

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Foster. COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Willie Staley, Rosetta Draper, Benton Wise and Bobbi Bunch. CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITOR: Sarah Sandifer, Mr. and Mrs. John Mlynski. Not Present: Councilperson Bridget Kinard.

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

Mayor Foster welcomed Benton Wise to City Council and introduced him to the other members of Council.

Councilperson Bridget Kinard was not present.

Mayor Foster asked for Motion to approve the Revised Agenda. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Draper made the second. All Approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes for the July 13, 2020, meeting. Clerk Chavis informed Council that she had found a typographical error on page three of the minutes and had provided a corrected copy for Council. Councilperson Draper made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Hayes made the Second. All approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 16, 2020. Councilperson Staley made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Bunch made the Second. All approved.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 22, 2020. Councilperson Hayes made the Motion to approve the Minutes. Councilperson Staley made the Second. All approved.

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 Draper made the Second. Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis for an explanation of the Budget and Finance Report. Clerk Chavis informed Council that the budget was currently at 11% which was up a little from last year. She informed Council that she would be meeting with department heads to discuss their individuals department's spending to date. Clerk Chavis stated that she felt like we had received most of our larger tax revenue from the state already for the upcoming fiscal year and now the remaining tax revenue would be a smaller stream throughout the year. Councilperson Bunch asked if we were okay financially. Clerk Chavis stated we were doing fine so far. Mayor Foster stated we were concerned and just being cautious. All approved. The Motion carried.

Under Commissioner Reports:

Lt. Mitchum from the Police Department reported for Chief Smoak who was in Court. Lt. Mitchum stated that the Department had 69 incidents documented for the month, with 11 resulting in arrests and 57 resulting in citations. The total dispatched calls for the month were 318. Lt. Mitchum stated the Department was down one officer who has transferred to the Sheriff's office. The 3 SRO's have returned to the schools so the Department is running low on manpower. Lt. Mitchum stated he had received some interest from the City's Facebook post of the job posting and was looking into a few of those prospects. Mayor Foster stated that 318 calls was a lot of calls for the month. Lt. Mitchum responded by stating that those are documented calls that are self-initiated calls.

Councilperson Staley reported for insurance that the City had received their 2020 Risk Assessment from the SC Municipal Association. The City received a score of 96.47% on their SCMIT assessment and 94.83% on their SCMIRF Assessment which would give the City a 5% discount on their premiums in the upcoming year.

Councilperson Rosetta Draper reported for the reported for the Fire Department. Chief Williams was out of town and could not attend the meeting. Councilperson Draper reported there were 34 – 911 calls and 2 meetings for the month. Of those calls, there were 24 City calls, 10 County Calls. Councilperson Draper further stated that there were 2 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 7 alarms, 4 vehicle accidents and one LZ Set-up, 10 medical and 8 other. Councilperson Draper reported that the Department had a COVID-19 Test site on August 4th with 80-100 people being tested. Councilperson Draper stated that the Department add 5 volunteers since March: CJ Coker, Ralph Rentz, Joe Lott, Will Lott and Mr. Martin. Councilperson Draper further informed Council that Chief Williams was planning a Firefighter I Class with a projected start date in October.

Councilperson Hayes reported that the City had issued 82 business license renewals to date and 2 new business licenses for Aiken Premier Realty and DeLarge Carpet Cleaning, who would be operating in the City of Bamberg. Councilperson Hayes asked Lt. Mitchum about the community basketball tournament. Lt. Mitchum stated that it went very well. Councilperson Hayes reminded everyone of the paddle trip in September.

Councilperson Bunch reported that the Sanitation Department has hired David Cooler who has been working on grass cutting and other maintenance. Councilperson Bunch stated that Lara Buss and her group were still working on Foster Park and it looks great. Mayor Foster said the tennis team is now using the tennis courts. Councilperson Bunch said she also wanted to thank the SCDOT for their help in the cleanup from the building that fell. She stated that SCDOT responded immediately and appreciated the team effort.

Mayor Foster asked everyone if they would like an update on the building that this time. Everyone agreed. Mayor Foster said that as soon as the corner of the building fell a structural engineer was called in who determined the building needed to come down. The Mayor stated that there is a process that you have to go through by making sure the utilities are cut off and services are removed and in the meantime the front part of the building fell. Mayor Foster stated that they tried to have the SCDOT close the road, but they were hesitant with 301 being a federal highway. The Mayor stated that they finally did divert traffic once the front of the building fell. Mayor Foster asked Lt. Mitchum if he knew the exact date the building would come down and he said that he heard it would be Wednesday. The Mayor stated that it was a very tedious process with the adjoining building.

Councilperson Bunch said she just wanted to again thank everyone for their efforts. Mayor Foster said Bill Johnson, the building inspector has been wonderful.

Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis for the election results. Clerk Chavis stated there were 52 votes in favor of Benton Wise with no write-ins and an 11.74% voter turnout with 452 in the district. Mayor Foster said she was going to push for a better map as she feels citizens do not know what district they are in.

Mayor Foster made commissioner appointments with Councilperson Staley being named as Police Commissioner and Councilperson Wise Insurance Commissioner.

Mayor asked for an update regarding the 2020 Census. Clerk Chavis stated that the City of Bamberg was currently reporting at 53.3% up from 52.4%. Clerk Chavis stated that Census workers would beginning going door to door in the community next week for those who had not yet completed their Census information. Mayor Foster encouraged Council to tell everyone to fill out their Census information online or call. Mrs. Mlynski, a visitor asked if someone recently moved from the County into the City would they need to fill out another Census form. Mayor Foster told her she should call the Census just to be sure.

Mayor asked for an update of COVID-19. Clerk Chavis informed Council that there are 101 cases in the City of Bamberg as of 2:00 p.m., and the County was at 199 cases.

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 Staley made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Robin C. Chan

Clerk

[Handwritten Signature]

Mayor