**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**MARCH 31, 2014**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work session March 31, 2014 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Terry Benjamin , Kenneth Davis and Mason Barfield, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Public Works Director Donnie Warren, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINTUES:**

1. **MARCH 3, 2014 WORK SESSION**
2. **MARCH 6, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Cain asked if anyone had any corrections to the meeting minutes. None noted.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

Mayor Cain asked if anyone had any questions regarding the bills. None noted.

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **CLOSURE OF PLATTED STREET OFF BARFIELD STREET “PROGRESS STREET” (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that he had notified property owners and meet with them regarding closure of the platted street off of Barfield Street. He stated that it has a security light between the two houses and that the property maps show the property lines would allow for access to the property off of Jacqueline Street. Councilmember Barfield said that he went to see Ms. Merwin (property owner) and she said that the closing of the road would change the value of the property; it would change the frontage of the lot. He said in lieu of what it would do to the property he would like to postpone this and let them take time to look at options for the property. City Manager Sumner said that there is no law that requires them to have all paved roads in the City. Councilman Barfield said that if staff had no concerns he would like to propose that they postpone this until April 2015. City Manager Sumner said that the security light would cost the City $10.00 per month and that the City would need to pay for it. He said that Ms. Cain is paying $15.00 per month now. Councilmember Clendenin said that he thought we should pay for the light because it is on public property and it would make that area dark if we did not have the light.

1. **MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART (WARREN SCOBY)**

Earl Hendricks of 35 Norman Drive said that he was here to speak on behalf of Mr. Scoby because he is out of the country. He said that Mr. Scoby had sent a letter to the Mayor explaining the Military Order of Purple Heart and that he is a member of Chapter 1000. City Manager Sumner then read the letter that was sent to the Mayor. It said that there are hundreds of designated Purple Heart Cities that support the military order of purple hearts. He said that there would be a proclamation required with a signing and presentation and then a sign would be placed at City entrance that designates it to be a Purple Heart City. This would honor those who served. Mayor Cain said that he would like to have reading and presentation with American Legion group on Memorial Day. MR. Hendricks said that the goal is to have 100 cities. Councilmember Clendenin said that hewould like to have it on Agenda to purchase the signs.

1. **REQUEST TO RENT OLD EMS/FIRE BUILDING (EDWARD JACKSON)**

Edward Jackson of 109 W Park said that he wants to rent the old EMS Building. He said the building is visible, reasonable and very good location for car wash services. He said that his parents and grandparents were all raised here and that he would like to make a life here with this business. He said that people can get their car washed and walk around town while it is being done. City Manager Sumner said that the building is being used for storage not ready for Commercial use but that he did not want to prevent him from coming forward and discussing with Mayor and Council. Councilmember Clendenin said the building is not in condition for commercial use and that it would have to be brought up to code before we can rent it out. Councilmember Barfield said that it would have to be repaired and then start the rental process. IT would be expensive to re wire and roof the building to bring it up to code per Councilmember Clendenin. City Manger Sumner said that we would discuss different properties at the retreat and look at long term plans.

1. **REQUEST TO CUT DOWN MAIN STREET MAGNOLIA (SHARON DARBY/JANIE WEST)**

Sharon Darby of the Tin Bucket said that she is here to request that we cut down the tree in front of the Tin Bucket. She said that it blocks the front of her building and the name on the awning. Councilmember Clendenin said that if we cut down the trees we will not have any trees in the downtown area and that if we are cutting down the Magnolias then we need to plant others in their place.

1. **WEB SITE FIRM RECOMMENDATION (TIM DREXLER)**

**Tim** Drexler a professional at Wiregrass is here to discuss the bids received regarding the City Web Site. He said that he reviewed the proposals received by the City and would like to give his recommendation.

The first proposal was from Infinite and said he said that the program that they use is ancient and that it is hard to update and that he does not recommend it. The second proposal was from Artick and that they use word press and that you have to upload the web pages and that the issue with the company is that it is a foreign firm and that it is all done from overseas and that is a red flag to him because of security. The third company is Easy site and that he could find nothing wrong with this company. He said that they are using current technology and that it is at the low price. He suggested that they go over the contract line for line and be sure that you will own the code. Mr. Drexler said that he recommends them with caution because the price is so low. HE said that Windstream host sites now; they have a website (GO DADDY) and that some of the Cities use them. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin asked if he had anyone in mind. He said that he could recommend someone but that he has not contacted them yet. He said that he thought the lowest bid for the web site would be around $20,000. Councilmember Clendenin asked if Mr. Drexler would be available for questions and advise when we get to the contract stage. City Manager Sumner said that he would like for them to select a group and then he could bring the contract back to them for review and vote. He said that we would need to agree on a firm and then lock in price to get what we wanted. He then thanked Mr. Drexler.

1. **PROPOSAL FOR LONG TERM WATERSHED MONITORING (TTL-EDDIE ZEDAKER)**

Eddie Zedaker of TTL out of Albany, Georgia is here to speak to us on the Long term watershed monitoring. He stated that we have to have a long term monitoring and assessment plan for EPD. He said that his company does chemical and biological analysis for wet and dry events and that they sample annually. He said that they do study of bugs and fish and put out data every two years. City Manager Sumner said that this was all started back in 2008 by the EPD and that it was put out that we have to monitor storm water. He said that TTL preformed the previous testing and that the contract comes up for renewal every two years and the cost is about $38,000 for a two year contract. He said that the money comes from the proprietary fund and that it comes out to about $2.00 per month per customer. He said that this is something put on us from EPD and is required. In the past we have investigated several vendors and TTL was recommended to us by Stevenson & Palmer.

1. **NPDES PHASE II MS4 POSSIBLE DESIGNATION (CITY MANGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that he had a summary of the MSR designation in the form of a letter in packets. He said it is basically about the watershed; the census designation in 2000 said that we are metropolitan area and that it would review after the 2010 census. Because we are in urban area and potential for impact that the City Engineer reviewed it and said that we need to attend the information session. HE said that additional sampling will not be required because of our 2700 population; under 10,000 can apply for a waiver. He said that the Mayor had plans to attend the April 9th meeting and see what we can do to get out from under it. City Manager Sumner said that he was told we will have to attend and they will tell us why they want us to do it and we can tell them why we do not want to do it.

1. **PROPOSALS FOR BOND REFINANCE (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that an RFP was sent out to 9 firms. HE said that USDA is the current holder of the revenue bonds and proposals were sent out to refinance. He said that we have two responses; Merchant Capital Bank and Ameris Bank. He said that the proposals are for review and we can interview during the May Work session or get the information needed from the RFP. He then asked if anyone had any questions. None noted.

1. **EAST STANFILL STREET REPAVING –SPLOST VI (MAYOR CAIN)**

**The Mayor said that we are working on contract now but waiting on prices. He said that we should have the prices on Thursday night and will advertise for bids this month. The LMIG grant will cover $27,000 and the City will match the funds with SPLOST VI monies.**

1. **BURN PERMITS (COUNCILMAN CLENDNIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that Saturday a week ago he had complaints regarding the smoke from Grace Street and people calling about burn piles on the North side of town. He said the ordinance reads the pile cannot be over 4 foot tall and that what was burnt was taller than that. He then said you can get a burn permit but you have to go by the City ordinances and said that he had a lot of unhappy people in District 2,3 and 4. He said that we need to be more vigilant with the ordinances.

1. **COURTHOUSE DOORS/TRIM (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN**

Councilmember Clendenin said that we need to replace or reset the doors at Courthouse because they look terrible. The Mayor said that he had it repaired already. Councilmember Clendenin said that the trim on the side needs to be replaced and painted and that squirrel screens need to be put up. The Mayor said that he would like to see bids at the May Work session.

1. **TREE REMOVAL-S NELSON/E MAIN & E STANFILL/N CHURCH (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that we would wait until the retreat to discuss this. The Mayor said that he has had many complaints regarding the trees in front of the library; that they are bad for the buses and the all the cars. Councilmember Davis said that it is a hazard pulling out and tougher for the buses. He said that one police officer cannot watch all the cars, buses and 150 kids. He said that he comes through their everyday and that we have several fender benders there and that the beauty of the trees is not worth the safety of our children.

1. **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT UPDATE (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

City Manager Sumner read the report of surplus for the record. He said that several of the items have already been sold. Councilmember Clendenin thanked Chief Davis and said good job.

1. **REMOVAL OF BLOCK WALL IN CITY PARKING LOT (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that he would like to remove the concrete wall at the back parking lot at City Hall. HE said that he would like to repave the parking lot and give more space for the new business there. HE said that Altman and Barrett said that they would give us designs and cost estimate and volunteer their time. The Mayor said that he to would like to remove the wall and replace the concrete and striping. Councilmember Clendenin said that he would also live to move that container, tear down the fence and rebuild it; make it smaller. City Manager Sumner said that this is eligible SPLOST VII fun and that the funds are starting to accumulate now. HE said that he could get a cost estimate for the retreat.

1. **PIPING OF DITCH ON N. NELSON –UPDATE (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that we voted three months ago to put new pipe and fix the ditches at the daycare and we have not done it yet. Public Works Director Warren said that the pipes have been purchased but that they cannot fix with water running through it due to all the rain. Councilmember Clendenin also said that the Community Center needs painting and wood **replaced and he would like to see estimates to fix that also.**

1. **REORT ON INTERSTATE PATROL INCOME FOR FY 13 (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that people ask him all the time about the bottom line for the Interstate Patrol. HE asked what was realized; is this public service paying for itself. Does it cost the citizens money to patrol the interstate? Chief Davis said the fines written with interstate are $424,875 and before the interstate team it was $161,000 and that it cost around $850,000 for the police department. The Mayor said that in his opinon it is no because even if every ticket is broken down that these officers are used in the City also; the interstate team can work in town if needed. Councilmember Davis other than the financial cost or the bottom line we should all look at the crime fighting and prevention of crime has increased since the ICE team has been active. He said that it was all reactive before and now it is proactive since December 2012.

1. **NATURAL GAS LINE MARKING-UPDATE (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that a lot of people want to know about what is going on with the Natural Gas Line. He said that no notices have been put out; and we need to get the information out to the residents. City Manager Sumner said that the Natural Gas Company will handle that information and that he can find out if they have sent anything out.

1. **REPAINT FIRE CHIEF VEHICLE RED (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

**Councilman Clendenin said that the white Fire Department truck is not noticeable. Fire Chief Bennett said that it would cost $2,500 to $3,200 to pain the truck red and that he thought the red lettering would be enough. He said if you look at the other vehicles used in the area that they are white with red lettering. Councilmember Clendenin said that he would like to withdraw the request to paint the vehicle red.**

1. **CHAIRS FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)**

Councilmember Clendenin said that he would like for the City to purchase new chairs for the Courtroom. Councilmember Barfield said that he has a good source for chairs and that he will get the information for them and bring it to them for ideas. City Manager Sumner said that this would be a SPLOST VI expense.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **HA-2014-01 REZONING REQUEST BY MELISA BOWMAN & LAURENCE NELSON (MATT MARTIN P & Z ADMIN)**
2. **HA-2014-02 ANNEXATION REQUST BY MELIS BOWMAN 7 LAURENCE NELSON (MATT MARTIN P & Z ADMIN)**

Matt Martin Planning and Zoning Administrator said that he is here to discuss the request for rezoning and annexation of property. He said that it can be discussed at the same time but will need to be voted on separtely. The first request (HA-2014-01) is to rezone 0.89 acres from E-A to R-10. at Water’s Edge Subdivision on Hwy 122. The second request (HA-2014-02) is to annex this property. Matt Martin stated that the Planning Commission recommended the zoning be changed to R-15 zoning and recommends approval. Councilmember Clendenin asked what the cost would be to run the water/sewer to that property. Public Works Director Warren said that he would have to look at the lot to see what would be required to continue the water and sewer to that property. Matt Martin said that the applicants would bear the cost and it would be in certain time frame. Matt Martin said that he could convey this to property owners and that he would need a letter from this stating they would pay and connect by deadline. Public Works Director Warren said that he would see what is needed to extend the water/sewer to that lot.

**DEPARTMENT REQUEST:**

1. **SEALED BID OPENING FOR COMPUTER PURCHASE –SPLOST VI (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that a few months ago that information was provided for sealed bids to purchase computers. He then said that we received three bids; Ricoh, Dell and Tigerdirect. He said that this would be a SPLOST VI expense and that the last ones purchased were purchased 5 years ago. He said that staff recommends Tigerdirect after opening the bids**.**

1. **UTILITY BILLING LASER PRINTER –SPLOST VI (CITY CLERK)**

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn stated she would like to purchase a new laser printer for the printing of the water bills. The current printer is old and has the side holes to pull and it is worn out. She stated that the quotes are in the packet from Ricoh, Colson Business and Lee Office Equipment. It was discussed to purchase a color printer and then decided that one would not be needed upstairs for color. City Manager Sumner asked that she get quotes for black and white laser printer only.

1. **PUMPER/LADDER TRUCK BID RECOMMENDATION –SPLOST VI/VII (CHIEF BENNETT)**

Chief Bennett stated that a request for RFP went out and quotes received on March 11, 2014 and that they are all in the packets for review. He said that if we go with the Pumper truck that the low bid would be best. If we go with the Ladder truck that he would recommend the high bid because it is a better truck. He said that from his perspective that if we spend this amount of money on a ladder truck that we want the better option but that we can use either one. He said that the ladder truck will increase water capacity and the ladder truck would double the ISO. City Manger Sumner said that Mayor and Council requested a finance plan and it is included in the packet. He said that he confirmed with Accountant and Attorney that the annual payments can come from SPLOST VI & SPLOST VII funds. He said that if we finance that it will be $57,000 to $58,000 per year for 15 years. Fire Chief Bennett recommended the purchase of a ladder truck.

1. **VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT-FIRE/PUBLIC WORKS (CHIEF BENNETT)**

Chief Bennett said that he had originally wanted to surplus the Durango but that he would like to surplus the Suburban at Public works and replace it with the Durango. He said that would leave a Crown Vic, Dodge Truck, blue van and Suburban for surplus.

1. **INTOXILIZER 9000 GRAN/PURCHASE (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis said that we have a highway safety grant to help purchase the Intoxilizer 9000. He said that in January 2015 the current intoxilizer will no longer be serviceable. He said that this is something that would be purchased by the City and that it would be reimbursed in full to the City.

1. **SUMMER CONFERENCE (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis would like to attend summer conference. He stated that he could get 20 hours of Executive service at the training. The Conference is held in Savannah and it is a budgeted item.

**SET APRIL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

-Request to Cut Down main Street Magnolia

-East Stanfill Street Repaving

-Natural Gas Line Marking-Update

-Chairs for Council Chambers

**SET APRIL CONSENT AGENDA:**

-Military Order of Purple Heart

-Proposal for Long-term Watershed monitoring from TTL

-Tree Removal-S. Nelson/E. Main

-Computer Purchase

-Ladder Truck Purchase

-Vehicle Surplus

-Intoxilizer 9000 Grant/Purchase

-Police Chief’s Summer Conference

**-**Pay or Street Light on Progress Street

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:40 P.M.**

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**Mayor Bruce Cain**

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**City Clerk Lisa Mashburn**

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