

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Foster. COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Willie Staley, and Bobbi Bunch (Via Telephone). CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITOR: Andrew O'Byrne. Not Present: Councilperson Bridget Kinard, Councilperson Rosetta Draper and Councilperson Benton Wise.

Mayor Foster called the meeting to order and Councilperson Hayes gave the invocation.

Councilperson Bridget Kinard, Councilperson Rosetta Draper and Councilperson Benton Wise were not present.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the September 14, 2020 meeting. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Staley made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

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 informed the Council that the budget was currently at 21% and everything is moving along fine. Clerk Chavis stated that a couple of departments that may need to watch their spending closely. Clerk Chavis informed Council that tax revenue has leveled off and the City will likely not see any more tax revenue until the beginning of the year. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Staley turned the report over to Chief Smoak. Chief Smoak introduced City Council to their new hired officer, Robert "Frankie" Merkle. Chief Smoak reported that the Department had issued 15 warrants, 24 extrications, and 68 citations. Chief Smoak said everyone has probably noticed a lot of outside agencies in town and SLED's Fugitive Task Force was in town looking for a homicide suspect, but they have been unsuccessful. Chief Smoak said it was good to be back at the Council meeting, and he had worked out a way to move his Court cases around to be able to attend Council meetings again.

Mayor Foster asked if there was any insurance information. Clerk Chavis said SCMIRF had contacted her during the week to get updated information for the new annual premiums.

Chief Williams reported for the Fire Department that September was a relatively slow month for the Department. Chief Williams stated that there were 16 calls for the month with 10 calls being for the City and 6 Calls for the County. Those involved 1 structure fire, 2 vehicle accidents with injuries, health setup and active alarms. Chief Williams reported that after two months of paperwork, the Department was certified as an (ASHI) American Standard Health Institute Training Center. Chief Williams stated that this would allow the Department to teach everyone from lay people to doctors and nurses to include basic CPR through advanced professional level CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Narcan Training and First Responder Training. Chief Williams explained that there is a fire class starting in November and this certification allows them to teach first responder training without having to outsource this training. This training is open to the community for any service they can provide. Chief Williams stated that hopefully after COVID ends they can get out into the community to offer free CPR training. Also, any agency that needs training can be scheduled with the Fire Department. Councilperson Hayes asked if there was a cost. Chief Williams stated that if an individual needs a card, they would just ask for reimbursement for the cost of the card. Mayor Foster thanked Chief Williams and said exciting things were happening in the Fire Department. The Mayor stated that she would like to see all City employees take the CPR class. Mayor Foster asked about COVID testing. Chief Williams said they initially had a pretty good response in the beginning and then the response dropped off thereafter.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the City had issued 14 business license renewals to date. Councilperson Hayes announced new businesses of Cookin' for Kidneys; Heritage Roofing, The Works Physical Therapy and The Bamberg Leader. Mayor Foster welcomed The Bamberg Leader and introduced Mr. O'Bryne, who was in the audience. The Mayor encouraged everyone to get a subscription.

Councilperson Bunch reported that the Sanitation Department is trying to get a schedule working for debris pickup. Mayor Foster asked that Councilperson Bunch and Councilperson Wise continue to work on updating the current Ordinance regarding debris pickup.

There was no report for Parks and Recreation.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster stated that many people have asked about Halloween. Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Bunch what she had found out regarding Halloween. Councilperson Bunch stated that she polled some of the citizens around town with young children. Councilperson Bunch stated that those parents said they preferred to do a traditional Halloween, with no trunk or treat. Mayor Foster said that by keeping social distance, wearing masks and only going to houses with the porch lights everyone should be fine. Councilperson Staley said he felt that as long as everyone complied with the current rules, Halloween should be handled the same way. Mayor Foster said participants should try to go to the home of friends and family, if possible.

Mayor Foster stated that the Veteran's Day Program would be held on November 11, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. The Mayor stated this was a City and County project and all departments would need to be present that day. The Mayor stated she would advise the departments of what needs to be done, and gave information regarding the program.

Mayor Foster appointed Councilperson Bunch and Councilperson Draper to the Christmas Committee.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Bunch if anything was ready for an Ordinance. Councilperson Bunch stated she would work with Councilperson Wise to get something together

Mayor asked for an update regarding the 2020 Census. Clerk Chavis stated that the City of Bamberg, at the last report on September 25, 2020, was currently holding at 55.4%. Clerk Chavis informed Council that the contact with the Census has an email that was shut down, and the phone number was changed to someone else.

Mayor stated the COVID-19 report is a 14 day report and there is 1 new case, with 651 positive total cases for the County, and 35 deaths. The Mayor stated that she was glad to see the numbers were down.

Councilperson Staley made a Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Hayes made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Councilperson Hayes made a Motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilperson Staley made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

No action was taken on a contractual matter during executive session.

There were no questions from the press or audience.

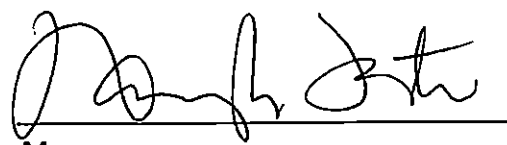
Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Staley made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor