

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR PRO TEM: Leslie Hayes COUNCILPERSONS: Willie Staley, Bobbi Bunch and Benton Wise (Via Telephone). CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITORS: County Councilman Phil Myers, District 1. Not Present: Councilperson Bridget Kinard and Councilperson Rosetta Draper.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes called the meeting to order and Councilperson Staley gave the invocation.

Councilperson Bridget Kinard and Councilperson Rosetta Draper were not present.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Council if they could move New Business up to introduce New County Councilman Phil Myers to ensure he had time to arrive at his first County Council meeting. County Councilman Myers thanked City Council for inviting him and said he looked forward to working together with the City for the Citizens of Bamberg. Councilman Myers said change would come but it does take time, and he was looking forward to the work ahead. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Council thanked Councilman Myers for coming and congratulated him.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the December 14, 2020, meeting but it was noted that the minutes were not included in the Council packets. Council agreed to table the Motion to approve the Minutes until the next scheduled Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked for a Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Staley made the Second. Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Clerk Chavis for an explanation of the Budget and Finance Report. Clerk Chavis informed the Council that all departments were doing well at 50% which is where the City was at this time last year. Clerk Chavis stated all departments were doing well. Clerk Chavis called the Council's attention to the Community Promotions line item under Administration and noted that this account would show up as depleted next month and to keep that in mind as the remainder of the budget year progressed. Councilperson Bunch asked if this would affect the July 4th Celebration. Clerk Chavis stated that those funds would be replenished in the new budget year. Clerk Chavis stated she had received \$2,436.16, back from SC Cares as reimbursement for salaries of employees who had been quarantined due to COVID-19. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Staley turned the report over to Chief Smoak. Chief Smoak informed Council that the Police Department had 89 citations issued for the month of December, along with 49 case files. Chief Smoak informed Council that the Department has decided to start purchasing uniforms without names as a way to save money so that the uniforms can be recycled for new hires as needed. Chief Smoak also said that Officers are purchasing their own bullet proof vests with their own funds as they are customized to fit each officer and cannot normally not be reused.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if there was any insurance information. Clerk Chavis directed Council to their packet information from SCMIT and SCMIRF which showed their discounts received from the Risk Assessments performed over last year. Clerk Chavis stated that the City had saved \$2,317.00 on their SCMIRF (Liability) coverage for the year. Clerk Chavis further informed Council that the City had not had any Workers Compensation claims in the last two years and had a decrease of \$2,075.00 in premium on their SCMIT (Workers Compensation) coverage. Clerk Chavis said those premium payments would be going out this week.

Chief Williams reported for the Fire Department that there were 20 calls for the month of December with 14 Calls in the City and 6 in the County. Chief Williams stated that 50% of those calls were medical calls, 2 structure fires, 1 vehicle, and 1 LZ. Chief Williams stated that department meetings were still suspended at this time. So far in January, the Department has had 6 medical calls and 2 fires.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the City had issued 3 business license renewals for the month. Councilperson Hayes further announced that there was a virtual County Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight and the Bamberg County Library was hosting an Art Contest featuring Hearts as the theme.

Councilperson Bunch reported that there was nothing to report for Sanitation.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked if there was anything to report for Parks and Recreation. Clerk Chavis stated that a tree had fallen in Foster Park during the Christmas holidays and damaged a section of fencing. Clerk Chavis stated she would have someone come by to fix that area

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Councilperson Bunch for an update on the Ordinance regarding debris and large household items. Councilperson Bunch said that she and Councilperson Wise were continuing to work on wording and a special sticker that the sanitation department workers could place on the doors of homeowners to warn them about unacceptable items. Councilperson

Bunch asked Chief Smoak if his department would be the ones to enforce a citation if the homeowners did not comply with the ordinance. Chief Smoak said they would.

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked Clerk Chavis about the COVID-19 update. Clerk Chavis stated that the email she has received today from Emergency Management indicated 37 new cases in the County as of January 8, 2021 over the last two weeks. Clerk Chavis stated there continues to be an increase in cases and everyone should continue to exercise caution. Chief Smoak stated that one employee in the Police Department had just recovered from

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked about the North Street Building. Clerk Chavis informed Council that the closing on the North Street Building took place on December 30, 2020, and the building is now owned by the City. Clerk Chavis informed Council that the appraisal for the building came in at \$163,000.00.

Clerk Chavis informed Council that if any Council members wished to participate in the Municipal Association classes for Hometown Legislative Action Day, the deadline is Friday, January 15, 2021.

Clerk Chavis informed Council that the next election will be held on April 6, 2021, and that seats in Districts, 4, 5, & 6 are up for reelection, as well as the Mayor's seat. The filing period will open on January 20, 2021, at Noon and close on February 12, 2021, at Noon.

There were no questions from the press or audience.

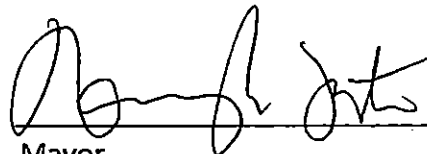
Mayor Pro Tem Hayes asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Bunch made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor