

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting September 3, 2015 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Kenneth Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Clendenin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and PWD Donnie Warren. Councilmember Terry Benjamin was not present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INNOVATION: Pastor Nick Kudyk

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. AUGUST 3, 2015 WORK SESSION**
- B. AUGUST 6, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Bruce Cain asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin asked that statements are to be added to August 6, 2015 Council meeting. The minutes have not been corrected by City Clerk at this time. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to approve the Work session meeting minutes as presented and postpone the Council meeting minutes until next month which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. FY16 BUDGET PRELIMINARY ADOPTION(CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner reviewed the process for the budget. The budget process began back in May and a recommended budget is generated in July. We usually vote on the millage rate numbers at the August Council meeting but the digest is not complete. We will have to set the millage rate at the October or November meeting when we receive the numbers. Sumner stated he does not anticipate an increase. We have had budget workshop I & II as required. This is the preliminary adoption of the budget. Once this is done we will advertise and have formal adoption at the October 1st Council meeting. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the proposed budget. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the proposed budget. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to accept the preliminary**

adoption of the budget which as seconded by Councilmember Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

The Mayor stated before the citizens to be heard that he would like to review the Citizens to be Heard ordinance. He stated that you must state your name and address and that the citizens' complaint can be directed to Council as a whole not an individual. There is a time limit and council will not respond to complaints at that time.

Harriett Crum of 307 E Lawson Street, Hahira said she was here to speak on behalf of the Lyons Club. The Lyons Club gave use of the Recreation Center building to the City of Hahira and for this they would like to see a plaque or memorial at the building to recognize that the Lyons Club build and gate to the City this building.

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S Washington, Hahira stated that he is generally present at all Work sessions and Council meetings. He stated that the DDA would be an asset to the City by his research. The DDA will not have an individual authority without the approval of the Council. He said that he just wanted to be sure that everyone understands this.

Vickie Rountree of 6119 Shiloh Road, Hahira and owner of Monkey Britches located at 205 W. Main Street. She said she wanted to thank Mayor and Council for their hard work. She said she knows that it takes a lot of personal time. She said that she is in favor of the DDA. She said she has spent the last 20 years driving around in small towns in South Georgia and North Florida. She said you will see shops and boutiques that are glad to be in the small towns and it is sad but something needs to be done for the downtown of area of Hahira. We need to better our town and we need to do something to preserve our architecture. The DDA is an amazing opportunity, we can apply for grants and low interest loans, we have already lost the last 15 years and she feels that it is time now to act before we lose more history. We do not need to be intimidated by some because we are a thriving community. She knows both sides will crusade for issues, we just need to crusade with truth and fact.

Ted Raker of 724 Edgewater, Hahira said that he is here to talk about the DDA and the Carl Vinson Institute. He said that he cannot believe what they are saying about the Carl Vinson Institute. They are not for big government, they are an international group in the State of Georgia. They write the handbooks for Cities to use and we did not pay \$1,800 for misinformation. Every year the Federal government gives block grants to state governments, we are missing out. We have no DDA to accept grants. We have merchants who have invested a lot of money into their business in the City. They work hard and it is an investment into this City. This is an opportunity to put something into place that will help the downtown. We need to have one more meeting and then move forward. We are not going to change the thinking of some people with one more meeting, we need to support the people who support the City.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

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

DISCUSSIONS:

A. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT UPDATE (GRANT ADMINISTRATOR/PROJECT MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said that the TE project started back in 2010 with the SGRC with the late Jay Shaw as an advocate. The concept was a sidewalk from the middle school to the elementary school and would start at Hwy 122 to the right and go to Hagenbridge Road and terminate at Grace Street. The right of way must be acquired and Mr. Jacobs the project manager has given us the worst and best case scenario. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin asked what the evolution of the initial design to now is, we now have sidewalks, drainage ditches and drains. What happened to the simple sidewalks from 2011? We had good drawings, how did curbing get involved. The Mayor said the original plans did not curb and gutters. City Manager Sumner said if this is desired by the City we need to get the right of ways and get it approved by the state department at this step. We need to get in the pipeline for construction and we must have all the right of ways to do this. The DOT would like to have all right of ways by spring of next year and that we will have to get approval by all homeowners to do continue. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said he would like to see if continue on and forward all information to him. City Manager Sumner said he had discussion regarding the property acquisition with the City Attorney. We are at property acquisitions stage and this will have to be acquired by the state and federal regulations and their prescribed methods. This is an important stage and that we should let the project proceed per the project manager. We need to let the project manager approach this, property owners will all be informed of their rights and it can become a problem when you meet in the project. Sumner said that a packet will be delivered to the owners in person. He said that he will keep you all updated on the process. He stated that we voted on one lump sum amount. The original amount was estimated at \$312,000 but now the pre bid amount is \$425,000. He stated that no vote is required at this time. The Mayor requested that when they do the easement that they put temporary pins down.

B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (COUNCILMAN DAVIS)

Councilmember Davis thanked the City Manager and staff for developing and getting information to the City of Hahira about the DDA. People received the information but a few were given inadequate information, this information needs to be given in a neutral manner. He feels we should move forward with a public hearing so everyone can be informed.

Councilmember Davis made a motion to authorize that we advertise a town hall meeting for discussion regarding the DDA. Councilmember Barfield seconded the motion.

Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. FIRE CHIEFS' FALL CONFERENCE
- B. WASTE DISPOSAL ANMESTY DAY-NOVEMBER 14TH
- C. POLICE UNIFORMS-SPLOST VII
- D. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR HAHIRA MERCHANT ASSOCIATION REQUESTS
- E. HMA ADVERTISING REQUEST

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

REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said it was nice to see good turn out tonight. Thank you for coming. We have a difference of options on many issues, but we are a small government and in control of our government. He reminded everyone to come out to the Honeybee Festival which starts on September 28 and ends on October 3rd.

Councilmember Davis said we will have a town hall meeting regarding the DDA, he would like to have everyone come out and be informed. If the DDA is enacted it will be in the hands of the people.

Councilmember Barfield said he would like to recognize a group that work in the city and that is law enforcement. HE said with all the struggles in this country, I hope we can all keep in mind they do more that give you a ticket. If there is a stranger at your door on a dark night, you will call them to find out what is going on. Two statements tonight caused me to speak, Councilmember Davis had the courage to move forward in face of opposition, we have to take risk, and you will never be completely free of risk if you are free. He also said that he will not say that all DDA's are perfect but there are a lot of good DDA's. It is time that the small City of Hahira moves forward and be the best Hahira it can be. Come to the Public Hearing and have an open mind. Risk is inevitable but we must move forward. Thank you for coming out tonight. Thank you to City Attorney Rob Plumb, City Manager Sumner and Mayor Cain.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, thank you to our department heads for what they do every day. It may be a hole with water spewing, fire inspection or Chief Davis talking with individuals on the street. It takes everyone working together. I love this town and I am honored to be a part of it. Thank You.

Mayor Cain thanked everyone for coming out. Thank you to all the department heads for all the hard work and for trying to keep the City safe and clean as possible. He said that this is a hard time for the Police Department, it is a hard to figure out what is going on in people's minds, and we need to pray. He said that he appreciates the Council, it takes a lot of minds to see what needs to be done. He thanked Rob and Jonathan for a good job on the information regarding the DDA.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barfield to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN