

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006 AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum. COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Alex Boykin, Jr., Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan, Phyllis Overstreet, Mr. & Mrs. Craig Walker, Henry Maynard, Carl Barnwell, Rev. & Mrs. Larry Cash, Rev. Brabham, Harold Kears, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Bamberg.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Councilperson Mack gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda to include item 5 under Old Business an executive session to discuss the hiring of personnel. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Foster made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting as received. Councilperson Johnson made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker made the motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as received. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Walker asked Clerk Watson if the Fire Department had purchased any uniforms since he noticed they had already spent 80% of their funding for uniforms this year.

Clerk Watson explained that they had purchased some uniforms but that he was not sure if they intended to purchase more uniforms this year.

Under Commission Reports.

Councilman Sandifer introduced Officer Jerry Proveaux to Council as the newly hired police officer. He told Council the Police Commission was very impressed with him and said Officer Proveaux was a hometown boy.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that he had some concerns about the Police Department. Councilman Sandifer, telling Council that City grants were helpful and that all departments were encouraged to seek grants, said the Police Department was not cooperating with Council. He informed Council of an incident when the Police Department received a grant to send two officers out of state for training without Council's knowledge. He said when he found out they were going that he instructed Chief Morris not to send the officers. Councilman Sandifer said he was told by Chief Morris it would cost the City \$3,000.00 if the officers did not attend the training since the City would have to reimburse the agency for not attending the training. Councilman

Sandifer voiced that Council needed to know about all grants. He asked for a motion to that effect.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion that all grants be submitted to Clerk Watson to be reviewed by the Mayor before being brought before Council for approval. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer voiced that if the procedures were not followed then the department and individuals should be reprimanded.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to have Council reprimand the department and individuals who did not follow the correct procedures for receiving grants. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilman Sandifer informed Council that a parking area would be established for the officers' police cars as well as their personal cars at the north end of City Hall once the power line work had been completed. He explained that signs would be placed for each officer's parking place and that due to a problem with an officer's personal car being keyed that a security camera may need to be installed in the future.

Councilman Sandifer told Council that in July he and Clerk Watson met with the police officers and explained to them to watch their overtime hours. He said last year the department worked 3,829 overtime hours and at present they have worked 2,065 overtime hours in the first six months of this year. He stressed that when overtime funds run out that there would be no more money for overtime. He said the officers needed to be concerned if they were going to be paid before working overtime in the months to come. Councilman Sandifer told Council that he felt the overtime required for the July 4th Celebration, the Festival and the Christmas Parade needed to come from Community Promotions because Council incurred the overtime.

Councilperson Johnson said she agreed that the overtime should come from Community Promotions.

Clerk Watson explained the overtime would have to be paid through the payroll process but that Council would have to understand how the money was spent.

Councilperson Johnson reported that there were no complaints with the Sanitation Department. She said the Sanitation Department employees needed a place to eat lunch. Councilperson Johnson said she and Councilman Boykin would be working on a place for them to eat lunch.

Councilman Walker informed Council that everything was going well in the Fire Department. He informed Council that he had concerns with the house that was torn down on Calhoun Street and has not been cleaned up. He also told Council the Bunch Apartments off Calhoun Street were still in need of repair and a good cleaning.

Councilperson Walker said his district was full of dirty yards and junk. He said it was ridiculous the way the area looked.

Mayor McCollum asked Councilperson Johnson to see what the Sanitation Department could do about the problems in the area.

Councilman Boykin informed Council that he was looking forward to working with Councilperson Johnson. He informed Council that he had received a request from the Bamberg Youth Basketball League for funding this year from Douglas Stokes the director. Councilman Boykin asked if the program was open to all youths in the area, how many youths participated in the program and where the program was housed.

Councilperson Johnson assured Councilman Boykin that the program was open to all youths in the City.

Councilman Sandifer said around 100 youths participated in the program and Councilperson Foster said her grandson participated in the program.

Mr. Craig Walker from the audience said the program was housed in the National Guard Armory.

With no further discussion, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the Bamberg Youth Basketball Program this year. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster reported to Council that a few delinquent Business Licenses were still coming in.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to donate \$400.00 each to Troop 24, Crew 24, and Pack 441 this year. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Clerk Watson explained to Council that Mr. Gene Mills was working on the BellSouth Easement and had informed him that BellSouth wished to add a clause in the easement to say the City would be willing to furnish another easement for the relocation of the fiber optic line somewhere through the Ness Complex if they were asked to terminate the first easement. Council saw no problem with that.

