

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 7, 2014

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting August 7, 2014 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Mason Barfield, Kenneth Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, PWD Donnie Warren, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Police Chief Terry Davis and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Mike Wells

REVIEW/CORREXTION OF MINUTES:

- A. JULY 7, 2014 WORK SESSION**
- B. JULY 10, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. All the corrections via Mayor were made to minutes. Councilmember Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING; SET MILLAGE-CITY MANAGER

City Manager Sumner said that this a Public Hearing for the millage rate. He stated that others are raising the rate but the City of Hahira will not increase the rates. He said that due to the hard work of the department heads he sees no need to increase the rate from 4.75%. The millage rate was advertised in the Valdosta Daily Times on July 24th and is also available at City Hall for review. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the millage rate staying the same at 4.75%. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the millage rate at 4.75%. None noted. **A motion was made by Councilmember Davis to accept the millage rate at 4.75% as proposed which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Barry Robinson developer for the proposal of the Huddle House in Hahira said that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the community regarding the proposed Huddle House. He thanked Mayor and Council for their service. He said considering the cost of the water to development he said that it is for his benefit and he should have to pay for it. He said that together we will be making an investment into the community and feels that it is appropriate to use tax payer's funds. He said the City would get \$4,000 for tap fee, \$4,000 per year for property tax and approximately \$25,500 to local option sales tax back. He said the City would have increased traffic and economic activity from I-75. HE said this project is about that and more and that it is also about being a part of the community. HE said the Huddle House brand would create jobs for up to 30 people and that he would be glad to answer any questions during the meeting or after meeting.

Pastor Mike Wells of 111 S Church Street the pastor at Northbridge Church said that there is a group getting together to thank the City businesses. He said that they are always ask to give a lot but that this group would like to give back. The meeting will be on August 28th at the Community Center to thank the local businesses and use God to grow our City; it is Christian based. He said that we have many problems with City and thinks that finding God will bring it all together. He said it will be a free meal and that they will invite leaders of the City to thank you. He asked if the City could waive the fee for the use of the Community Center.

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S Washington said that he would like to thank the Mayor, Councilmembers and City Manager for all they do. Thank you to Lt. Shannon Kingston for announcing the first annual night out (Back to School Bash). He said that he is grateful that we can put this on for the Children and families in our community. Thank you to the Police department.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

DISCUSSIONS:

A. PARKING BEHIND CITY HALL (SHOCK & SMITH)

Ms. Kimberly Shock of Rabbit Moon Yarn on Main Street said that she was here to speak to you about the two parking spaces behind the businesses. She said that for the last 4 years you could park there. She said that those two spaces make a difference and said that people will keep right on going if no parking spaces. She said she would like to have the spaces reserved for two businesses only. She said that there is 10 feet of space that could be marked and that it was considered a street at one time.

Mr. Smith of Serendipity on Main Street said that he would like to see these spaces approved so that they will not have to take up store fronts. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Councilmember Barfield asked if he could get the history on this. Chief Davis said that at one time you could drive through the alleyway, and it was dedicated as a walk way for years with no parking. He said that when we stripped downtown a few months ago that it was the opinion of the Mayor that if there was a fire that there would be no time to move the cars parked there and that the fire department would damage the cars, this would be a liability to

the City. Councilmember Davis then said they were made no parking at this time? Chief Davis said the paint had faded and the previous administration allowed parking in the spaces and that we cannot give reserved parking spaces. Faye Smith of Serendipity on Main Street said she was born in Hahira and came home to start her business. She said that the City of Hahira has made it very bad on them and that she does not see why we cannot park there. The Mayor said that he discussed it with the business owners and said that they could pull up to back doors to unload and then they would need to move their cars.

Councilmember Barfield said that there are a lot of maybes and perceptions of what can or can't happen in this space legally. He said that he would like to take the time and view it and see what legally we can do. Is it a fire code or a parking code and he would like to know if we can't do it that it is a code or law?

City Manager Sumner said that this item was received after the deadline for previous month agenda and that it why it was not on last month agenda.

Councilmember Barfield said that he thought it was in the best interest of safety and the merchants to table this item. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to table this item which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin voted to table the item.**

C. EAST STANFILL RESURFACING-SPLOST VI/LMIG (MAYOR CAIN)

The Mayor said that as discussed on Monday night that we had three bids, with H & H Paving of Quitman being the low bid. Councilmember Clendenin said that we usually use Scruggs and asked if Scruggs did good job. City Manager Sumner said that he would like to caution the Council and said that you would need to have a very good reason not to take the low bid contractor. He said the reference were good and that DOT gave their recommendation and that the low bidder will purchase the asphalt from Scruggs Company. **Councilmember Barfield made a motion to accept the bid from H & H Paving of Quitman which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

D. WEAPONS SCREENING AT WORK SESSIONS/COUNCIL MEETINGS (MAYOR CAIN)

The Mayor said that as discussed on Monday night that he felt it would be best to use the screening device in the courtroom and have an officer present at all meetings. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. Chief Davis asked for more direction on the level of screening. He then said it was decided that they would screen at the door and then after 7:30 p.m. step outside to screen with the wand. He said that if females bring in their pocketbooks that they are subject for search. Chief Davis said that he would ask that they vote to affirm the wishes of council via policy. **Councilmember Davis made a motion to create a policy for weapons at the Courthouse what was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield said that he would like a policy with less intrusion as possible but to best fit both interested parties. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin opposed the motion. The motion was carried 3-1.**

DEPARTMENT REQUEST:

A. HUDDLE HOUSE (PWD WARREN)

The quotes for the water/sewer lines have been emailed to Mayor, Council and Mr. Robinson. The cost of the 2 inch line is \$4,000.00, 6 inch sewer line is \$4,000.00 and the irrigation is \$6,000. The total cost to the City for this is \$6,452.00. This is a SPLOST VI expense.

Councilmember Barfield made a motion to proceed with water/sewer services to the Huddle House in the amount of \$15,052.00 that was stated in the email which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin opposed the motion. The motion was carried 3-1.

B. FY 14-15 COLA (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said that a cost of living raise is given every year and that we have sufficient funds to cover the COLA. He said that the salaries for the Proprietary fund and the General fund are well below the market value. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to approve the 3% COLA which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin opposed the motion. The motion was carried 3-1.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. REQUEST FOR TAPS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS**
- B. FY15 PAVING PRIORITY LIST**
- C. BOND REFINANCE RESOLUTION**
- D. POLICE UNIFORMS-SPLOST VI**
- E. 2015 INCODE CONFERENCE-ATLANTA**

Councilmember Barfield made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

FLAG PRESENTATION –WOODMEN OF THE WORLD (MAYOR CAIN)

Dee Bondurant of the Woodmen of the World presented the Mayor with Flag for the city.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PROCLAMATION (MAYOR CAIN)

Mayor Cain read the proclamation for the 2014 National Night Out (Back to School Bash)

REPORTS:

Councilmember Clendenin thanked everyone for coming out and said that he was happy to see the new faces. He said that the bi-weekly reports had not been received for several months and that he wants to be sure that the Council is informed with what is going on in the City.

Councilmember Davis thanked everyone for coming out and said that he appreciated the participation and comments. He asked that they all come out tomorrow night for the National Night Out.

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that it was good to be back and thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers. He thanked all the visitors and all the calls. He said that we have great department

heads and that they are what makes us the City that we are. He said that he appreciated the City Manager, City Clerk and the Finance Clerk and said that everyone deserves the 3% increase. He said that he is looking forward to the retreat and said that not raising the millage is a testament to each department. He said that he is not sure how long we can keep it down and that he is glad to be back.

Councilmember Barfield said that he would like to ditto everything that was said. He said that he would like for us to review all the flags in the City and replace the tattered ones. He said that we also need a current Georgia flag. He said that he would like to replace 3 or 4 flags and make sure that they have justified lighting.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. He thanked the staff for giving 115% and said that they are a great team. He asked everyone to come out on Friday night and enjoy the events downtown. He said that at the next work session we will have tidbits of the new website and ask that anyone come by City hall if they have any questions.

The Mayor thanked all for coming out and thank you to the department heads (PW, Fire, and PD). He congratulated Chief Bennett on being GMAIDE group president. He said that it is FEMA, GEMA and Fire Chief Association combined. He said that it is the first time a fire chief outside the Atlanta Metro Area has been appointed to the position and that it is not a paid position. He said that he wanted to thank Chief Bennett, Thompson, Ply for their professionalism when flying back on July 30th to Atlanta. He said that a man on the plane had medical problems and our firefighters stayed with him and volunteered services to keep the man stable until the plane could get to Atlanta. He said that it was an honor to have them and that they showed professionalism and that the airport staff thanked them when they arrived at the Atlanta Airport.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURN.

Mayor Bruce Cain

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn