

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2005

Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira met in a regular meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin; City Manager/ City Clerk, Janice Logue; PWD, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; Police Chief, Terry Davis; City Attorney, Rob Plumb; Recorder, Marilyn Brady

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

PWD, John Thursby, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crowe called on Mr. Freeman Rivers to give the invocation.

Mayor Crowe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES: October 3rd WORK SESSION; October 6th COUNCIL MEETING; October 12th PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL MEETING; September 30th Bid Opening

Mayor Crowe asked Council if there were any corrections to the minutes.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

APPROVE TRANSMITTAL RESOLUTION FOR COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM TO DCA FOR REVIEW

Mayor Crowe called on Mr. Jason Davenport, Planner for RDC, to report on the resolution. He stated that the resolution is to get the City of Hahira's support for the program.

Mayor Crowe asked if Council had any questions? There were none.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) HA-2005-06 REZONE 0.0746 acres from R-10 (Single Family Residential) to C-N (Commercial Neighborhood) – Vicki O'Brien

Mr. Jason Davenport of the RDC recommended changing from C-N to C-H.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the rezoning? There was no response. .

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor? There was no response.

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the zoning change to C-H, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

(B) BEER, WINE & LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION – Mr. Gish

Police Chief, Davis, reported that Mr. Gish had no criminal history and has several other Beer and Wine licenses at other establishments.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the request? There was no response.

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

Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the Beer, Wine & Liquor license, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(C) ORDINANCE 2005-07 AMEND THE LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (Final reading)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance?

Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges Street, stated that the ordinance was about 3 years old. Most of the changes made are to favor the developers.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the ordinance? There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

(D) ORDINANCE 2005-08 AUTHORIZING THE SUSPENSION OF PORTIONS OF THE CODE DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY (Final reading)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance? Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges Street, stated that he was opposed to the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the ordinance? There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

- (E) ORDINANCE 2005-09 REGISTRATION OF BUILDING AND REPAIR SERVICES DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY (Final reading)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance? There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of the ordinance? There was no response.

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

- (F) ORDINANCE 2005-10 AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF CURFEWS DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER (Final reading)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance? There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of ordinance? There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

- (G) ORDINANCE 2005-11 PROHIBIT OVERCHARGING FOR GOODS, MATERIALS, SERVICES AND HOUSING DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY (Final reading)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance? There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of the ordinance? There was no response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to accept the ordinance, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

End of Public Hearing

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Ralph Clendenin, 203 S Hagan Bridge Road, stated that he had been coming to the last several months Council meetings asking why the city is not imposing impact fees on construction. The city has issued 200 permits to build in the city and the city is out of sewer. This will cost the citizens of Hahira in increased water and sewer rates. This is unfair to the citizens.

Mr. Freeman Rivers, 204 S Hall Street, stated that last month he spoke to a Councilman about an issue and was told that no action would be taken on "Citizens Wishing to be Heard". He said that someone from City Hall, Mayor or City Manager should get back to him with a yes or no, with whatever is said because he is not just talking for his health, he is stating the facts. The second thing he wanted to talk about was on the city purchasing land for a sprayfield. The city is already in a situation. They need to think about it. The third thing he wanted to talk about is that in the past year, Councils Ogundu and Benjamin have not been getting any support. They have not been getting the information that other Councilmen have gotten at the Council Meetings.

Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges Street, stated that on September 23rd, he received a letter written under city letterhead and written by a city employee accusing him of actions that he was not authorized. Two other people received the similar letters. The letter requested a response within 10 days. He stated that he responded with a letter. In his opinion, the person who wrote the letter under city letterhead, was writing a letter that she had no business writing. It was completely outside the scope of her duties, as he stated that in the letter he wrote to the city. He said that he was yet to receive a response to that letter and today was the third day of November.

Ms. Carol Jacobs, 402 E. Stanfill Street, Chairman of the Honeybee Festival Committee, thanked the city for their support during the festival. She also thanked PWD, John Thursby, for having his department help in the cleanup.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

- (A) Approve Lab Techniques training for 2 people in Carrollton Nov. 29 – Dec 1 (Training \$175 each)

PWD, John Thursby, asked council to approve the training for himself and another person. This is part of the Georgia Water & Wastewater Institute. This is a mandatory class from the State. This is a budgeted item.

- (B) Approve purchase of curbside garbage containers

PWD, John Thursby, asked Council to approve the purchase of 200 curbside containers.

- (C) Approve proposal to evaluate spray field

PWD, John Thursby, recommended entering into a contract with Huff Environmental Services.

- (D) Approve City Employee Christmas Bonus and excess sick

Mayor Crowe asked Council to approve the city employees bonuses. Council Ogundu questioned why this had to be approved in November since it has been approved in December for the last 5 years? He said that he would approve the bonuses, but it should come before Council in December if they don't have a hidden agenda to approve it in November. City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, stated that there is no hidden agenda. The reason they wanted to do it was to get the checks to the employees earlier in December so they could use it to help pay for Christmas. (More discussion on tape)

- (D) Approve Preliminary 2006 Proprietary Fund Budget

Mayor Crowe asked Council to approve the preliminary 2006 Proprietary Fund Budget.

- (E) Approve 2006 Work Session and Council Meeting Calendar

Mayor Crowe asked Council to approve the 2006 Work Session and Council Meeting Calendar.

- (F) Approve 2006 Holiday Calendar

Mayor Crowe asked Council to approve the 2006 Holiday Calendar.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Department Request Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.**

APPROVE MCC QUOTE FOR CHARTER UPDATE

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, stated that she had requested Municipal Code Corporation to look at the Charter and give an evaluation of what it would cost to update the charter. The charter was written in 1912 and has not been amended since 1951. The city is in the process of re-codifying the codes, so it would be best to update the charter so there are no conflicts between the codes and the charter. The total she would recommend would be for \$1,000.00 for legal review of the charter and then a conference with the Municipal Code Corporation's attorney by telephone, which would be \$250.00, and \$3000.00 for drafting services. The total would be \$4,250.00. Mayor Crowe stated that this needed to be done. He called for a motion to approve the charter update. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve updating the charter, up to \$4,500.00, seconded by Council Benjamin. Discussion followed. Councils Bullard and Nelson voted yes. Councils Ogundu and Benjamin voted no. Mayor Crowe broke tie, voting yes. Motion passed.**

APPROVE LAWSON FARMS LIFT STATION

PWD, John Thursby, stated that with the increase in houses being built, the city is going to have to upgrade the pump station even if they don't agree to do the

Lawson Farm. Cost would be \$4,885.00, which includes a new pump. The pump would have a 5 year warranty. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve the lift station, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSION OF WASTE WATER EXPANSION OPTIONS

Mr. Jeff Lovell, City Engineer, stated that at the Work Session he gave the Council copies of a worksheet of work in progress on options on waste water treatment. Since that time they have gotten in some preliminary results on the soil investigation for the buffer area. First option is expansion of the spray field. The second option would be the buffer area around the sprayfield. The third option would be to put in a new package treatment plant with an extended aeration system. The fourth option is discharging to Lowndes County.

MAYOR'S DAY MOTORCADE

Police Chief, Terry Davis, reported on the Mayor's Day Motorcade. City officials will be going to Thomasville on December 15th, leaving at 8 A.M. to attend the Mayor's Day parade. They are asking citizens for donations of gifts, etc., which will be distributed to the patients at Southwestern Hospital. They are also asking citizens to participate. The city with the most participants will be given an award.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Crowe called on Marvalene Swopes to come forward. She was presented a plaque for employee of the quarter for July through September.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Bullard thanked the Honey Bee Festival Committee for their hard work. He also thanked PWD, John Thursby, and his department for their work during the festival.

Council Ogundu congratulated Marvalene Swopes for being chosen employee of the quarter. He also thanked the Honey Bee Festival Committee for their work. He apologized to Mr. John Adams, who had sent the city a letter and the city did not respond to it. He stated that for the past 4 years, the City of Hahira has had no grants.

Council Nelson thanked the city employees for their work. He stated that the Christmas Party and Parade would soon be here. He stated that with the time change, children would be waiting in the dark for their bus. He urged everyone to be careful.

Council Benjamin congratulated Marvalene Swopes on her being chosen employee of the quarter. He also apologized to Mr. John Adams for the letter.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, stated that a copy of the agenda was in each Council's box, at the same time it was faxed to the Valdosta Daily Times and posted on the front door of City Hall. She also congratulated Marvalene Swopes for being chosen employee of the quarter.

MAYOR

Mayor Crowe also mentioned the Mayor's Day Motorcade in Thomasville.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion for Council to enter into an executive session. **Council Nelson made a motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Council Bullard. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted yes. Councils Ogundu and Benjamin voted no. Mayor Crowe broke the tie, voting yes. Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

The Council Meeting re-opened after the executive session at 9:08 P.M.

Mayor Crowe requested the Council to approve for him to set up a meeting with Lowndes County Elected Officials to discuss discharging excess sewer to the County. The Mayor would notify all Council members of the date and time of the meeting. He called for a motion to move forward with the meeting with County officials. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve allowing the Mayor to set up a meeting the Lowndes County officials to discuss discharging excess sewer to the County, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Council Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

The Council Meeting ended at 9:10 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Mayor

Janice Logue
City Manager/City Clerk

Marilyn Brady
Recorder