**CITY OF HAHIRA**

**JULY 9, 2024**

**WORK SESSION**

**6:00 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on July 9, 2024 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Klay Luke, David Lindsey and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. Attorney Rob Plumb, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Fire Chief David Thompson, Police Chief Stryde Jones, MSD Jennifer Price were all present. PWD Willie Jones was not present.**

**CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain**

**ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain**

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

 **A. JUNE 4, 2024 WORK SESSION**

 **B. JUNE 6, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING**

**The Mayor asked if anyone had any corrections or questions. None noted.**

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

**The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted.**

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **FINANCIAL UPDATE (CITY MANAGER)**

**City Manager Sumner stated it is my job to discuss the financial condition of the City and see what we can work on. The expenditures are tracking normal but the revenues in the General Fund are tracking about 380,000 in the deficit. I am just making you aware that we are 25% below by the end of the year and I just wanted to bring it to you now. We have discussed taking a loan but that would be paying 65 interest or we could borrow from our rainy-day fund. We can find ways to cut the budget, delay the cost of living 3% raise which would be about $50,000-$75,000 per year. We just need to monitor the deficit and decide down the line what to do. I just wanted to bring this to you. We have an option with the millage rate to increase which was rolled back last year.. This is something that we have never had to do. I have given you a list of millage rates in the area. It was suggested by Councilman Lindsey that we do a hiring freeze but all departments are fully staffed at this time. This would be a policy decision and mostly public safety would be impacted. The millage rate is set to be behind and will be sent from the assessor’s office in August and this is 17% of the budget. We need an increase in revenue and decrease in expenditure to make this work. I spoke with the Auditor Nick Valenti and he stated the Water/Sewer fund is in great financial condition. He suggested changing the water/sewer rates for increasing the Millage rate. I learned at GMA Convention that the Homestead Exemption will be on the ballot in November and also proposal of FLOST which is another penny tax. feel that it will pass. City Attorney Plumb confirmed this and stated it is a very complicated formula but it could help homeowners in the next few years. The Mayor stated we will know this the first of the year and Sumner stated ft. there is no action required unless we decide to opt out. Sumner stated that fines and forfeitures are our biggest deficit. Councilman Luke said he thinks we should do the 3% COLA, we need to keep our good employees and it takes more money to train new employees. I think it is good for moral, motivation and maintain longevity. They are all great employees. Councilman Barfield stated we are still lower level than other municipalities. City Manager Sumner stated we do not have a lot of areas to cut. Councilman Barfield said I think we should go to rainy day fund to make up the deficit if we need to. Councilman Lindsey said I agree, give the 3% raise and tap int rainy day fund. Mayor Pro Tem White said we need to come up with a plan in these hard times, we need to keep our people.**

1. **APPOINTMENT TO HAHIRA HOUSING AUTHORITY (MAYOR PRO TEM WHITE)**

**Mayor Pro Tem White said she would like to nominate Shayla Londa to the Hahira Housing Authority Board.**

1. **BILLBOARDS-TRAILHEAD MEDIA-$6,345 (MAYOR PRO TEM WHITE)**

**Mayor Pro Tem White said I ask to bring this back to you, MSD Price has gone around town and raised money to help with the billboards. She worked hard to get the donation and I think we should give her the money for the billboards.**

1. **EAST PARK STREET SIDEWALK UPDATE (CITY MANAGER)**

**We are working with Carter-Slope to get the numbers and should have them Thursday night.**

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

1. **FINE RATES (CHIEF JONES)**

**Chief Stryde Jones has performed an analysis of surrounding rate structures and also has a recommendation regarding some fine levels for the City. He stated the speeding finds are all in line but the DUI, driving on suspended license violations need to be brought up to standard level. I propose we amend the fines. We had a roadblock last week and had 3 DUIS in 2 hours.**

1. **CHIEF’S CONFERENCE (CHIEF JONES)**

**Chief Jones would like to attend Chiefs conference. The cost of training is $500.0 and $250.00 per night for stay. It is for credit hours and the training hours will be reimbursed in the amount of $500.00. I would like to the thank Mayor and Council for the opportunity to travel to Virginia for the Executive leadership academy. I learned so much, thank you for the opportunity.**

1. **FEMA GENERATOR GRANT (CITY MANAGER)**

**City Manager Sumner said that he is happy to announce that we should get $150,000 for three generators to support critical facilities and lift stations in the City. The application was filed in February 2020 as a result of relief from Hurricane Michael. With this approval the City will only have to match about $6,000. Thank you To MS Victoria in Public works getting all the paperwork that was needed.**

**SET JULY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

**-Billboards-Trailhead Media-$6,345**

**SET JULY CONSENT AGENDA:**

**-Fine Rate Adjustment**

**-Police Chiefs Conference**

**-Hahira Housing Authority Appointment-Shayla London**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**