

A MEETING OF BAMBERG CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR: Nancy Foster COUNCILPERSONS: Leslie Hayes, Rosetta Draper (Via Telephone), Bobbi Bunch, Willie Staley, Kim Compton and Ken Ahlin. CLERK: Robin Chavis. VISITORS: Jeanette Driggers.

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

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda as amended. 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 March 8, 2021, meeting. Councilperson Bunch 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 Bunch made the Motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report as a matter of information. Councilperson Ahlin 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 75%, which is the same as this time last fiscal year and staying on target. Clerk Chavis informed the Council that the sanitation department had to replace a blower and fix the jaws of the grapple truck at a cost of \$4,300.00. Clerk Chavis stated that fortunately the sanitation department had not spent a lot of money on equipment or equipment repair so far this year and were able to cover these unexpected expenses. Mayor Foster asked the new Council members if they had any questions about the budget. Mayor Foster asked Clerk Chavis to explain the makeup of the budget report for the new Council members. 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 apologized for his absence at the last meeting as he was handling a call. Chief Smoak announced that Lt. Jeff Mitchum would be retiring from the force on July 1, 2021. Chief Smoak said that grants had been found for the department, and the department was able to get some night vision goggles. Chief Smoak introduced Antione White as a new officer with the Police Department. Chief Smoak said we had three good applicants for the position but he was very glad to have him on the force. Mayor Foster asked when he would be going to the Academy and Chief Smoak said they were working on a date. Mayor Foster asked for the process of going

through the Academy. Mayor Foster thanked Officer White for coming on board and told him to be safe.

Chief Smoak reported that SLED was in town last Friday regarding a shooting. Chief Smoak thanked the County Sheriff's Department, Denmark Police Department and the Highway Patrol for helping with that case. Chief Smoak stated that there was also a shooting on Thursday, but the victims were not offering much information. Councilperson Compton asked where the shootings were located. Chief Smoak said one was at the entrance to the Bamberg Villas and one was on Race Street. Chief Smoak wanted to thank the SROs for their assistance on the street while Officer Mitchum was out on leave. Chief Smoak indicated that there were 81 Traffic Citations and 63 Case files for the month of March and 64 Traffic Citations and 63 Case files for the month of February. Councilperson Bunch asked if Court was going again. Chief Smoak said there would be a backlog for a while.

Councilperson Draper said everything is going well at Fire Department. There was no one present for the Fire Department. Mayor Foster said the Fire Department had been doing a lot of medical calls lately.

Councilperson Hayes announced three business renewals for the month and three new businesses: Confident Curves Boutique, The Shop Automotive Repair and L&C Homemade Low Country Sauce. Councilperson Hayes stated there was nothing new to report for the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilperson Bunch reported that there was a new employee, Jake Huggins, in the Sanitation Department. Councilperson Bunch stated she has seen the guys around town working. Councilperson Bunch said that the grass is starting to grow and that is keeping them busy. Councilperson Bunch informed Council they would be discussing the landscaping contract and garbage contract later in the meeting.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster made appointments for the Commissions with some changes. Mayor Foster appointed Ken Ahlin as Commissioner for Franchises and Economic Development, Willie Staley continued as Police Commissioner, Rosetta Draper continued as Fire Commissioner, Councilperson Bunch will continue as Commissioner of Sanitation Department, and Kim Compton will be Commissioner of Insurance and Public Buildings and Parks. Mayor Foster told the Commissioners to let her know if they needed a Committee for any matter.

Mayor Foster appointed the Budget Committee for the 2021-2022 Budget. Mayor Foster appointed Councilperson Bobbi Bunch as Chairperson, Councilperson Leslie Hayes and Councilperson Kim Compton for the Budget Committee.

Mayor Foster appointed Councilperson Bunch as the Chairperson of the 4th of July Committee. Councilperson Bunch said she would ask for everyone's assistance at some point. Councilperson Bunch stated that this is an important event for Bamberg and people from neighboring towns come to see Bamberg's Fireworks display.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

Councilperson Bunch made a Motion for the second reading to approve Ordinance 21-1 adding Section 44-45 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Bamberg pertaining to Household Refuse. Councilperson Staley made the second. All Approved. The Motion carried.

Councilperson Ahlin asked about the wording of "excessive" in the Ordinance. Councilperson Bunch stated that the list was included in the Ordinance because those were the items that the City is having problems with. Councilperson Ahlin asked if citizens would be notified if an item could not be picked up. Councilperson Bunch said citizens would be notified by letter or a notice on their door. Mayor Foster said we would get another flyer out to citizens in the near future.

Councilperson Hayes made a Motion for the second reading to approve Ordinance 21-2 amending Section 17-33 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Bamberg pertaining to the Purpose and Duration of Business License. Councilperson Staley made the second. Councilperson Bunch asked if businesses would still come to City Hall for a license. Clerk Chavis said all new businesses would still come to City Hall but renewals would all be handled online. Clerk Chavis said the Municipal Association would be sending a Model Business License Ordinance once everything is in place. All Approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster asked for discussion of the Model Handbook provided by the Municipal Association. Clerk Chavis reminded Council that they had received a copy of the new Handbook and asked Council to please review and get any questions they may have to her. Mayor Foster asked if the handbook was recommended by the Municipal Association. Clerk Chavis said the City's handbook has not been updated since 2004, and is in serious need of an update for liability purposes. Councilperson Ahlin asked if this was an unfunded mandate matter. Clerk Chavis informed him that the Handbook is provided by the Municipal Association, and we can customize it to our needs. Chief Smoak said that the Police Department would be adopting the Municipal Association's policies for the Police Department.

Mayor Foster asked for an update on COVID-19. Clerk Chavis said her latest update on April 12th reported only 4 new cases in the County and 51 total deaths in the County. Mayor Foster said there were some upcoming vaccine clinics.

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

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

Mayor Foster announced that the Landscaping Contract for the City of Bamberg for the upcoming fiscal year will be awarded to Milhouse Landscaping.

Mayor Foster asked for a Motion to accept Milhouse Landscaping's proposal. Councilperson Ahlin made the Motion to approve the proposal of Milhouse Landscaping. Councilperson Hayes made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Mayor Foster stated that there was no decisions regarding the Contract for Garbage Services for the City of Bamberg.

Councilperson Bunch informed Council that baseball and softball has resumed at the Ness Sports Complex on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Clerk Chavis told Council that there is information starting to come out regarding the American Rescue Plan. Clerk Chavis said the City of Bamberg is estimated to receive \$1.19 million dollars. Clerk Chavis said the funds had to be used for infrastructure and Council should start thinking about projects that may need attention.

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 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:



Clerk



Mayor