

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Chief George Morris, Cindy Nichols, Phyllis Overstreet, Chris Wilson, and Mrs. Sussie Smoak.

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

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present except Mrs. Johnson who he said had called to say that she had an emergency.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the agenda as received. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the election of a Mayor Protem, Mrs. Mack made the motion that Mr. Sandifer serve as Mayor Protem for another two years. Mrs. Wells made the second. Council unanimously agreed. The motion carried. Mr. Sandifer was re-elected as Mayor Protem.

Mayor McCollum announced that he was not making any changes in the commissions at this time and reappointed each councilmember to their current commissioner post for another two years.

Mayor McCollum began the Public Hearing to receive comments from the public concerning Ordinance 03-04 to rezone property of Ann McAlhaney from R-2 to HC.

Attorney Chris Wilson informed Council that he intended to purchase Mrs. McAlhaney's property contingent upon it being rezoned. He told Council that he planned to use the property initially for storage and that he would then eventually use it for the expansion of his law office.

With no further comments, Mayor McCollum closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2003 meeting as received. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

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

Under Commission Reports.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that the BCEDC had met today and were proud to say that things were beginning to happen in Bamberg. He told Council that ribbon cutting for the Cross Rhodes Park would be taking place later this month. Mr. Sandifer informed Council that hopefully EPA and DHEC would allow permitting for the prospective new industry that wished to locate in the Cross Rhodes Park.

Mr. Sandifer reported that half a dozen construction projects were now underway in Bamberg. He also informed Council that two new doctors had chosen to locate in Bamberg.

Mr. Sandifer told Council that 500 youths had signed up for the baseball program this year which made this year's program the biggest ever. He informed Council that 65 volunteers were helping with the program which he said cost \$49,000.00 to operate.

Mr. Sandifer said 200 to 250 youths participated in this year's soccer program. Mr. Sandifer explained that the volunteers ran the concession stand and that all monies generated went back into the baseball program. Mr. Sandifer told Council that the Ness Complex was planned in phases to be spread over ten years. He said he hoped to have lights put on the soccer field next year as part of the plan.

Mr. Walker, praising the program at the Ness Complex, commended Mr. Sandifer and the volunteers for the great program.

Mrs. Well said she liked the palmetto trees that were planted at the Ness Complex.

Mrs. Foster asked Mr. Sandifer if there was any news concerning the USA Enterprise Building.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that discussion of the USA Enterprise Building would take place during the announcements.

Chief Morris informed Council that Officer John Stokes had been hired as the new police officer and that he would begin work on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Morris told Council that there was a big court today which took up all the parking spaces at City Hall. He said Council may need to look at additional parking for City Hall. Chief Morris informed Council that he would have visitation printouts detailing the new police program at the next meeting.

Mr. Walker congratulated the Fire Department on their professionalism in handling the massive truck wreck in Midway. Mr. Walker informed Council that the new fire truck has been delivered to Slagle for it's final touches.

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

Mrs. Mack reported that insurance premiums for dental care would be increasing by 10% this year and that medical insurance premiums would be increasing by 12.5%. She also informed Council that copays for doctor visits and prescription drugs would be increasing but that insurance premiums for vision and life coverage would remain the same.

Mrs. Foster reported that business license applications for the new year would be going out soon.

Under Old Business.

Mr. Walker made the motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 03-03 to rezone the property of Adam Willis from R-2 to R-3. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he was concerned with the letter from Mrs. Mabry which stated that the Widening 301 Project may be segmented if enough funds could not be found to complete the project. He explained that he felt Council wanted the highway widened completely through town before any other expensive add on items were put into the project like the moving of the 78/301 intersection.

Mayor McCollum asked for Council's feelings on the subject.

Mr. Walker voiced that the 301/601 should be widened completely through town first.

Mr. Sandifer voiced that the City was still getting the run around and that the plans were constantly being changed. He asked that Congressman Graham, Hollings and Clyburn be contacted concerning the problem.

Mrs. Foster voiced that the plans for the project were nice but that other additions could be done at a later time. She said the road should be four laned completely first and that other ideas throughout the plan should be segmented.

Council asked Mayor McCollum to contact Mike Sullivan in order for him to clarify the term segmented and to convey their feelings.

Under New Business.

Council received the Planning Commissions recommendation that Ordinance 03-04 be adopted. Mr. Sandifer made the motion to receive the recommendation. Mrs. Foster made the second. All agreed. The motion carried.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 03-04. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Bamberg Dixie Youth Baseball Program. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to hire three summer youth workers this summer. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he was receiving many phone calls about the traffic on Faust Street. He said some citizens complained that the police officers are writing too many tickets and some were saying they were not writing enough tickets. He explained that there seemed to be a problem with speeding on the street and a problem with people not understanding the speed limit at various intervals on Faust Street. Mr. Sandifer informed Council that he had talked to Gene Cooner about placing four way stops at Dickinson Street and Azalea Avenue where they cross Faust Street. He said Mr. Cooner informed him that a letter needed to come from the Mayor addressed to Dean Campbell asking for the four way stops. He explained that most probably at that time an engineer would be assigned to look into the problem along Faust Street. He said Gene Cooner thought it would be very unlikely that the four way stops would be allowed.

Mr. Sandifer went on to say that the citizens were very confused about how the speed limits were posted throughout town.

Chief Morris explained that the Police Department has never been hard on speeders in town. He said Officer Mathis was making good cases and that he was only giving tickets to offenders driving 10 mph over the posted speed limits.

Mr. Sandifer asked that a letter be written to Gene Cooner listing the concerns of Council and asking that an engineer get involved. He told Chief Morris that his officers were doing a good job.

Mayor McCollum voiced that more signs could be put up and that then the speed limits must be enforced.

During the announcements, Mrs. Mack informed Council that she would be graduating from the Bamberg County Leadership Program at 6:30 this evening. She told Council that she has also enrolled in a the Tri-County Alliance Class.

Phyllis Overstreet asked how the increase in insurance premiums would impact the budget.

Clerk Watson explained that the Budget Committee would have to address this problem during the planning of the new budget.

Chief Morris voiced that his officers were upset about the premium increases and that they were not pleased with the medical plan in general.

Mayor McCollum explained that some figuring had shown that a 3% cost of living raise would be erased by the increase in medical premiums this year.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor of Bamberg