

Council Meeting

November 7, 2002

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt, Terry Benjamin and M. C. Nelson; City Manager, Bonnie Tindall; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, J. C. Plair; City Attorney, Willie Linahan.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Council Hunnicutt to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Council Benjamin. Visitors were welcomed.

Mayor Crowe called on a motion to approve the October 10, 2002 Council Minutes. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Review of bills: Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

Public Hearing

A. HA-2002-06 Rezoning Request by Ellis Shiver - Alan Sloan (GLC Planning Commission)

Mr. Sloan reported that Mr. Shiver was requesting to rezone from R-10 to M-1, located at 400 W. Lawson Street on the southeast intersection of W. Lawson and N Hall Street. Property currently contains a large commercial warehouse. Mr. Shiver is wishing to rezone the property to bring the existing use into conformance and to extend the property by adding some mini-warehouses. The Planning Commission found it inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended denial.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the request. Mr. Jimmy Shiver, 4 Post Point, Valdosta, Georgia, stated that the previous Zoning Commission had zoned the property Commercial. The property has been in his family for 50 years and has been used as

Commercial. He requested rezoning M-1 to use the present facilities as it has been used in the past 49 years. They proposed to give the city a piece of property on Marshall Street to be used as: (1) A water park for the children if the property is rezoned M-1. Funding would have to come from the city. (2) Habitat house.

Myra Bell of Madison, Florida, gave a presentation on the water park. She stated that it is an opportunity for children to cool off in the summer without the costs of a swimming pool.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in opposition of the request. Mary Turner, 201 N. Hall St. stated that when the property was rezoned Residential, two people occupied the building. The city refused to give licenses because there wasn't restroom facilities. She stated that the property had been cleaned up a very few times and the owner did not live in Hahira. The property was residential in the 50's as there were several houses on the property at that time. Once the property is zoned Commercial, they will do what they want with it. She stated that this was not right and she will fight it till the end.

Karen Camion, 405 W Stanfill St., stated that she owned the property next to it. She said that it was her understanding that the Planning Commission said that once it was not in existence for one year, it would revert back to Residential. She asked Council to let it remain residential.

Freeman Rivers, 204 S. Hall St. stated that something needed correcting that should have been corrected some time ago. The Planning Commission said it was not conforming. Once it goes Commercial they can do what they want to do. This came before Council three years ago, now once again it is before the City of Hahira. He asked Council to listen to the citizens. He said that the city has a chance to correct it and he asked them to take that chance tonight. Is District 1 going to continue being deprived and denied? That was in the past, this is 2002. Once again we will fight it.

Eula Copeland, 210 Branch St. stated that she was born across the street on January 25, 1930 and it has always been residential and she would like it to continue being residential. The reason she would like it to stay residential was because of how it got to be Commercial from

the beginning. Someone bought it and told the owner they were going to build houses. In less than a month it was sold for Commercial use. She stated that she didn't think it was feasible to put something in the area for the children. She didn't think the city should go in debt for this. She stated that she would like it to stay Residential.

Mayor Crowe asked Council if they had any questions. Council Benjamin asked Mr. Sloan how the Planning Commission voted. Mr. Sloan stated it was 6 - 1.

Council Benjamin made a motion to deny the request and leave it Residential, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Councils Benjamin, Bullard and Nelson voted yes. Council Hunnicutt voted no. Motion approved.

B. HA-2002-07 Variance Request by Mae Johnson

Mr. Sloan reported that Mae Johnson requested a variance to the setbacks to her property. She had purchased a permit for a porch and upon inspection it was discovered it was on a corner and encroached on the setbacks. The Planning Commission found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of the request. No response.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in opposition of the request. No response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to grant the request, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

C. HA-2002-08 Rezoning Request by Myron Crowe

Mayor Crowe asked Mayor Pro-Tem, Wayne Bullard, to preside in this request.

Mr. Sloan stated that Myron Crowe had requested to re-zone 5.159 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Mobile Home Park (MHP). The property is currently developed as a nonconforming mobile home park (Red's MHP). The Planning Commission found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of the request. No response.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the request. No response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to accept the request, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

D. HA-2002-09 Text Amendment - Hahira Subdivision

Mr. Sloan stated that this was an amendment to the Hahira Subdivision Regulations. The amendment would add Section 6-9 requiring the developers to install street lights as they develop the property. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked if anyone had a question in opposition or in favor of the amendment. There was no response.

Council Hunnicutt made a motion to adopt the amendment, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

E. HA-2002-10 Text Amendment - Hahira Landscape Development Ordinance (Supplemental Fencing)

Mr. Sloan stated the amendment affects Section 18-7 by adding subsection 1.f - Supplemental Fencing, which allows for a minimum reduction of width and heights of buffer yards in exchange for an opaque fence or solid wall between 6-8 ft. being erected along the property line where buffer yards are required. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked if anyone had questions or were in opposition/favor of the amendment. There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to adopt the amendment, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Approval of Amendments for Fiscal Year 2002 Budget

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall stated that most of the Budget Amendments were line item adjustments.

The major items that were amended were in the Fire Department. \$12,000 for the fire truck, \$10,000 is from last year. \$2,000 is for a rebuilt motor.

\$12,000 was added for a used vehicle for the City Manager.

The Nutrition Program was for the first 7 months. The last 5 months will not be done at the Valdosta site.

Home delivered services will continue.

Adjustments were made in the Better Hometown Budget.

Three police cars were purchased this year.

Mayor Crowe asked if there were any questions concerning the budget amendments. There was no response. Council Nelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Adoption of fiscal Year 2003 Budget by Ordinance

Mayor Crowe stated that the millage rate was for 5.38 mills. Revenue for the General Fund is derived from a number of sources: Local Option Sales Tax, Franchise Fees, Other tax, License fees, Permits, Intergovernmental revenue, Charges for services, Fines and Forfeitures, Investment income and

miscellaneous sources. The projected revenue for General Fund for 2003 is \$917,480.00.

In the Personnel Department, employees received raises above the 3% Cost of living; Employee Appreciation Day was at Reed Bingham Park.

The Police Department staff is currently at 7. The City purchased 3 new patrol cars for the Police Department. Grants were used for lights for the patrol cars. A new 12-hour shift for the officers was put into affect.

The Fire Department is manned by the Fire Chief with 12 volunteer firefighters. Chief Plair also works with the City Codes Department.

The Highway and Streets Department has 2 employees and is responsible for maintenance of streets, sidewalks and right-of-ways.

Streetscape Phase II is underway starting at the railroad and going to Newsom Street. New sidewalks and streetlights will be included in this project.

Health and Welfare includes one employee and several volunteers in the Nutrition Program.

Culture and Recreation Department includes one employee who is responsible for maintenance of parks and the Community Center.

Housing and Development Department oversees housing and community development, helping Moody AFB, and helps fund the Better Hometown Department. The Better Hometown Director is presently working part-time and works under the supervision of the City Manager.

Sanitation Department: The costs to provide sanitation to citizens must be recovered through user fees and charges. A new sanitation truck was purchased this year.

Water and Sewer Department: The costs to provide services to citizens also must be recovered through user fees and charges due to environmental mandates which require upgrades to our wastewater treatment

system. We have completed a new 250,000 gallon water tank in the Hahira Business Park. Also a water loop through the business park and down Union Road was completed.

Special Revenue Fund accounts for operations and activities that are financed through State and Federal Grants and SPLOST.

Mayor, Council and City Employees will continue to provide good sound judgment in every area that will affect the citizens of Hahira.

Mayor Crowe read the 2003 Budget Ordinance. He asked if there were any questions. There was no response. Council Bullard made a motion to adopt the 2003 Budget, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

END

CITIZEN REQUEST

Ms. Adeline Landrum thanked the city for their help during the Honey Bee Festival.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Change Order in Streetscape Project for Lighting

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall, reported on the Change Order.

B. Request for Tillman street Traffic Problem

Mayor Crowe reported that Chief Davis proposed to have a 4-way stop sign installed at W. Coleman and Tillman Streets and to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph. Council Nelson made a motion to install the 4-way stop sign and reduce the speed limit to 25

mph, seconded by Council Benjamin. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

C. Request for City of Hahira to Accept the Roads and Utilities for Beeline Mobile Home Park

Public Works Director, John Thursby, recommended approval of the roads and utilities for Beeline Mobile Home Park.

Council Nelson made a motion to accept the roads and utilities, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Benjamin stated that the sidewalks were looking good.

Council Hunnicutt stated that he was looking forward to seeing the sidewalk project completed.

Councils Bullard and Nelson had no reports.

B. CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall, reported that in about two weeks bids will be opened for the W. Park Street project.

C. MAYOR

Mayor Crowe also mentioned the Park Street project bid opening. The Streetscape program is proceeding.

There being no further business to discuss, Council Benjamin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Myron Crowe, Mayor

Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn