

**Council Meeting
July 6, 2000**

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, July 6, 2000 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt and Sonny Copeland; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Fire Chief, J. C. Plair; Police Chief, Woodrow Blue.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

A quorum of council was established.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: No list has been made at this time.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2000, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) Community Home Investment Program (CHIP)

Mr. Mike Morgan of the South Georgia RDC reported on a CHIPS grant that the city was awarded for \$85,000 from the Department of Community Affairs to build 4 new houses in the city, one to be constructed by Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity and three to be built by private contractors. Mr. Morgan asked if there were any questions from the audience. Mr. Eldon Moore, E. Stanfill St., asked how much money it would cost the citizens of Hahira. Mr. Morgan stated that it would cost the city nothing at all. Other citizens inquired about the location of the property. Mayor Adams called for a motion to approve the following: (1) Program Policies and Procedures, (2) Minority/Women's Business Enterprise HOME Program Policy Statement (3) DCA Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the three as stated, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(B) IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY WATER SYSTEM

Mayor Adams reported on plans for improvements to the city water system to include.

1. Extending the main from where it now ends in the Business Park to the north end of the park, under I-75 to Union Road and connect to the main where it presently ends at the city limits.

2. Construct a new quarter million gallon capacity water storage tank in the Business Park.

He stated the expansion was needed to increase storage capacity of the entire system and increase pressure and volume in the Business Park and would allow the addition of approximately 45 residential customers and the planned North Lowndes Recreation complex. The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners has agreed to participate by contributing funds to increase the proposed elevated storage tank capacity in the business Park by 50,000 gallons. This would amount to approximately \$50,000. Also the owner of the Union Creek Mobile Home Park which could be served by the expansion has stated he would contribute the cost of connecting his private water system to the new main.

Mayor Adams asked if there were any questions from the audience. Mr. Eldon Moore, E. Stanfill St., asked how much money it would cost the citizens of Hahira. Mayor Adams stated the city was seeking a subsidy from GEFA to help fund the estimated cost of \$695,940.00 cost and if the GEFA subsidy is denied the project probably could not be accomplished. He stated there would be approximately \$50,000 in engineering design cost to the city if the improvements were not completed but the design could be used later.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

(A) Water rate increase

Mayor Adams talked briefly about the new water and sewer rates and explained the reasons for the increase. He stated that was probably the reason for the large number of citizens in attendance. He reported council had made a decision to revert to the old rates for the current month at least, because even though public hearings had been held on the rates and customers were notified by mail around the 20th of June, apparently many citizens failed to get the word. He acknowledged that probably citizens should have been notified by mail earlier. Customers bills will be adjusted

when paid at city hall or if already paid, overpayments will be credited to next month bill. He further stated the new rate increase must go into effect when construction improvements begin on the wastewater Treatment plant. He stated he and council members would be happy to listen to listen complaints and discussion of the new rates at the end of the council meeting.

(B) Employee cost of living increase

Council Hunnicutt made a motion to give the city employees the budgeted 3% COLA, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Authorization to execute Nutrition Program contract renewal

Mayor Adams reported on the contract renewal. Council Copeland made a motion to renew the contract, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Community Center change order

Mayor Adams reported on the change order for the community center. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the change order, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Department Requests

Fire Chief, J. C. Plair requested adopting the SOP on 911 fire calls. Council Harris made a motion to adopt as stated, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Sonny Rogers Day Resolution

Mayor Adams read the resolution. July 22 will be "Sonny Rogers Day" in Hahira. Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams stated that there were three agenda items that were not listed, so at this time he called on (1) Freeman Rivers. Mr. Rivers asked council about having "Citizens Wishing to be Heard" be put back on the agenda.

(2) Mr. Eric Croft 304 Stanfill Street, requested increased police patrol on E. Stanfill Street due to cars speeding on the road and many small children living in the area. Also he asked if speed bumps and "Slow" signs could be installed near the nursery. Chief Woodrow Blue stated that the DOT would have to be contacted to reduce the

speed limit below that set by the state. Mayor Adams stated he would look into installing speed limit and children playing signs.

(3) Ms. Ouida McKinney asked about the playground equipment for Web-Miller Park.

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, reported that the front-end loader's motor needed to be repaired. He recommended that it be taken to Lake City to a business that would rebuild the motor for \$2,900.00. There is a warranty with this. Council Harris made a motion to authorize the Public Utilities Director to go have the engine repaired, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Council's Reports:

Council Copeland reported on a water leak on W. Main Street in front of the new proposed car wash. John Thursby will check on this.

Council Hunnicutt had no report.

Council Bullard had no report.

Council Harris stated his appreciation to the citizens for coming to the meeting and participating.

Mayor Adams also stated his appreciation to the citizens. He also reported on water usage in the city.

Mr. Ronnie Dudley of Stephenson and Palmer Engineering, Inc. reminded the mayor that council needed to accept the low bid submitted on planned improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also since construction cost were less than estimated, council needed to approve a revised project cost budget. After discussion Mayor Adams recommended the low bid be accepted along with option A revised project cost budget. Council Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Council Bullard made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn