

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AT 12:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2002 AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Alton McCollum.
COUNCILPERSONS: Buddy Sandifer, Frances Johnson, David Walker, Betty Wells, Betty Mack, and Nancy Foster. CLERK: Bruce Watson.

Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order and Mr. Walker gave the invocation.

Clerk Watson took the roll with everyone being present.

Mr. Sandifer, who served as Chairman of the 2002-2003 Budget Committee, presented Council with the proposed 2002-2003 City Budget. He explained that Mr. Walker, Mrs. Johnson and Mayor McCollum along with himself and Clerk Watson had met three times in order to prepare the proposed budget. Mr. Sandifer told Council that the Budget Committee had received requests from each department before drafting the budget which included a 3% cost of living raise for all employees.

Mr. Sandifer said the good news was that the proposed budget called for no increase in taxes this year but that the bad news was that everyone didn't receive everything they asked for. Mr. Sandifer thanked Clerk Watson for his efforts and told Council that overall the budget process went very smoothly.

Council was also presented with a list of highlights for the 2002-2003 budget. They are included as a part of these minutes.

Mrs Johnson made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the salaries of employees. Mr. Walker made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mr. Walker made the motion to come out of the executive session. Mrs. Johnson made the necessary second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster asked if the budget called for putting any money back into the reserve fund this year.

Mr. Sandifer explained that the Budget Committee felt this could not be done again this year since taxes would have to be raised.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that the Budget Committee was concerned that the amount of delinquent taxes have continued to rise year after year.

Clerk Watson explained that delinquent taxes had risen from \$72,112.00 in 1998 to \$158,000.00 in 2001.

Council felt someone at the County level should be contacted to see what was causing this.

Mrs. Johnson said she felt the City was not being paid on a timely basis once the taxes were collected and that the monies were being held to draw interest.

Clerk Watson explained that the delinquent taxes could be due to a combination of factors including the millage increases and the state of the economy which we are now in. He said this year's figures would be received after June which would give us a better feel as to how we stand.

Mrs. Foster felt the Budget Committee needed to sit down with the county administrator to discuss Council's concerns.

After some discussion, Mayor McCollum told Council that he would make an appointment with the county administrator so the Budget Committee could meet with him to discuss Council's concerns.

Mrs. Wells made the motion to accept the proposed 2002-2003 budget of \$1,460,851.00 as presented by the Budget Committee. Mrs. Mack made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

Mrs. Foster still voiced concerns that monies needed to be budgeted for the reserve fund. Mr. Sandifer explained that Council had raised taxes for the last three years in a row and that the people could only stand so much.

Mr. Walker voiced that it just didn't make sense to keep raising taxes if they were not going to be collected in a timely manner.

The agenda was amended to add item 4A to discuss the purchase of flags for the City.

Mayor McCollum explained to Council that he felt the old worn and tattered flags along the main avenues needed to be replaced with nice flags. He told Council that Clerk Watson had seen nice flags in Batesburg-Leesville which he felt would look great in the City of Bamberg.

Clerk Watson explained that Columbia Flag and Design's quote was compared with prices from a flag catalog and were \$8.00 a flag cheaper than the catalog prices. After some discussion, Mrs. Johnson made the motion to purchase 50 flags complete with hardware for \$1,600.00 from Columbia Flag and Display. Mrs. Foster made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the announcements, Mrs. Johnson informed Council that a Democratic Party Fund Raiser would be held on Saturday, June 1st at the Ness Complex from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. She informed Council that candidates would be present and that there would be fun for everyone.

Mrs. Wells informed Council that Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Sandifer and herself would once again serve as the July 4th Celebration Committee to decide on the concession booths for

the event. She asked Mrs. Foster to handle the palms for the event and she asked Mr. Sandifer to lay out the areas for the booths.

Mayor McCollum informed Council that he had contacted the Catalinas who were ready and eager to come. He also said Tobul Accumulators is preparing for the fireworks display.

Mr. Sandifer suggested that Tobul Accumulators and Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing Co. be recognized with plaques at the July Council meeting for their contributions to the July 4th Celebration. Council agreed that this needed to be done.

Mr. Sandifer and Clerk Watson would secure the plaques.

With no further business, Mr. Sandifer made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Wells made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor of Bamberg