

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Foster. COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Willie Staley, Benton Wise (via Telephone) and Bobbi Bunch. CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITOR: James Wilson. Not Present: Councilperson Bridget Kinard and Councilperson Rosetta Draper.

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

Councilperson Bridget Kinard and Councilperson Rosetta Draper were not present.

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

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the October 12, 2020, meeting. Mayor Foster noted three typographical errors in the minutes and asked for corrections. Based on corrections to be made, Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to approve the Minutes with corrections. 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 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 was getting low. Clerk Chavis stated that the budget was currently at 30%, and everyone is doing well with what they have to work with. 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 escorted the Girls Volleyball Team through town on Saturday for the State Championship game. This was the first year the Girls Volleyball team has gone to the State Championship. Chief Smoak thanked the community for coming out to support the team. Chief Smoak advised Council that, to his disappointment, Halloween festivities did not have a good turnout this year. The Chief stated that many homes did not participate this year due to COVID. Chief Smoak informed Council that there were 72 citations issued for the month of October, along with 51 case files and 19 warrants served. Chief Smoak thanked Police Commissioner Staley for coming by to see him to advise him of a matter that needed to be addressed. Councilperson Staley thanked Chief Smoak for his handling of the matter.

Mayor Foster asked if there was any insurance information. Clerk Chavis said SCMIRF has continued to send emails and ask questions to get updated information for the new annual premiums.

Chief Williams reported for the Fire Department that October was fairly uneventful for the Department. Chief Williams stated that there were 16 calls for the month, with 9 calls being for the City and 7 Calls for the County. Those involved 2 structure fires, 4 alarms, 2 LZ Setups, 2 first responder call and some grass fires. Chief Williams reported that with the colder months coming, that citizens should take precautions in heating their homes, as the chance of house fires increases. Chief Williams announced that the Fire Department would be participating in the Bamberg Piggly Wiggly's Fall-A-Day Celebration on November 21, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chief Williams stated that the Fire Department will be at the Piggly Wiggly to allow the public to view the fire trucks and give out Fire Prevention pamphlets. Chief Williams also stated that Felix the Fire Cat will be on hand to greet the children. Chief Williams said he hopes that providing fire prevention information at this event will help to prevent structure fires.

Councilperson Bunch asked Chief Williams about burning in City limits. Chief Williams informed Council that you can only burn natural vegetation in the City limits. Paper and building materials cannot be burned. All fires must be monitored at all times. Chief Williams stated that citizens should fill out a burn permit and request a permit number from the Fire Department. The Fire Department will advise if there are any weather conditions which would prevent them from burning. Chief Williams added that if a family wanted to have a recreational fire for roasting marshmallows, etc., they could do that without a permit as long as it is monitored.

Mayor Foster asked both Chiefs if there was any update on the storm for Veteran's Day Program. Chief Smoak said he talked to Bill Johnson and there would be some tents, but did not know if that would be enough to hold the crowd. Councilperson Bunch asked if it could be moved to the Civic Center. Mayor Foster said it could not be moved due to some of the planned activities.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the City had issued 3 business license renewals for the month. Councilperson Hayes further announced two new businesses: Rossi Gray Boutique and Nesbitt Lawn Care. Councilperson Hayes commented on how wonderful the Holiday Market and said it was very nice. Councilperson Hayes reminded everyone of the Veterans' Day event on November 11, 2020.

Councilperson Bunch thanked the Sanitation Department for their hard work to set up and help during the Holiday Market event. Councilperson Bunch said she had talked to the department workers, and they are working on trying to get things caught up. Councilperson Bunch said the department hoped to get to some other projects underway now that the grass mowing is slowing down.

Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis if there was anything to report for Parks and Recreation. Clerk Chavis informed Council that some broken playground equipment had been repaired at Foster Park in the last two weeks and was now secure.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster announced the Lights of Joy event and turned the discussion over to Councilperson Bunch. Councilperson Bunch stated that the City was planning a Lights of Joy event to be held on December 6, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Councilperson Bunch informed Council that the event would be a substitute for the Christmas Parade and would be held along with the Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Councilperson Bunch said she discussed the parade with Mr. Paul Sandifer and there will be another attempt to have the parade next year when it is safer. Councilperson Bunch stated that this would be a combined event with the tree lighting and vendors would be on hand with food items for purchase during the event. Councilperson Bunch is asking residents to decorate their homes with Christmas lights and other Christmas décor so families can tour Bamberg and enjoy the Christmas lights. Councilperson Bunch stated that citizens didn't need to burn their Christmas lights every night but they wanted homes lit for the event especially on December 6, 2020.

Councilperson Bunch informed Council that she had been in contact with Frances Johnson of the Chamber of Commerce about lighting the crepe myrtle trees on the berms. Councilperson Bunch stated that the Chamber was in charge of these events, but anyone was invited to decorate a tree. Councilperson Wise asked if plugs were available and was told if he could locate an outlet.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked Councilperson Bunch if anything was ready for an Ordinance. Councilperson Bunch stated she thought Council was waiting see if the flyers in the monthly light bills made a difference with debris pickup. She stated she would work with Councilperson Wise to get something together for the next meeting.

Mayor Foster stated the City and County would be hosting the Veteran's Day Program on November 11, 2020. Mayor Foster asked all Council members to be present. The Mayor stated that there would be a place on the program for City Council members to speak and she would like everyone to participate in the program. The Mayor said parachuters are jumping, there will be helicopters, and a revolutionary cannon will be shot during the program. Also, the Mayor stated that Quilts of Valor will be giving 20 veterans a quilt and a light lunch provided.

Mayor asked for an update from the Christmas Committee. Councilperson Bunch stated that they would provide an update at a later time.

Mayor asked Clerk Chavis about the COVID-19 update. Clerk Chavis stated she had not received an email in several days. Clerk Chavis asked Chief Williams if he had received anything. Chief

Williams reported there were 7 new cases reported but those patients were tested two or three days ago. Chief Williams said from a medical standpoint he has only encountered one confirmed COVID case. He stated the trend seems to be going down, but the testing shows an increase. Councilperson Bunch stated that the schools are requiring students stay out of school until tests come back.

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

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

Mayor Foster stated the City Council has been offered a donation from the Dwight family (Swamp Fox Properties of Bamberg, LLC) of property located at 450 North Street, Bamberg, SC. Council has agreed to the terms of accepting this donation which includes payment of the current year (2020) taxes. Clerk Chavis asked where the funds should come from for the payment of the taxes. Mayor Foster stated payment of the taxes should be paid from the general fund.

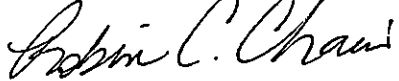
Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to accept the donation of the property at 450 North Street, Bamberg, South Carolina and pay the taxes for the current year (2020). Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to accept donation of the property at 450 North Street, Bamberg, South Carolina, and pay the current property taxes for 2020. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

There were no questions from the press or audience.

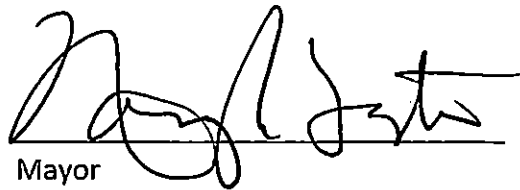
Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor