance and proof of ownership could be required in order to determine if a vehicle was wrecked or inoperable.

Mr. Sandifer said there was no easy way out.

Mrs. Jaqueline Johnson informed Council that she had been diagnosed with a terminal disease which required her to be on dialysis and which caused her to be in and out of the Bamberg County Hospital. She told Council that the hospital was an antiquated old facility which needed repairs. She said something has been wrong with every room which she had occupied. Mrs. Johnson said her main concern was that showers were not available in each room.

Mrs. Johnson suggested that a county-wide fundraiser be started to help with improvements for the hospital. She said everyone fought so hard to keep the hospital but now we needed to try and improve it.

Mayor McCollum informed Mrs. Johnson that the hospital was a county run facility. He asked her to go before County Council and the Bamberg Hospital Board to voice her concerns. Mayor McCollum assured her everyone would be interested in supporting any campaign to improve the hospital.

Council thanked Mrs. Johnson for coming.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor of Bamberg