

CITY OF HAHIRA

JULY 30, 2024

WORK SESSION

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on July 30, 2024 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Klay Luke, David Lindsey, and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, PWD Willie Jones, Fire Chief David Thompson, Police Chief Stryde Jones and MSD Jennifer Price City Attorney Rob Plumb, Planning and Zoning Matt Martin and Lauren were all present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**REVIEW/CORRECTION F MEETING MINUTES:**

- A. JULY 9, 2024 WORK SESSION
- B. JULY 11, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

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

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

### **A. TEMPORARY VENDOR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: HAHIRA ZONING ORDINANCE (RICARDO MUNOZ)**

Ricardo Munoz with Rico's Tacos said he appreciates the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here about the restrictive ordinance regarding food trucks. I think there should be a less restrictive ordinance and I have submitted the documents to you with signatures. The food trucks bring in foot traffic (20%) and help the nearby businesses and local events like the Honeybee Festival. It creates jobs because the businesses need extra help on the nights the food trucks are in town. It brings diverse food into town which helps underutilized businesses. I have a petition with 784 signatures on it. I have spoken with people that think this is positive for the restaurants and residents. I think there needs to be a flexible food truck ordinance.

Councilman Lindsey asked how long Mr. Munoz had been in business with food truck. He started 5 years. And why is it a problem now? Munoz stated no

problem but I think we need a more flexible approach; I understand regulations are a burden to the business owners. Councilman Lindsey asked what do you propose? I propose a different way of having ordinance, make it one time per year for permit and fee and one time a week have food truck. We have to notify the health department about restrooms and locations. Lindsey then asked how many of the signatures are city residents? He stated he does not know but will find out. City Manager Sumner stated we did not have any addresses with the signatures attached. We need to know if they are residents of the City of Hahira. Mayor Pro Tem White stated we do things based on communication. We have to get out and talk to the residents and businesses. I do not mind changing the ordinance as a team. We need to get out and get the feedback and I am not sure of changes right now. If we need to make new rules and regulations, we will do that. Councilman Luke said I appreciate your coming tonight, we are open to change and ideas. He then asked Mr. Munoz what are your general hours of operation? He stated 11-6 or 11-7. We have to stay at a business that has restrooms so it depends on their time. He then asked where he sets up the food truck. Munoz stated Adel, Quitman, Lakeland,

Tifton, Homerville, Lake Park, and Madison. I thought that Napa was outside the City limits when I set up. Councilman Barfield said I appreciate you coming here, we do have regulations to protect businesses in Hahira. We try to do what is best for the residents of Hahira and the business that are here all the time. Our restaurants commit themselves to building, the upkeep, the sales tax, property tax and we want them to be successful. I love food trucks but we have to protect the restaurants in Hahira.

They pay a lot of money and that helps keep Fire and Safety going to protect Hahira. I also question your food truck traffic numbers and we need to compare food trucks and restaurants. The Mayor said if your home base is Valdosta, then you should not have an issue. City Manager Sumner said we use the City of Valdosta for this function, we have an intergovernmental agreement with them. There is no fee for the temporary vendor fee permit. Munoz said that the permitting is an inconvenience because you also have to go through the health department and you must have bathrooms.

Councilman Barfield said we need to take information and discuss it further. We need to talk to people and get together on this. We do not have any action to take to the people now. The Mayor stated

last time it was 3-4 months to come together and satisfy the restaurants and food trucks. It is going to be awhile before we decide about making changes. We have to get all the information that we can because once a week was not acceptable to the restaurant owners last time and once you start then more trucks will come in. City Attorney Plumb said setting the number of times is a broad brush and will apply to all trucks and this is why the ordinance was done like this 6 years ago. Everyone must play by the same rules and not limit the number of permits, but you do have to apply for them.

**B. EAST PARK STREET SIDEWALK-AC  
BLOUNT CONCRETE SERVICE, INC  
\$25,160-LMIG FUNDS \$25,160**

City Manager Sumner stated the Park Street sidewalk repair will be at a cost of \$25,160 and is for a shorter section of the sidewalk. Staff recommends award of this project to Blount Concrete Service, Inc.. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

**C. FY24 COLA (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated this is the time we do the 3% COLA increase but due to the financial situation of the City at this time. Staff recommends

that we do not do the COLA raise at this time or reduce it to 1%. I have given you the numbers for 1,2 and 3 percent but I feel we should delay it. Councilman Barfield said the employees deserve this, can we do one ½ now and then one ½ in December, Councilman Luke said no we need to give the employees the 3%, they work hard and deserve it. Councilman Lindsey and Mayor Pro Tem White all agreed. Councilman Barfield said we need to pull this money from the rainy-day fund, that is what it is there for. Inflation is real and we need to give our employees the 3%.

**D. NEW HAHIRA DDA MEMBER TRAINING (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated we have two new DDA members that need certification, they need to attend training. The training is in Thomasville and it will not include overnight **stay**. The cost of the training is \$305.00 each for a total of \$710.00.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

**A. CHIEF'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (CHIEF JONES)**

Chief Stryde would like to attend the Chiefs leadership Academy that is a very good training and it is free of charge for classes.

**B. SURPLUS PROERTY (CHIEF JONES)**

Chief Jones stated that he has three vehicles that he would like to surplus through Govdeals. The information on the vehicles is in your packets.

**C. GCCMA FALL CONFERENCE (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager would like to attend the GCCMA Fall Conference. He stated he did not get to attend last year but feels he needs to attend this year. The cost of the training is \$750.00 and lodging will be \$250.00 per night.

**D. ITEM ADDED UPGRADE TO NEPTUNE WATER METER SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE-DELTA MUNICIPAL-SPLOST VIII-\$17,090 (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated this was a last-minute upgrade that is needed for the Neptune Water meter Software and Hardware with Delta Municipal. This is needed to operate the system.

**SET JULY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

-Neptune Cloud Water Meter Software and Hardware update-Delta Municipal Supply-SPLOST VIII-\$17,090

**SET JULY CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Police Chiefs Leadership Academy
- Surplus Property
- GCCMA Fall Conference
- East Park Street Sidewalk-AC Blount Concrete Services
- FY24 COLA
- New Hahira DDA Member Training

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.  
ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**