

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Foster. COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Willie Staley, and Bobbi Bunch. CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITOR: Sarah Sandifer. Not Present: Councilperson Bridget Kinard and Councilperson Rosetta Draper.

Mayor Foster called the meeting to order and Clerk Chavis gave the invocation.

Councilperson Bridget Kinard was not present.

Mayor Foster asked for Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All Approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the June 8, 2020, meeting. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Bunch made the Second. All approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 18, 2020. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Staley made the Second. All approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Staley made the Second. Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis for an explanation of the Budget and Finance Report.

Clerk Chavis stated that the June report showed how the City ended for the year, which was about 98% of budget. Clerk Chavis stated that the City took in \$ 47,101 less this year due to less taxes coming in, but we also spent \$45,584 less so the figures pretty much balanced out. Clerk Chavis stated the City overspent in some areas but underspent in others. Clerk Chavis stated that not putting the new roof on the Civic Center this year helped with the budget. She stated the City currently has about \$408,585.18 in liquid assets. All approved. The Motion carried.

Under Commissioner Reports:

Sgt. Gunnells from the Police Department reported for Chief Smoak who was in Court. Sgt. Gunnells stated that total call volume for May 1 through June 30 was 652 calls. Sgt. Gunnells stated those were total calls. Of those calls, there were 171 case files created and 191 citations for both months. Sgt. Gunnells stated that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration went off without much incident. He stated there was one call for shots fired. Sgt. Gunnells informed Council that one

of the Explorer Program members participated in the July 4<sup>th</sup> event. Sgt. Gunnells stated the Explorer Program was still up and running and they hoped to gain more recruits when school started back. Sgt. Gunnells stated the Food Share Program is still up and running at the Civic Center and Karen Proveaux is still taking orders.

Councilperson Staley reported for insurance that the bi-annual premium for SCMIT and SCMIRF in the amount of \$38,000.00, for 2020-2021, had been paid and the next payment would be due in January. Clerk Chavis informed Council that she had one more meeting to conduct as part of a Risk Assessment plan and that should get the City's insurance rating to 96% and lower the City's premiums.

Chief Gary Williams reported for the Fire Department that there were 15 calls with 8 being city calls, and 7 county calls and so far this month 9 calls with 7 in City and 2 in County. Chief Williams commented on the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration saying he observed a large crowd at the Ness Complex who enjoyed the event. Chief Williams said there were some small grass fires in the area where the fireworks were being shot, but the Department took care of those immediately. There were not property fires related to the fireworks display.

Chief Williams said he wanted to recognize the Police Department. He stated that the fire department had responded to two structure fires this month. Chief Williams stated that while some fires they deem suspicious, they are not always able to determine if arson is involved. Chief Williams stated that the Police Department, by just talking to individuals in the vicinity, while they are fighting the fires were able to determine the fires were arson related fires. Chief Williams commended his firefighters for preserving this evidence and the Police Department for gathering information. Chief Williams thanked the Police Department and commended them for their work. Mayor Foster said it is a team effort. Chief Williams said it usually doesn't work that way.

Mayor Foster asked Chief Williams to come to the front of the Council Chambers. Mayor Foster presented Chief Williams with his Chief Badge. Mayor Foster congratulated Chief Williams and thanked him for taking on the duties as Chief of the Fire Department.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the 2020-2021 business license applications will be mailed out this week. Councilperson Hayes stated that he heard the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration went really well. Also, he heard the Dream Big event at the Ness Complex went well. Councilperson Hayes also reminded everyone of the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

Councilperson Bunch reported that we were down to one person in the Sanitation Department and hoping to hire someone soon. She asked that everyone bear with them. She stated that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration went really well. She stated that the excitement of the community was nice to see and everyone was social distancing well with their families. Councilperson Bunch stated

the vendors also did well with some selling out. Councilperson Bunch asked for suggestions for next year's event.

Councilperson Bunch stated that someone has mentioned that gates were needed at the Foster Park. Mayor Foster stated all the parks have been busy and being used. Clerk Chavis mentioned that Cricket Park still needed to be adopted if any group was interested. Mayor Foster stated that Lara Buss and the Saltcatcher Farms Group has adopted Foster Park and they were doing a great job.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to appoint Trena Crosby to the Zoning and Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Charles Ayer. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to appoint Trena Crosby to the Zoning and Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Charles Ayer. Councilperson Staley made the Second. Mayor Foster stated Ms. Crosby was willing to do the training. All approved. The Motion carried

Mayor asked for an update regarding the 2020 Census. Clerk Chavis stated that the City of Bamberg was currently reporting at 52.4% up from 52.1%. Mayor Foster encouraged Council to tell everyone to fill out their Census information online or call.

Mayor asked for an update of COVID-19. Clerk Chavis informed Council that there are 101 cases in the City of Bamberg as of 2:00 p.m., and the County was at 199 cases. Mayor Foster asked everyone to be careful and to wear their mask and social distance.

Mayor Foster stated that County Council was passing an Emergency Mask Ordinance and she felt the City should comply with their Ordinance. Councilperson Bunch asked if they would fine individuals or would there be laws to follow. Mayor Foster stated that the Ordinance was suggested by the Governor's office. Clerk Chavis noted that in Item 13 the Ordinance stated the City had to vote to transfer jurisdiction to the County to enforce the Ordinance.

Clerk Chavis reminded everyone that the Special Election would be held on July 13, 2020, and also that the Annual Meeting for the Municipal Association would be held virtually on July 17, 2020.

There were no questions from the press or audience.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Staley made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

*Robin C Chan*

Clerk

*Nguyen D. Tran*

Mayor