

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR: Nancy Foster COUNCILPERSONS: Bobbi Bunch, Willie Staley, Kim Compton and Ken Ahlin. CLERK: Robin Chavis.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hayes and Councilperson Draper were not present for the meeting.

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

Mayor Foster introduced Neal Crider from McGregor & Co, LLP to present the June 30, 2020 audit for the City of Bamberg. Mr. Crider informed Council that McGregor & Company has conducted an audit for the City of Bamberg. Mr. Crider said the audit evidence was sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their audit opinions, and was submitted fairly for the governmental and business type activities. Mr. Crider stated the City is receiving a clean opinion. The BPW has also received a clean opinion which was presented to the Commissioners on April 26, 2021. Mr. Crider informed Council there were no deficiencies in internal controls, and there were no findings for FY 2020. Mr. Crider directed Council's attention to a letter regarding the audit. In the letter, Mr. Crider said there were no difficulties in performing the audit and further directed Council to the assets and liabilities of the City. The City's total net position is positive and not something you typically see in cities this size as net position is in a positive position. The City's change in net position is positive as well. The general fund would allow the city to operate for 4 months which is healthy for a town this size.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the April 12, 2021, meeting. Councilperson Ahlin made the Motion. Councilperson Compton 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 Bunch 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 at 83%, which is the same as this time last fiscal year and staying on target. Clerk Chavis said the bank balance was very good at this point as property taxes had come in well this year. Clerk Chavis stated there were two more month in the fiscal year and all departments needed to hold steady. Clerk Chavis stated that everyone has done well so far this year with staying within their departmental budgets. All approved. The Motion carried.

UNDER COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Chief Smoak stated the department just completed the review with the Municipal Association and had received 100%. Chief Smoak stated that Richard Stanfield had joined the department part time and this will help with overtime. Chief Smoak reminded Council that Lt. Jeff Mitchum would be retiring from the force on July 1, 2021. Mayor Foster asked about Lt. Mitchum's position as an Investigator, and he explained his duties. Chief Smoak informed Council about a situation in town of a person in the middle of town with a gun and stated the bond was way too low. Chief Smoak said he would be talking with the Judge about violent offender getting low bonds and getting out on bond. Councilperson Compton asked if low bonds are a consistent event. Chief Smoak said it was not an isolated incident but he wanted to talk to the Judge himself first before having Council talk to the Judge. Councilperson Bunch asked about how long it is between terms of General Sessions. Mayor Foster asked more about the incident. Chief Smoak said the suspect was noncompliant on the ride to the hospital and had to be further restrained along the way. Councilperson Ahlin asked if belly chains were used. Chief Smoak said he was recently approved for belly chains but those are used on compliant individuals. This individual required restraint by 4 officers. Councilperson Compton asked Chief Smoak to please keep them informed about the bond situation with Judge Threatt.

Councilperson Compton gave out information regarding parks. Councilperson Compton stated she had visited all the parks and some will require money for repairs and some will require clean up by Sanitation. Councilperson Compton stated that she did not know Cricket Park was even there and would be great to add to our new website. Councilperson Compton informed Council the playground at Ness needs the most attention. Councilperson Compton said the Pickleball Court will probably have to wait. Mayor Foster asked what a Pickleball Court is. Councilperson Compton explained the concept and said perhaps another location could be found. Councilperson Bunch said perhaps they could find out the price of pouring concrete for a court. Clerk Chavis said gates for the Tennis Courts at Foster Park had been ordered and one would be paid for by City and one by the high school.

Chief Williams reported the Councilperson Draper had called to check on the fire department. Chief Williams stated that for the month of April the department had ran 39 calls. The City calls for April were 22 calls, with 13 being medical calls, 2 structure fires, 1 alarm, and 1 vehicle accident with injuries. The County calls were 17, with 6 being medical calls, 3 structure fires, 2 wood fires, 1 vehicle in the water, and assisting County and City in search for lost juveniles, both of which were found. Chief Williams told Chief Smoak that he was welcome to use their thermal imaging cameras if needed for searches in the future. As of April 30, the department has ran 118 calls. In previous years, the fire department normally runs 200 to 220 calls per year with 35% to 38 % being medical. Chief Williams said they are glad to be able to run medical calls and he is thankful his staff likes to run medical calls so that helps since there has been a substantial

increase. Chief Williams said that it helps that law enforcement is always present on the scene for medical calls and he thanked the Police Department for their assistance. Mayor Foster asked if Medshore was doing better time wise. Chief Williams said it is hard to say. Chief Williams said personally he feels they need more units. Mayor Foster asked if there are any new volunteers, and he stated that Officer White of the Police Department has applied. Chief Williams said he has been pleasantly surprised by his volunteers.

Clerk Chavis informed Council there were two new businesses for the month of April: Bamberg Rustic Furniture and More and Jermaine Cain, LLC Landscaping and three business license renewals.

Councilperson Bunch reported that after she had met with Councilperson Compton she met with the sanitation employees and had assigned some projects at some of the parks and those were being worked on. Councilperson Bunch stated that the grapple truck was back up and running and Daryl was back picking up debris and Waste Management was in town she has seen the guys around town working.

Councilperson Ahlin informed the Mayor and Council he would be discussing the item he wanted to address under new business.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of the website for the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Ahlin said after the Council Retreat it was pretty much the concensus of Council that the City needs its own website. Councilperson Ahlin explained that he wanted to get everyone's ideas including Council and each department, and what do you want the public to be able to have access to, such as forms and phone numbers. Councilperson Ahlin further explained that it could be huge for parks and recreation to post games and events at parks and give some advertisement to the City. Mayor Foster explained that we do have a website but it is tied to the Bamberg Board of Public Works but there is not much information on the website regarding the City. Councilperson Ahlin asked for everyone to get their thoughts together and he would continue to gather information to provide to website providers. Councilperson Ahlin asked Clerk Chavis about page space for Ordinances to be posted on the websites. Clerk Chavis said she thought 500 pages should be allotted to cover Ordinances.

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of an Ordinance for the downtown area. Mayor Foster informed Council that during the Council retreat it was decided that cleaning up downtown should be a major focus. Councilperson Ahlin stated that he received a list of owners from the Mayor and he discussed an Ordinance with some "teeth". Councilperson Ahlin handed out some Ordinances for Council to review and discussed an Architectual Review Board. Councilperson Bunch asked if he was thinking about having a business come before a Board before it is started

in town. Councilperson Ahlin said we would need to customize an Ordinance to suit our City by taking verbage from Ordinances of other towns. Council discussed various ways that Board could operate.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster asked for an update on COVID-19. Clerk Chavis said her latest update on April 12th reported only 9 new cases in the County.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Bunch made the Motion to go into Executive Session. Councilperson Staley made the Second. All approved. The Motion carried.

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

Mayor Foster announced that Council would be rescinding the bid of Milhouse Landscaping, as the bid amount did not include all facets of the scope of work. Council will go back out for bids for the landscaping as listed in the previously advertised Request for Proposal.

Clerk Chavis told Council she would need to know if they have plans to go to the Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina, July 22 – 24, 2021. Clerk Chavis said she will have to know definitely by May 21, 2021, to be placed in the drawing for rooms.

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

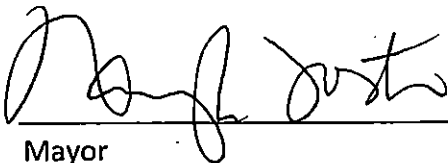
No press or audience in attendance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor