

Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for the month of October 2008

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 6, 2008
6:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work Session OCTOBER 6, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

Director Chris Stevens was absent at this meeting.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

July 11-13, 2008 Council Retreat

August 25, 2008 Budget Workshop II

September 2, 2008 Work Session, Budget Workshop III

September 4, 2008 Council Meeting

September 10, 2008 Budget Workshop IV

Councilman Clendenin stated there was a correction to be made to the July 11-13 Council Retreat minutes. City Manager Sumner stated the requested changes would be made.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned with the bill from the August Council meeting being \$407 dollars from the City Attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned if it was necessary to have the City Attorney at the October Council meeting if there were no issues that required the City Attorney to attend the meeting. City Manager Sumner responded the City Attorney was paid by the hour from the City, and he wasn't aware of any contract with the City Attorney. Sumner stated he would look into this issue and update Mayor and Council at a later time.

DISCUSSIONS:

Cement Urns (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned on the update of the prices for the urns. Director Warren stated the urns that the City currently were using, were purchased in Dasher. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she would like a count of how many urns needed to be purchased for the City. City Manager Sumner stated he would get a count of how many urns the City currently had, and he and Director Warren would go to Dasher and check on the urns. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned with the issue of the globes on the streetlights on Main Street that needed to be replaced. City Manager Sumner responded he would like the globes to be replaced with glass globes that would last longer, if the budget permitted.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

Fines and Forfeitures-Proposed Increase (Chief Davis)

Chief Davis stated to Mayor and Council that there had been an increase of 10% added to the state add-ons that are paid on a monthly basis by the Police Department. Chief Davis stated that if the Police Department was going to maintain the amount of money that the City received, there would have to be an increase of 10% on the fines and forfeitures. City Manager Sumner stated that the fines and forfeitures were a critical component of the budget.

Aquionics Contract Renewal (Director Warren)

Director Warren stated to Mayor and Council that it was time to renew the contract for the UV light through Aquionics. Mayor Bullard stated to Director Warren that he was concerned on how the water meters determined how much water was used on irrigation and how much was used for the household if the residents didn't have a separate meter for irrigation. Director Warren responded that if the residents didn't have a separate irrigation meter it all was read through one meter. Warren stated that residents with a separate irrigation meter, were only being charged for water through that particular meter and the water and sewer charge for the household would come through the household meter.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Red Ribbon Week (Mayor Bullard)

Mayor Bullard stated he had a proclamation for Red Ribbon Week that would be read on Thursday night at the Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and legal issues. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to come out of executive session and enter back into the regular meeting. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion to exit executive session and enter back into the regular meeting and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to**

sign the affidavit certifying that the only thing discussed in executive session was property acquisition and legal issues, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

**CITY OF HAHIRA
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2008
7:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council Meeting October 9, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Terry Benjamin, Bruce Cain, Ralph Clendenin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

Director Chris Stevens was absent at this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: Councilman Terry Benjamin

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

July 11-13, 2008 Council Retreat

August 25, 2008 Budget Workshop II

September 2, 2008 Work Session, Budget Workshop III

September 4, 2008 Council Meeting

September 10, 2008 Budget Workshop IV

Councilman Clendenin stated there was a correction to be made to the July 11-13 Council Retreat minutes concerning the distribution of the Splost money. City Manager Sumner stated the requested changes would be made.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections to the July 11-13 Retreat minutes, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills.

City Manager Sumner presented to Mayor and Council a copy of the City Attorney bill in question at the Work Session. Sumner stated the bill in question had some specific projects that were included in the bill, as well as, traveling to and from the Council meetings, this was the reason this bill was more expensive than bills in the past. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned with the issue of the Attorney attending meetings that had no legal issues to be discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that more time should be spent at the Work Session meetings and less time at the Council meetings to save attorney fees. City Manager Sumner agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Adams on this issue. Councilman Cain stated he was concerned with the City Ordinance having the City Attorney attend the Council meetings. City Manager Sumner responded he would check the Ordinance, but he was almost sure that it did not require the Attorney to attend.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to pay the bills. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Norman Bennett residing at 7421 Hall Webb Road Hahira 31632. Mr. Bennett addressed Mayor and Council on the issue that he was running for Chairman of County Commission and he stated that if elected, he would work with the surrounding small cities, as he had in the past.

DISCUSSIONS:

REMOVED

Tap Fees (City Manager)

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council per their discussion on Monday night at the Work Session concerning tap fees, Council discussed a temporary reduction on tap fees. Sumner stated that Council would like to set the tap fees for water/sewer from the current rates to a new set of fees that included: **¾" water tap \$1500, 1" water tap \$3000, 1"1/2 water tap \$3500, 2" water tap \$4000, 4" water tap \$6000, 6" water tap \$10,500, 4" sewer tap \$1500, 6" sewer tap \$4000, 8" sewer tap \$5500.** City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that these prices included everything required for water and sewer installation. Sumner stated the new set of fees would be effective from 10/9/2008

through 12/31/2008. City Manager Sumner stated the tap fees would revert back to \$2500 for water and \$2500 for sewer on January 1, 2009 for residential taps. Mayor Bullard stated that he had discussed this issue with the builders and they were pleased with this agreement. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if this was purchasing one tap at a time or multiple taps. City Manager Sumner responded there was no condition on how many taps the builders could purchase at once. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned if this was going to benefit the City of Hahira. Sumner responded this would provide economic stimulus for the builders, as well as the City. City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council a certified letter would be sent to all builders explaining the new tap fees that are effective from October 9, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Cain made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

Fines and Forfeitures- Proposed Increase (Chief Davis)

Police Chief Davis stated to Mayor and Council the State Government was adding an additional 10% to cash bond payments, as well as, other fines that were to be increased by the State Government. Chief Davis stated for the City to be able to keep receiving the same amount of fines and forfeitures it had received in the past, the increase was necessary. Davis stated that if the City did not increase the fines by the 10%, the amount the City had been receiving would decrease. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if all the fines would increase by the 10%. Chief Davis responded that not all the fines would be affected by the increase. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if the 10% was the money that the City paid to the State or was it 10% of the base fine. Chief Davis responded the 10% increase was from the base fine.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

Acquionics Contract Renewal (Director Warren)

Director Warren stated to Mayor and Council this contract was for Aquionics to perform maintenance on the UV light, to check for defects and to make sure it was working properly.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Bullard read the proclamation concerning Red Ribbon Week that will be observed in October of 2008. Sheila Warren with the Drug Coalition Group thanked the Mayor and Council for continuing to support Red Ribbon Week. Mrs. Warren had three of the Teen Explosion Members attend the Council meeting who included: Zachary Garcia, the President of the Teen Explosion Club, Patia James, and Janell Pittman. Mr. Garcia stated to Mayor and Council that he appreciated any support from the City of Hahira for Red Ribbon Week, and requested approval to decorate three parks in Hahira for Red Ribbon Week. Mayor Bullard gave his approval to decorate the parks and thanked the three members for attending the Council meeting.

REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Adams thanked Mr. Thomas Ieracitano and Mr. Maurice Warren who are employed with Valdosta Toyota for the cars that were driven in the Honeybee Parade by the Council Members. Mayor Pro Tem Adams also thanked the Beautification Committee for the fall decorations around the City and especially Mayor Bullard for getting the hay for the decorations.

Councilman Benjamin thanked Teen Explosion for their work in the Community, Benjamin also thanked all the departments for a good job done during the Honeybee Festival.

Councilman Cain thanked the Mayor for all the hard work he does for the City, Cain thanked the Teen Explosion Group for supporting the Red Ribbon Week and also all the departments for a job well done during the Honeybee Festival.

Councilman Clendenin thanked all the departments for a great job during the Honeybee Festival, Clendenin thanked the Teen Explosion members for their hard work done in the community.

City Manager Sumner thanked all the departments for a tremendous job done during the Honeybee Festival, Sumner also reminded everyone about Third Thursday and the Fall Festival coming up, and thanked Emily Grace Newkirk for working hard on these upcoming events.

Mayor Bullard thanked all City Employees for working hard, not just during the Honeybee Festival but throughout the year, Mayor Bullard thanked all the Council members for doing a great job for the City and also thanked Sheila Warren for continuing to work for our youth throughout the City.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

BUDGET WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 22, 2008 6:00 P.M. HAHIRA CITY HALL

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Councilman Terry Benjamin, Councilman Bruce Cain, Councilman Ralph Clendenin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren.

ABSENT: City Clerk Belinda Chappell

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

Mayor Bullard stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the FY2009 budget.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the budget was required to be preliminarily approved by September 30, 2008 per the code. Sumner stated there would be a formal budget adoption procedure that would take place the following month. Sumner stated the adopting of the budget was a two-step process and the preliminary approval of the budget was the first step of the process. Sumner stated all the modifications that the Mayor and Council requested in the last budget meeting were made to the general fund as well as the proprietary fund. Sumner stated a significant issue that needed to be pointed out was the addition of \$90,000 dollars in the revenue for SPLOST, which is the anticipation of payment for two new police patrol vehicles for Interstate 75 traffic enforcement unit. Sumner also stated the LOST anticipated revenue had been reduced slightly to about \$300,000 dollars. Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the other significant change made was the unappropriated surplus line item had been zeroed out, the results of these changes will balance the budget for FY2009. Councilman Clendenin stated there were some major cuts that needed to be made to the FY2009 budget. Mayor Pro Tem Adams agreed and stated some of the items that needed to be cut were the City cell phones, excluding the department heads and public safety cell phones, Adams suggested cutting Council cell phones, as well as, other cell phones throughout the departments, cutting travel for Council and other departments, unless it was required for certification. Council discussed cutting part of the Better Home Town budget in the supply/promotional line item to help with balancing the budget for FY2009. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she would like to keep the BHT if possible, because the City needs this department for the businesses to continue growing. Mayor Bullard proposed cutting the selective cell phones, the discussed travel, and the continuing education out of the budget for FY2009. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated the overtime that was being worked needed to be stopped unless it was necessary in an emergency situation. City Manager Sumner stated he had spoken to all the department heads and suspended all overtime until further notice. City Manager Sumner stated a list would be presented to Council showing what cell phones would be discontinued from each department. Sumner stated the new modifications for the FY2009 budget would be ready for Council by September 29, and Council could decide at that meeting on adopting the preliminary budget if Council agreed.

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There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8.00 P.M.

Wayne Bullard, Mayor

City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

BUDGET WORK SESSION VI SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 6:00 P.M. HAHIRA CITY HALL

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Councilman Terry Benjamin, Councilman Bruce Cain, Councilman Ralph Clendenin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, Director Chris Stevens, City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

Mayor Bullard stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the FY2009 budget.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that the budget required preliminary approval by September 30, 2008 per the code. Sumner stated there would be a formal budget adoption procedure that would take place the following month. Sumner stated the adopting of the budget was a two-step process and the preliminary approval of the budget was the first step of the process. Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the budget for FY2009 was balanced due to the modifications from the last budget meeting on September 22, 2008. Sumner stated this budget included the patrolling of the Interstate. Sumner stated the expenditure of this item is projected to pay for itself. Sumner stated to Mayor and Council by approving the budget at this meeting, it doesn't constitute an endorsement, due to this being the preliminary adoption of the budget. Sumner stated in that Council would soon have the meeting to adopt the formal budget and at that time Council could approve or disapprove of the patrolling of the Interstate. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned on if any savings would have to be used to balance the FY2009 budget. City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the intake for LOST was up for the month of August by about \$5000 dollars from \$25,000 to \$30,000 dollars. Sumner stated he didn't anticipate using any of the savings for FY2009. Sumner stated the cuts that were made in the last budget meeting included the continuing education for employees, travel from legislative, executive, administration, excluding City Clerk travel that was required for certification, all travel from streets, as well as other departments. Sumner stated the travel expenditure was left in the budget for Public Safety, as well as the travel in the Proprietary Fund for Director Warren and Director Stevens for certification reasons. Sumner stated an additional cut that Council discussed was regarding the cell phones, excluding the Public Safety departments. Sumner presented a list of the cell phones that could be cut, and Council reviewed the list. Sumner stated to Council to please let him know if there were any elements of the preliminary budget they would like to modify, delete or change. Mayor and Council agreed on the preliminary FY2009 budget.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the preliminary budget, with the discussed cuts in travel, cell phones, and the continuing education program. Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30P.M.

_____ **Wayne Bullard, Mayor**

Belinda Chappell, City Clerk

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