

**CITY OF HAHIRA**  
**JUNE 1, 2023**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting on June 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Kenneth Davis, Mason Barfield and Louise White. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Assistant Fire Chief David Thompson, Lt Todd Pitchford and PWD Willie Jones. Mayor Pro Tem Tony Rosatti, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and MSD Jennifer Price were not present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Josh Owens

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A. MAY 2, 2023 WORK SESSION**

**B. MAY 4, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which**

**was seconded by Councilmember White. Councilmember White, Councilman Barfield and Councilman Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Ted Raker of 724 Edgewater Place stated that at work session salary increases were discussed. I think you are moving in the right direction. IF you look at the DCA website we are still behind with the increases according to the information they have for Georgia. We need to factor in inflation, budget size and increase in population. We have 19 million pending grants currently; we need to look at how well the City is run. We still have work to do to bring salaries to a good point. Thank you.

Estell Powell of 215 Robin Place and The Slice Pizza said that Elise Pierce has some good information to present tonight regarding the drink referendum. I think we should have Sunday pour on the November ballot and let the people decide. I think it would bring value to what we can do in our businesses.

When you look at projection and cash flow alcohol is a factor. I think if we can convince our citizens that businesses can grow \$35,000-\$60,000 per year. People can go to Valdosta now and this would help keep them in Hahira, and let the money stay in the community. I will not do Sunday sales but I want to voice my support for the other businesses that want to.

Larry Mortes of Village Metal Works at 7470 Sonny Rogers Memorial Drive said he is here because he made the Honeybee and 11 years ago, he made a new one. Now it has disappeared

from the entrance of the Square and I see no reason that it was taken out. You are blind if you can't see the waterfall. I think it is important to put the bee back where it was. I will repaint and fix it for you. The people behind me are upset. The Mayor explained that it was not in the plans for the square and it was moved to another entrance. City Manager Sumner stated it was moved to put the Dr Parrott Memorial fountain in that was donated by the family 24-36 months ago. Tim Coombs suggested it be put at the Courthouse at the committee meeting where the Veterans monument used to be. Councilman Barfield stated if we put in on Main Street it stands alone, the art is beautiful and it will not compete with anything around it.

Tim Coombs of 8880 Gordon Road stated I may not have had support of the full Honeybee Committee. I think in front of the Courthouse would be a prominent place to display it. I think Council made a good decision. There is no need for a platform with kids crawling all over it. If you want to create a small honeybee for individuals to put in the yard, I think that would be a good thing.

#### **REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

### **A. REQUEST TO CONSIDER ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK REFERENDUM (ELISE PIERCE)**

Elise Pierce owner of the Looking Glass and future home of the The Buzz said thank you for letting me speak tonight about a alcohol referendum. I got my approval for a new business in March 2023, Alcohol license approval May 2023 and plan to open in October 2023. It will be a place that will serve 50% food and full spirits. I am here asking for alcohol referendum for Sunday pour of spirits. I spoke with Deb Cox at the Lowndes County voting office and if approved by this body then it could be on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. Why a referendum, economic development, tourism and hospitality, social and cultural activities and tax revenue. We need to keep the money in Hahira not other cities. I did a small community survey and it was at the top of the list with 80 people for it and 5 against. I would like to move forward with the referendum. Does the Council have any questions? None noted. City Manager Sumner asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The deadline to put on the ballot is August 21. I would need some form of resolution; I can generate a document and have it for you at the July meeting. IT would read Sunday sale by the drink and we would need to add alcohol to the current ordinance. There would be two documents: 1. Ordinance to authorize distilled beverages by the drink Monday through Saturday and 2) referendum

for Sunday sales at restaurants. There is also a brunch law that would be separate referendum. This would allow Sunday sales by the drink of beer, wine and alcohol from 11:30 to 12:30 and then 12:30 to 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember White said I think we should take it to the people and see how they vote. City Manager Sumner said he is just asking the Council to allow staff to proceed.

**Councilmember White made a motion to have staff proceed which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember White all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **B. FY22 AUDIT (CITY AUDITOR)**

Nick Valenti of Valenti and Rackley is here to present the FY22 Audit to Mayor and Council. Mr. Valenti said he would like to thank staff for their hard work and for being on time. This is an expression of opinion and it is reliable. I have a clean opinion as stated on pages 3-5, it is a clear opinion. He reviewed the highlights stating no budget nervousness and no violation. We always have an internal control violation every year with regards to separation of duties and this is common in small cities. We reviewed the retirement funds, reserve funds, we have estimates of depreciations and no disagreements with management. City Manager Sumner said he would like to thank Valenti and Rackley, City clerk, Finance director and Victoria for the work that they did regarding the audit.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. POLICE CARS-\$110,000-FOLSOM DOUGLAS-SPLOST VIII**
- B. WELL #1 TESTING-EVERETTS WELL DRILLING-\$2,950-  
SPLOST VIII**
- C. BILLBOARDS-TRAILHEAD MEDIA-\$16,300**
- D. TSPLOST II PORTAL-PROJECT SUBMISSION &  
PRESENTATIONS-TRANSPORT STUDIO-\$9,000-SPLOST VIII**
- E. PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION-ADMIN &  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT-\$14,000-GENERAL AND  
PROPRIETARY FUNDS**
- F. SALARY ADJUSTMENT-DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CITY  
MANAGER**
- G. SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION  
VALDOSTA AND LOWNDES REGIONAL  
(VALOR)GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CAPITAL  
DATA PLATFORM & ONGOING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-  
\$5,000-PROPRIETARY FUND**
- H. CARTER & SLOOPE ASSET INVENTORY-EXISTING  
CONTRACT, LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS-\$25,000-  
SPLOST VIII**
- I. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT RENEWAL-  
VIRTUAL WORLD TECHNOLOGIES-\$36,000; SECURITY AND  
OUTAGE BACK UP ENHANCED SERVICE-\$34,000 (\$70,000  
TOTAL)-TECHNOLOGY, PROPRIETARY AND GENERAL  
FUNDS**

**J. HONEYBEE MONUMENT LOCATION-COURTHOUSE**  
**K. TYLER TECHNOLOGIES-INCODE UPGRADES-\$26,500-  
TECHNOLOGY, PROPRIETARY & GENERAL FUNDS**

**Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Councilman Davis, Councilman Barfield and Councilmember White all voted in favor of the motion.**

**REPORTS:**

Councilmember White said thank you for coming out tonight and I love the people of District 1.

Councilmember Davis said thank you for coming out tonight to see what is going on. I love to see people participate and I hope to see you again soon.

Councilmember Barfield said I like to see a lot approved for consent agenda because we have the money to get things done. It is a juggling act to make it all work, it is a difficult job. Good job to our accountant and thank you we are well managed and things are well done. I appreciate you all and thanks to everyone for expressing yourself.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, thank you to the department heads on the job they do. We have events in July so please plan to attend July 1 event.

Mayor Cain thanked everyone for coming, I know you all have a busy schedule. Thank you to the department heads and staff. Thanks to the Admin staff, the budget looks good and the audit was clean for the year. I need a motion to enter Executive session to discuss property.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Davis to enter Executive session to discuss property which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember White all voted in favor of the motion.**

**A motion was made to come out of Executive session by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember White all voted in favor of the motion.**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Barfield to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember White. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember White and Councilmember Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:15 P.M.**

**ADJOURN.**



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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**