

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 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. VISITORS: Chief Geroge Morris, Cindy Nichols, Richard Johnson, Rita Sease, Frank Bamberg, Ruth Jenkins, Virgie Bamberg, Henry Maynard, Mr. Shepperd, and Mrs. Williams.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include an amendment to discuss negotiations incident to a contractual arrangement in the executive session. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Richard Johnson, the spokesperson for the concerned citizens of Calhoun Street, informed Council that they were here tonight to strongly oppose the junkyard created by Mr. Wayne Hughes. Mr Johnson told Council that the junkyard is in violation of City Ordinance 01-05 Section 6-1-13 and should not be allowed. He said the placement of fences, storage houses or dirt birms would not solve the problem or make it acceptable. Mr. Johnson asked Council to consider that the junyard greatly depreciates their property, is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and would become a haven for dogs, cats, rats and snakes. Mr. Johnson went on to address more concerns of the citizens by saying the area along Calhoun Street is also experiencing problems with poor drainage, poor street lighting, stray dogs and cats, a lack of sidewalks for the safety of their childrten, and a problem with snakes and rats which are coming from Rockland's unkept warehouses on Calhoun Street. Mr. Johnson told Council that all of the problems were detrimental to the fair market value of their properties and said the citizens of Calhoun Street deserve the same quality and pleasantry of life as other citizens within the Town of Bamberg. He closed by asking Council if they wanted a junkyard operating in their neighborhood and asked that his comments be made a part of Council's permanent record.

Mr. Wayne Hughes informed Council that he is creating an eight foot high dirt birm by hauling and digging dirt. He informed Council that he plans to plant Leland Cypress Trees and grass on the birm. He said that within six months everything should look nice. Mr. Hughes went on to say that mosquitoes were already a problem in the area but that the ditch that has been dug to create the birm would eventually be covered.

Mr. Sandifer informed Mr. Hughes that citizens are concerned and that his project was not acceptable to them. He said the cars would still be seen from Calhoun Street.

Mrs. Foster told Mr. Hughes that he missed the point. She said the ordinance doesn't allow junkyards in the City of Bamberg.

Mr. Walker said the presence of dogs, cats and vermin was not acceptable and was not good for the neighborhood. He said the problem would never be settled until the junkyard is removed.

Mrs. Mack told Mr. Hughes that no matter how he tried to disguise the problem that the junkyard would still be there.

Mayor McCollum voiced that the present ordinance on the books says Mr. Hughes is in violation of the ordinance.

Chief Morris explained that the next step would be to notify Mr. Hughes by certified letter and give him 45 days to appeal to Council. He said the vehicles would then be hauled off if nothing happens during the appeal. Chief Morris said the ordinance could either be changed or he could either enforce the ordinance.

Mayor McCollum explained that no actions were necessary by Council and unless he heard a motion to change the ordinance that the ordinance must stand.

Mr. Sandifer and Mr. Walker urged Mr. Hughes to correct the problem.

Council made no motion to change the ordinance.

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

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

Under Commission Reports:

Mr. Sandifer reported that everything was going well with the recreation programs.

Mrs. Wells reported that the Sanitation Department was running smoothly.

Mrs. Foster reported that the enforcement of delinquent business licenses has begun.

Mayor McCollum appointed Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Wells, and Mrs. Foster to the Employee Christmas Dinner Committee and asked Mrs. Wells to chair the committee. She accepted.

Under Old Business:

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 02-15 to rezone the property of Al Herbert from R-3 to HC. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 02-16 to rezone the properties of Kathryn Kinard from R-3 to HC. All approved. The motion carried.

Under New Business:

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

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 02-17 to authorize an agreement with Bamberg County to perform building inspection services for the Town of Bamberg. During the discussion Mr. Sandifer asked if the City would still have a Board of Adjustments and Appeals to hear appeals against actions by the Building Inspector. Clerk Watson explained that the City would still need to maintain a Board of Adjustments and Appeals to hear appeals. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Mack informed Council of an incident where a citizen moved a doublewide manufactured home into an R-2 district along Binnicker Bridge Road in which he was told to stop construction due to being out of zoning. Mrs. Mack told Council that an R-3 District which allows doublewide homes was located just yards from the individual's property and felt that due to the depressed conditions of the area that the R-3 District needed to be extended to the city limit line.

Clerk Watson showed Council the area in question.

Mrs. Mack then made the motion to begin the necessary rezoning process to amend the Zoning Map to extend the R-3 district on Binnicker Bridge Road to the city limit line. Mrs. Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson explained the ordinance to adopt the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code. Mrs. Foster informed Council that her committee had reviewed the ordinances of Elloree and Aiken and that the International Property Maintenance Code is needed in Bamberg. She explained that the code is a good one.

Mrs. Johnson asked what would be done with an 80 year old lady who could not afford to repair her property.

Mrs. Foster said each situation would have to be looked at individually.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that common sense would have to be used.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 02-19 to adopt the 2000 Property Maintenance Code. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made the motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice and to discuss negotiations incident to a contractual matter. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Chief Morris introduced Officer Jim Mathis to Council as the newly hired police officer and said everything was going well. Council welcomed Officer Mathis on board.

During questions from the press and Audience, residents on Calhoun Street and Log Branch Road asked Council if the issues of ditches not draining, of no sidewalks, of dogs and cats, of street lighting, of Rockland's warehouses, and of speeding traffic would be addressed and when. They also brought Council's attention to Mrs. Jordan's previous house which was now owned by a finance company and which was unkept at this time.

After some discussion, Mayor McCollum assured the citizens that he would contact the SCDOT about the sidewalks and the Bamberg Board of Public Works about the lighting. Mr. Walker would contact Gene Cooner about the drainage. Mrs. Wells would contact Jimmy Sweatman to handle the dogs and cats. Chief Morris was instructed to deal with the speeding problem, the unkept house and the Rockland warehouses.

Mayor McCollum thanked everyone for coming and assured the Calhoun Citizens that all the problems would be addressed.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor