

**CITY OF HAHIRA**

**JULY 11, 2023**

**WORK SESSION**

**6:00 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on July 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A. MAY 30, 2023, WORK SESSION**

**B. JUNE 1, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. APPLICATION OF RAJENDRA KUMAR PATEL-  
DISCOUNT CORNER, 100 EAST MAIN STREET FOR  
PACKAGE SALE OF BEER AND WINE (CHIEF DAVIS)**

**B. APPLICATION BY MAYURKUMAR PATEL-  
HOMETOWN LIQUORS, 203 S CHURCH STREET FOR  
PACKAGE SALE OF BEER, WINE, AND DISTILLED  
BEVERAGES (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Both applications (A & B) are due to change of ownership. Chief Davis has performed the required background check and the required advertisement has been run in the legal organ. We will have public input on Thursday night.

**C. AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK  
ORDINANCE-DISTILLED BEVERAGES (FIRST READING-  
CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Rob Plumb said this is a short amendment to the current ordinance and is not for Sunday sales. This is by the drink amendment that will require 50 % food sales and 50 % alcohol sales. Does anyone have any questions? City Manager Sumner stated we could require a letter from CPA to verify compliance with this requirement. This is all

standard. We can have unanimous consent, but staff recommends three readings for opportunity of public input. First reading will be on July 13 th meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in August and then 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in September. City Manager Sumner stated that the Police department is reviewing the amounts to charge for distilled beverages by the drink. Councilman Davis said to clarify we should not all vote yes if we want to go to three readings for public input. Yes, that is correct per City Manager Sumner and a vote is required.

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

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

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

#### **A. SUNDAY ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CITYWIDE REFERENDUM (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Plumb stated this will be a separate item that would be considered by referendum for Sunday sales by the drink. It can be put on ballot for November consideration. City Manager Sumner stated there would be a cost.

**B. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AGAINST HAHIRA AD VALORUM TAX LEVY RESOLLUTIO TO REQUEST CITYWIDE REFERENDUM (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Manager Sumner said we anticipate a significant increase in property tax intake due to revaluations by the Board of Assessors. In lieu of roll back staff is recommending the Council consider the passage of resolution to allow the voters this November to consider a homestead exemption against the City levy. According to the assessors this has been authorized by the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County but not in the small cities. The City Attorney is researching this item and should have more information on Thursday night. City Attorney Plumb is waiting on response from the Georgia Department of Revenue. I think we will need a referendum, but I am waiting for clarification. The homeowners would need to apply for Hahira exemption separately if we can get it on the ballot for November.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

**A. LASERS-MCLAGGAN-\$6,300-SPLOST VIII (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis is requesting three new lasers to replace the old ones. The cost is \$21,00 each for a total of \$6,300 and they will come from Mclaggan and would be paid out of SPLOST VIII.

**B. GRANTWRITING TRAINING (MSD PRICE)**

MSD Price would like to attend Grant writing training at Valdosta State University which is an 18-month program. The cost is \$700.00 and is paid as you complete the training.

**C. GEORGIA CITY-COUNTY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner would like to attend the Georgia City-County Managers Fall Conference in Dunwoody, Georgia on October 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$700 for registration and \$800 for lodging.

**D. PUMP REPAIRS-AAG-\$9,271-PROPRIETARY FUND (PWD JONES)**

PWD Jones said he would like to repair the old pumps for back up that are repairable. This would provide back up and this is the cheaper way to go. The cost is \$9,271.

### **E. MOWERS-SPLOST VIII (PWD JONES)**

PWD Jones stated we are getting behind on mowing because we have two old mowers that are down, and we need to replace them. The cost for two mowers is \$21,900 and they would come from Powerhouse-Valdosta and would be paid out of SPLOST VIII.

### **SET JULY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

- Sunday alcohol by the drink resolution to request citywide referendum
- Homestead exemption against Hahira ad valorem tax levy

### **SET JULY CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Lasers
- Grant writing training
- Georgia City-County Manager Fall Conference
- Pump Repairs
- Mowers

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:30 P.M.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**