Councilman Sandifer asked if the City would receive any money for the easement?

Clerk Watson informed Council that Mr. Mills said he should be able to secure two to three thousand dollars for the easement.

During the discussion of the first reading of Ordinance 05-09, Mayor McCollum announced that this was not a public hearing but that he would allow comments from three individuals concerning the rezoning.

Rev. Larry Cash asked Council to please not allow a club behind his house. He said he was tired of seeing drug addicts in his neighborhood and voiced that clubs needed to be out of the city limits.

Rev. Brabham, telling Council that ministers were charged with certain things, said allowing clubs in neighborhoods was against what they were preaching. He said it was not in the best interest of our kids and community. Rev. Brabham said he had nothing against the Walkers but that he was against the club.

Mr. Harold Brabham, Jr. who lived on Watermelon Road told Council he had known the Walkers all his life. He told Council that the area needed the jobs and said people needed to be employed. He said the club would support the area with jobs and voiced that the club was needed.

Mr. Craig Walker informed Council he had sent a proposal to support Craig Walker out which received 450 signatures in support of him. He told Council that Rev. Cash signed the proposal but that Rev. Brabham would not show support. Mr. Walker said it was a mockery for Rev. Cash and Rev. Brabham to show up tonight. Mr. Walker said he went to everyone in the community and they supported it but that now everyone was against it. He assured Council that safety would be his first priority. He told Council he would be making a \$100,000.00 investment and promised to make it a safe place. He said it would be a clean environment that met DHEC compliances with a quality staff. Mr. Walker said he would work with the Police Department. He said there was no other place to locate and went on to say he hoped to open in six months. Mr. Walker said the problem was with the people being wishy washy.

At times, Mayor McCollum using his gavel had to bring the meeting back to order.

Councilperson Johnson told Council that she ran a club at one time. She said if Rev. Cash and Rev. Brabham and others did not want a club in their neighborhood that Council had to listen to them. She told Council these people were her constituents and asked them how they would feel.

Councilman Sandifer said he had been listening to the concerns for some time. He told them Council had rules and regulations governing activities throughout town. He said the place had not been a good place in the past and that the problem was with the past owner. He told Council the Police Department had problems with the business and Council shut it down. Councilman Sandifer said he would not want anyone to hold him accountable for what his dad had done. He said Mr. Walker would be spending \$100,000.00, would be meeting building codes, DHEC regulations, ABC Requirements and Police Department guidelines. Councilman Sandifer told Mr. Walker if the business was not up to par that Council could close him down.

Councilman Boykin told Council that Mr. Walker was putting forth a lot of effort and should not be held accountable for actions of others. He said Mr. Walker had a good

military career and that he just wanted to start a business. He said Mr. Walker was a stand up guy.

Councilman Sandifer reminded Council that you could take something bad and make something good.

Councilperson Mack voiced that Mr. Walker should be given the opportunity to prove himself. She told Mr. Walker it was entirely up to him.

Councilperson Johnson told Mr. Walker she was not holding him responsible for the past. She said she had to listen to the two ministers and her constituents which she called the faith community. She said no minister would want the club in his neighborhood and said she felt the same clientele would be present there.

Mayor McCollum asked Council how they felt?

Councilman Sandifer made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 05-09 as recommended by the Planning Commission. Councilman Boykin made the second. Everyone voted in favor of the motion except Councilperson Johnson who voted against the motion. The motion carried.

Councilperson Johnson made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the hiring of personnel. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Mack made the motion to come out of the executive session. Councilman Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Councilperson Foster made the motion to honor Captain Thompson's request to the full extent to allow him to break service with the Bamberg Police Department for a period of 15 days and then to allow him to return to the Police Department with the same rank and pay. Councilman Boykin made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Councilperson Mack invited the members of Council to the Job Corps Graduation at 1:00 p.m. on January 27th. She asked that the BPW be thanked for the Christmas gifts they presented to Council.

Rev. Larry Cash informed Council that Mr. Walker was asking for support of a kids' sports complex in his proposal which he circulated in the community. He said they would have a problem and said if Council could not get Mr. Walker out to please put him in someone else's backyard who was in favor of Mr. Walker's plans.

With no further business, Councilman Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Councilperson Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor