

Council Meeting

April 6, 2000

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, April 6, 2000, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, Sonny Copeland and Joel Hunnicutt; City Manager, Susan Doner; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Woodrow W. Blue, Jr.; Fire Chief, J. C. Plair.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams called on Council Harris to give the invocation.

Visitors were welcomed. City Manager, Susan Doner, introduced Ms. Bonnie Tindall, who will be replacing Ms. Syble Griffin as Executive Director of the Hahira Chamber and Visitors Center. Syble is retiring after nine years as Executive Director.

A quorum of Council was established.

Council Harris made a motion to accept the March 9, 2000 minutes as written seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams asked for Council's review of the monthly bills and asked for comments or questions. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Adams reported on a motion made last month to raise water/sewer rates effective with the billing for the month of June 2000. The motion failed for lack of a second to the motion. Since then, engineers from Stevenson & Palmer Engineering, Inc. have met with members of Council to explain the necessity for increasing water/sewer rates. Mayor Adams asked for a motion from Council to approve a date to implement the new rates, which were approved at the November 1999 council meeting. Council Harris made a motion to begin the increase with the billing for the month of June 2000 which is payable by July 10th. Council Bullard seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Department requests:

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, asked for Council's approval to put in three picnic tables, three benches, three 55-gallon garbage cans, and one more grill in City Park. Also new water faucets will need to be installed and cross ties removed and replaced with PVC pipe, like those surrounding the new playground equipment area. Rocks will be put down in the picnic areas.

Cost - \$4,662.44 for octagonal or roundtable. (Recommended)
\$4,275.44 for rectangular tables.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the purchase as recommended, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, requested purchasing video camera inspect the interior of sewer lines. Two cost were submitted,

- (1) Blue Book \$6,700.00 plus \$100.00 freight - Total \$6,800.00
- (2) Mytana, \$7,095.00

Mr. Thursby recommended the Mytana camera.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the purchase as recommended, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous. Mayor Adams stated that although this was a budgeted item, he instructed city manager to be certain sufficient funds were available before proceeding with the purchase.

Police Chief, Woodrow Blue, reported the Hahira Police Department would discontinue dispatching service and close the city jail on June 30 2000. Beginning at 0001 hours on July 1, 2000 the Lowndes County 911 center will assume emergency Police and Fire dispatching and emergency calls must be made to 911. This will require a change in Police Department radio frequencies and the additional frequencies must be purchased and added to the department's radios. The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners has contributed \$5,000 to help with the cost, since HB 489 Service Delivery Strategy mandates the cost of E-911 service be provided from the Countywide tax digest. Additionally new beepers will be required for the Hahira Fire Department in order to be on the same frequencies as the Lowndes County Fire Departments. The Hahira city jail will be closed and city prisoners will be housed in the County Jail.

Mayor Adams reported an automated call attendant would be added to the City Hall phone system. Notices will be sent to citizens explaining the change to dispatching service and the change to the phone system. An advertisement will also be run in the

Valdosta Daily times and information will be posted on the Hahira web site at <http://www.hahira.ga.us> explaining the change.

(B) Smith Hospital Resolution:

Mayor Adams read the resolution, which opposed the relocation of Smith hospital from the City of Hahira. Council Bullard made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Copeland. Councils Harris, Bullard and Copeland voted yes. Council Hunnicutt did not vote. (Council Hunnicutt notified the city clerk on Friday, April 7th, that he had abstained on this motion.) Motion approved.

(C) "Let's Keep Hahira Clean and Beautiful Week" Proclamation:

Mayor Adams reported that the week of April 16 - 22 was "Keep American Clean and Beautiful" week. Mayor Adams read the proclamation.

(D) Contract with Lowndes County Public Works Department for maintenance of Nutrition Program van:

City Manager, Susan Doner, reported on needed maintenance on a van that is used in the Nutrition Program and recommended contracting with the County to do the maintenance. Council Harris made a motion to approve the contract with Lowndes County Public Works Department to do the maintenance seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Use of Community Center for karate classes:

Mayor Adams reported on a request to use the Community Center for karate classes. He recommended Chief Blue do an investigation before any decision is made. Council Bullard made a motion to table it until next meeting seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Request to close Gaskins Avenue and Gold Leaf Avenue:

Mayor Adams reported on a request to close Gaskins and Gold Leaf Avenues. These are platted streets in the Gold Leaf subdivision that was never built. No records were found showing they were ever opened. He proposed closing Gaskins Avenue but keeping Gold Leaf Avenue as a utility easement. After discussion, Council Hunnicutt made a motion to close Gaskins Avenue and keep Gold Leaf Avenue as an easement, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(G) Telecommunications Tower and Antenna Ordinance:

Mr. Matt Martin of the Planning Commission briefed Council on the Telecommunications Tower and antenna Ordinance. Council Harris made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Telecommunications Ordinance:

Mayor Adams reported that GMA the city telecommunications franchise negotiator by contract has been unsuccessful negotiating a franchise agreement with Alltel GA. Communications Corp. GMA has presented two options for the City Attorneys review for recommendation to the council.

Option one: An ordinance for an occupational license tax granting the city 3% of the recurring local service revenues of the company.

Option Two: An ordinance, which would impose a 3% fee on gross revenues as compensation for use and rental of city's streets.

The City Attorney recommended option one.

Mayor Adams asked for a motion to adopt option one as recommended. Council Bullard made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(I) Renovations to Community Center:

Mayor Adams reported on two bids received for renovations to the Community Center. One for \$17,861.16 from John Bailey and one for \$22,400.00 from John Kraholik. The difference of approximately \$4,000.00 in the two bids was because one bid included new windows. Mayor Adams recommended the bid from John Bailey. Council Harris made a motion to go with the Mayor's recommendation, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(J) Repairs to Courthouse:

Mayor Adams reported a bid for additional needed repairs to the Courthouse and recommended amending the present contract with a change order. The additional work consists of patching and refinishing the floors, tiling the bathroom floor, installing wainscoting on the walls in the courtroom and Chamber and Visitors Center office and the refinishing the front door. John Kraholik the contractor who is presently working on courthouse presented the bid to perform the additional work at a cost of

\$9,825.00. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to amend the contract with the change order seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Council Reports:

Council Harris had no report.

Council Bullard reported that he and John Thursby went to Lakeland today to look at the wetland wastewater treatment facility.

Council Hunnicutt had no report.

Council Copeland reported the need for a street light on curve at Stanfill and Newsom Streets. Mayor Adams said he would look into this.

Mayor Adams asked for Council's nominees for the Tree Board, Recreation Committee and Beautification Committee.

Tree Board nominees: Karl Alderman, Jesse Parrott, Jesse Griffin, Bob Megow and Anthony Rogers.

Recreation Committee nominees: Ouida McKinney, Vickie O'Brien, Bill Brock, and June Rogers.

Beautification Committee nominees: Jerome Oglesby, Mary Turner, Hoyt Coppage, Martha Dasher and Jesse Griffin.

Mayor Adams asked Council to replace Hilda Alderman on the Historical Preservation Committee, also Denise Davis, Chairman, as she no longer wanted to serve on the committee. He asked for two nominees. Council Harris nominated Lynn Drew.

Mayor Adams called for a motion to approve the nominees. Council Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported receiving a letter from Mr. Wayne Shackelford, DOT Commissioner, on the L.A.R.P. Program street-paving list. He asked for Council's approval to adopt a revised L.A.R.P. list of streets to be resurfaced in the city. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to adopt the list, seconded by Council. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported on two grant applications the city submitted last November. One, a Community Home Investment Program grant for \$85,000 was funded to build

four houses for low to medium income families. Three are to be constructed by private contractors and one will be built by the Valdosta Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity affiliate. The CDBG grant for drainage, street and sidewalk improvements did not receive funding.

Lowndes County Commissioners has awarded Reames Construction Company the contract for the entrance road into the Business Park at a cost of \$310,600.60.

Once the road is finished development of the North Lowndes Recreation Complex can begin. The \$110,000 the Lowndes County Board of Commissioner had once designated for improvements to Web Miller Park will now be used to begin development of the complex.

On July 22, the Hahira United Methodist men will sponsor a Bar-B-Q dinner to raise funds for the North Lowndes Recreational complex in memory of Sonny Rogers. Mayor Adams stated he was going to issue a proclamation designating July 22nd as "Sonny Rogers Day in Hahira". The money raised by the Bar-B-Q dinner will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club to help develop the recreational complex in memory of Sonny Rogers. Sonny volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club for over 30 years and made a difference in the lives of many young people in our community. Mayor Adams asked for community participation in the fund raising efforts.

Mayor Adams reported on the status of the Census. He proposed giving a \$5.00 rebate on water bills to customers whom brought their census forms in. Council Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

City Manager, Susan Doner, reported that the week of April 15 - 22 would be "Keep Hahira Beautiful" week. Some of the activities that week will be planting a butterfly garden at Salter library on Saturday, April 15th. Volunteers will be needed to pick up trash and plant flowers in the city.

April 23 - 29 will be "City Government Week".

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn