

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR: Nancy Foster COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Kim Compton, Bobbi Bunch (Via Telephone), Rosetta Draper, Willie Staley, Kim Compton (Via Telephone) and Ken Ahlin (Via Telephone). CLERK: Robin Chavis.

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

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

Mayor Foster introduced Bobby Monroe of DataMax to make a presentation to Council. Mr. Monroe talked about DataMax's revenue enhancement program for the City of Bamberg. Mr. Monroe explained that their company acts as a back office for the City. DataMax will find the businesses that are operating in the City and do not have a business license. Mr. Monroe explained that they do all the leg work in finding the out-of-state or in-state vendors who are operating in Bamberg. Mr. Monroe explained that DataMax does not get payment until the City is paid. DataMax will receive 50% of the revenue collected for the first two years. Mr. Monroe further explained that it will not cause an increased work load for the City. Mayor Foster and Mayor Pro Tem asked for more explanation regarding the way DataMax would be paid. Mayor Foster asked if there are problems getting the businesses to comply. Mr. Monroe stated that they train the businesses to stay in compliance, and most businesses know them.

Clerk Chavis asked about police fine collections. Mr. Monroe stated the older the debt, the harder it is to collect but they would be able to assist the City. Mr. Monroe asked Clerk Chavis to send the numbers for those debts for his review.

Mayor Foster invited Chris Ottley to the podium. Mr. Ottley told Council that Mt. Carmel Methodist Church would be holding their Family and Friends Day on June 27, 2021, and asked if the Church could close Society and Broad Streets to traffic during that time. Mayor Foster took Mr. Ottley's information and told him she would get him and Chief Smoak on the phone to discuss the closures.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the May 14, 2021, meeting. Councilperson Draper made the Motion. Councilperson Ahlin 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 Draper made the Second. Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis for an explanation of the Budget and Finance Report. Clerk Chavis informed the Council that the City is at 91%, and asked everyone to hold steady in their department. Clerk Chavis said she was pleased with how everyone handled their budgets this year considering the cuts. Clerk Chavis said the general fund was bank balance was still around \$611,000.00. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Chief Smoak was not present. Councilperson Staley said everything seemed to be going well in the Police Department. Councilperson Staley said he visited the Chief last week and they are very busy, but were able to discuss some future police officers. Councilperson Staley again reminded everyone of Lt. Jeff Mitchum's retirement and said there would be a party for him at Cornerstone Church. Mayor Foster said she thought the Police Department was having a get together and the City would be a part of it. Mayor Foster asked if we had a new officer. Clerk Chavis informed the Mayor that Kenneth Anderson would be coming back to work as an SRO at the middle school.

Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Compton for an update on Insurance and Public Buildings. Councilperson Compton stated that the Civic Center does need a new roof and hopefully that can be replaced with American Rescue Plan funds. Councilperson Compton stated she would discuss parks under new business on the agenda. There was no information on insurance.

Councilperson Draper stated she spoke with the Chief earlier and everything is running smoothly. Chief Williams reported the fire department had a good month due to their calls being cut nearly in half for the month. Chief Williams stated that for the month of May the department had ran 18 calls. The City calls for the month were 9 calls, with, 1 electrical fire, 3 alarm, 1 lift assist, and 1 power line on a vehicle. The County calls were 9, with 5 alarms, 1 lift assist, 2 medical calls and 1 electrical fire. Chief Williams said that training meetings and business meetings have resumed as normal. Chief Williams stated they are trying to curtail the meetings to keep everyone safe. Chief Williams said he expected a large turnout for the 4th of July Celebration. Chief Williams informed Council that he would have every piece of apparatus there and his medical first responders present in case there are any medical issues. Chief Williams said the department was going through an ISO evaluation and the department's records would be evaluated to make sure they have everything in order.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes informed Council there were three new businesses for the month of May: Huggins Paving, Ambitions Entertainment, MTC Transportation, Twin Sisters, LLC. Councilperson Hayes said business license applications would go out the first week of July. Councilperson Hayes stated he would let Councilperson Bunch discuss the details of the 4th of July Celebration.

Councilperson Bunch reported that we lost an employee in the sanitation department, and were advertising for a replacement. Councilperson Bunch stated that she would report more during announcements regarding the 4th of July Celebration.

Councilperson Ahlin informed the Mayor and Council he had information sent to everyone regarding the website. Councilperson Ahlin asked if anyone had any questions regarding that information. There were no questions. Mayor Foster said they would discuss the website more under old business.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of the 2021-2022 budget. Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Bunch if she had anything to discuss or should she read the highlights. Councilperson Bunch thanked the budget committee for their work and said it worked out that everyone got the items needed for their departments. Mayor Foster read the budget highlights to Council and the audience. Clerk Chavis explained that the prior year budget was cut 14% due to lost revenue and COVID, but the City felt comfortable increasing the budget by 6% this year. Clerk Chavis said the City worked hard to stay within budget and it proved they could work with less if necessary. Mayor Foster said there was \$2,000 placed in reserve and the no millage increase. Mayor Foster thanked all the departments for working this past year to stay within budget and for continuing into the new budget year. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to approve the first reading of the budget of Ordinance 21-2. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes made the second. All Approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of Ness Park and Cricket Park. Councilperson Compton informed Council that she visits the parks at least once a week. Councilperson Compton reported that the Ness Park was looking better. Councilperson Compton said she had previously discussed that she would like to start "Movies by Moonlight" to be held at Ness Park. Councilperson Compton said she had picked family friendly movies, and she would like to shoot for the 3rd Saturday in August and each 3rd Saturday thereafter. Mayor Foster asked if there were any objections to that. Council said they liked the idea. Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Compton about an update on Cricket Park. Councilperson Compton stated that there is a water fountain at Cricket Park that is broken. Councilperson Compton expressed her concerns regarding a post COVID society if we should replace it. Councilperson Compton said since there are no water fountains at the other parks that she felt it should be removed. Councilperson Compton said the guys at the basketball courts are anxious for new nets and they want to add lights in the wintertime.

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of ordinance regarding commercial waste ordinance. Clerk Chavis explained that in the past the City had been charging everyone \$149.00 for a commercial dumpster no matter the size. Clerk Chavis informed Council that the City was actually losing

money on the large 8 yard dumpsters. Clerk Chavis stated that she had worked with Waste Management to draft an ordinance to cover each size of dumpsters and incorporated CPI for future price increases. Clerk Chavis asked for Council to approve her going forward with this Ordinance to start in August as she would need to write each customer and inform them of the upcoming changes. Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to move forward with the Ordinance to increase commercial dumpster charges. Councilperson Draper made a Motion to go forward with Ordinance 21-3. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of the Citywide Clean-Up. Clerk Chavis asked for Council to promote the Citywide Clean-up as was discussed during the retreat. Clerk Chavis encouraged everyone to get the word out in the community.

Mayor Foster read a Resolution for the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium. Clerk Chavis explained to Council that the City usually agrees to provide any assistance with having affordable housing for its residents to Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium. Councilperson Staley made the Motion. Councilperson Draper made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for discussion on the City website. Councilperson Ahlin explained the different options for the City website. Councilperson Ahlin said he liked the School Insites quote as they offered, more pages and also training on how to use the site for the best price. Councilperson Compton said she works with School Insites and it was user friendly. Mayor Foster asked for a Motion. Councilperson Ahlin made the Motion to move forward with the City website. Councilperson Compton made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for an update on the 4th of July Celebration. Councilperson Bunch informed Council that the celebration would be held on the 4th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Councilperson Bunch said the Visions Band would be performing. Councilperson Draper asked if there would be applications to fill out. Councilperson Bunch told Councilperson Draper that vendors can call her or City Hall about setting up. Councilperson Bunch said fireworks would start around 9:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilperson Draper made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster announced that Council has asked her to pursue the negotiations and the sale of the Dwight building with TRMC.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to enter a contract with DataMax. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to enter a contract with DataMax. Councilperson Draper made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to enter a contract with Lakeside Landscaping & Lawn Care. Councilperson Draper made the Motion to enter a contract with Lakeside Landscaping & Lawn Care. Councilperson Hayes made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

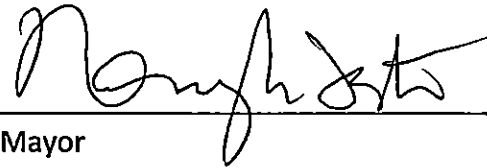
Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Bunch made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor