**CITY OF HAHIRA**

**WORK SESSION**

**AUGUST 4, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on August 4, 2020 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

1. **June 30, 2020**
2. **July 2, 2020**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **MILLAGE RATE (3RD PUBLICE HEARING) CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Sumner stated an email was sent out to recommend holding the millage rate at 4.75% after discussion with the Mayor. We have different options but feel that holding at 4.75% is the best thing. The digest did appreciate due to increase of $678.00 due to property values. The digest was advertised at City Hall and in the Valdosta Daily Times as required. We had two public hearing on July 30th, one at noon and one at 6:00 p.m. We had not public input or questions. The 3rd hearing will be on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. We can listen to public input and then vote to set it at this time. We can hold it at 4.75% or go below. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **WEST STANFILL STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-SPLOST VII (MAYOR CAIN)**

The Mayor stated we have had discussion about West Stanfill Street at many meeting and at the retreat. It was discussed to bring it up after the interchange was completed. I did a little leg work and that area is in disarray that I called in an Engineer to help with the break down. It is not a normal paving construction project and it would be estimated at $376,000. City Manager Sumner stated this is not ordinary construction but reconstruction. I estimate that SPLOST VII will have about $500,000 by the end of year with collections and $25,000 savings on the Depot. If we put it out for bid and commission then the money would be there at that time. This would be for Union Road up to the curve. We cannot go inside the S-curve because we are not sure where the right of way is at this point. We may have to do overlay project at later time to straighten out the curve. The Mayor stated that Tim Ingram is here if anyone has any questions. Mayor Pro Tem Warren asked about the S curve to the railroad track. The Mayor said the S curve concerns me, do we have right of way and the power easement there concern me, and how can we run it? The S curve has migrated on private property so I am not sure what we can do about it. City Manager Sumner stated that we can do survey and see what we can do. We will need to call Georgia Power and the Coleman’s to see what we can do on the western side. Mayor Pro Tem Warren said yes I think we should survey first and then see what possibilities we do have and maybe we can have that done in the next 30 days.

1. **HAHIRA SQUARE ARCHES-SPLOST VII (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that Mr. Motts gave him the cost estimates for the two arches at the Depot. The cost is $7,000 and it includes the refurbish of the Honeybee. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

1. **HAHIRA SQUARE-PARROTT FOUNTAIN (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that he emailed Dr. Parrott after the last meeting with the designs so that he could poll the family. I have not heard back from him. I tried to call him and left voice mail but no response. Councilman Barfield said he would stop by and see if he could talk to him and get it narrowed down. Sumner stated that we need the design before we can get a set price.

1. **AMEND WESTERN BOUNDARY OF DDA (DDA CHAIRMAN)**

DDA Chairman Raker stated this has been in the works for about 3 years now. We have the lines drawn and it is finished we just need the vote to have it finished. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

1. **APPOINTMENT TO MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAYOR CAIN)**

The Mayor stated that as you all know Mr. Blanton passed away and we need to appoint someone to the Advisory Board. This is a voluntary position and they usually meet 3-4 times per year. Please think about it and let me know if you have anyone that would like to serve.

1. **PROPOSED LEFT TURN LANDE FOR EAST-BOUND MAIN STREET TRAFFIC AT CHURCH STREET INTERSETIONS (MAYOR CAIN)**

Mayor Cain stated we surveyed the businesses and many of the merchants are not in favor of parallel parking. The Main Street Board is in favor and they are optimistic. The question is do we want to do it. This was something suggested to DOT due to traffic problems at light after the closing of the Stanfill Street crossing. There is a problem turning left at the red light and the traffic backs up. Councilman Barfield stated the big trucks are what worries him at the light. Councilman Davis stated that most of the shop owners park in the back of the stores. DOT can do what they want to because we do not control that street or light. Mayor Pro Tem Warren said he is not crazy about the parallel parking. Councilman Davis stated I think we learned one thing in the past and that is if DOT does survey and wants to do it they can do it. Chief Davis stated that when the traffic is backed up that they are having people stopping on therailroad tracks and this is dangerous. This may be a good thing for us, the traffic will flow and not back up.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

1. **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY (CITY ATTORNEY)**

This was requested by the Council back in March. This is something the employees can read and understand in regards to social media. The draft was sent out to the department heads with no response. The Attorney will be here on Thursday night and can explain it and answer any questions you may have. This is a document that is all standard stuff and it will help us abide by the laws.

1. **EMS FLOOR-SPLOST VII (CHIEF BENNETT)**

This was presented to us by SGMC several months back. The floor at the EMS building that the City owns is in bad shape. We got two quotes from Lakeland Floor Covering. One is for laminate floor and carpet in the amount of $2185 and one is for laminate flooring like we put in at City Hall that is more durable and the cost of that is $2515. This is a SPLOST eligible expense. Councilman Davis said that he thinks we need to go with the one that is more durable.

1. **APPOINTMENT TO MAIN STREET BOARD (IMSD PRICE)**

IMSD Price stated we had one of the Main Street Board members resign and we need to fill that position. We had three applicants and by silent vote they decided on Josh Owens. He is a local business owner and very involved in the Northside Church. He will serve until December 2021.

**SET AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:**

**-**HAHIRA SQUARE-PARROTT FOUNTAIN

-APPOINTMENT TO MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-PORPOSED LEFT TURN LANE FOR EAST BOUND MAIN STREET TRAFFIC AT CHRUCH STREET INTERSECTION

**SET AUGUST CONSENT AGENDA:**

-SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

-EMS FLOOR $2,515-LAKELAND FLOORING COVERING-SPLOST VII

-APPOINTMENT TO MAIN STREET BOARD-JOSH OWENS

-WEST STANFILL STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-SURVEYING-SPLOST VII

-HAHIRA SQUARE ARCHES $7,000-VILLAGE METALWORKS-SPLOST VII

-RESOLUTION TO AMEND WESTERN BOUNDARY OF DDA

FY 21 BUDGET WORKSHOP I (CITY MANAGER)

This is the first FY21 budget workshop and we are thankful to the tax commissioner’s office for getting the millage rate numbers to us so quickly. The millage rate was advertised and set. You can look over the proposed budget and ask questions and they are available at City hall. The second workshop will be held at the September Work session with the preliminary budget adoption at the September Council meeting. The formal adoption will be at the October Council meeting. Sumner stated there are no real major changes, we will have a slight increase in the FY21 budget general fund for about $45,000 which will be the cost of living expense. The proprietary fund is holding steady with the cost of garbage collection down slightly. All departments are holding and we have seen decrease in collections during the COVID-19 event. We will probably see a deficit in the current budget of about $150,000 to $200,000 range. We did not have 15% increase in insurance this year as expected, we actually had a decrease. Councilman Davis said he would like to see how the sales tax, LOST, SPLOST and T SPLOST is trending. Does anyone have any other questions? None noted.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:25 p.m.**

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**