

Council Meeting
July 12, 2001

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, July 12, 2001 at 7:40 P.M. at the Courthouse. The meeting began late due to lack of quorum; Council Bullard being absent and Council Hunnicutt arriving late.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councilmen Bob Harris, Joel Hunnicutt and Sonny Copeland; City Manager, Danny Lucas; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Chamber Director, Bonnie Tindall.

Council Wayne Bullard and Student Council Chris Bullard were absent.

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

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

Visitors were welcomed and a quorum was established.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of June 7 and the Called Meeting on June 21, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Review of Bills:

Mayor Adams asked Council if they had any questions on the bills. There were none.

There was no old business to discuss.

Presentation of service award:

Mayor Adams called Police Chief, Terry Davis, to come forward. Chief Davis was praised for over 20 years of outstanding service to the City of Hahira as a police patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and chief and presented him with a plaque for his years of dedicated service.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Department requests

(1) Police Chief request to attend 34th Annual summer training conference:

Chief Davis asked for approval to attend the conference in Savannah on June 29 through August 1. Council Harris made a motion to approve Chief Davis' request to attend the conference seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Chief Davis reported that the police department was submitting an application for a \$7,000.00 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety program for purchase of needed surveillance equipment.

(2) Public Works Director requested approval for installation of water level indicators on water wells #1 and #2 and to make repairs as needed to bearings and slab:

City Manager, Danny Lucas, reported that the cost for the work on both wells would be \$10,168.00. Council Copeland made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(3) City Manager, Lucas, requested authority to advertise an RFP for playground equipment for Webb-Miller Park with bids to be opened on July 26. Council Copeland made a motion to proceed with purchase and installation of the equipment for Webb-Miller Park seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(B) Execution of Nutrition Services contract with SEGRDC:

Mayor Adams reported on the contract. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to approve execution of the documents, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Execution of agreement with DCA for \$20,000 in Local Development funds for North Lowndes Recreational Complex:

Mayor Adams reported on a DCA Local Development grant of \$20,000 to be used for development of the North Lowndes Recreational Complex and the requirement to enter into a contract with DCA to receive the grant funds. Council Harris made a motion to enter into the agreement seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Proposed Employee cost of living increase:

Mayor Adams reported on the annual cost of living increase for city employees. He stated a 3% increase was budgeted for but the cost of living was 3.4%. He recommended council approve a 3.4% increase to be made effective July 15th.

Council Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Request by Better Hometown Manager for funds to open BHT checking account:

City Manager, Lucas, requested the city allocate funds to open a checking account for the BHT, starting with a deposit of \$300.00. Bonnie Tindall, Chamber Director, explained the importance for the account. Council Copeland made a motion to establish a checking account for the BHT. Seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Adoption of Proposed City e-mail Policy and Technology Resources Use Policy:

Mayor Adams recommended adopting a city e-mail Policy and Technology Resources Use Policy. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to adopt the policy, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(G) Letter of request by Todd Hollis for additional street lights on Judy Ann Drive:

Mayor Adams read the letter and recommended installation of additional streetlights on Judy Ann Drive. Presently there is only one street light on the entire street. Six houses have been constructed on the street in the last couple of years and more lighting is needed. This would add \$45.50 per month on the street light electric cost. Council Harris made a motion to approve the request for the streetlights seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Recommendation of Denise Rountree and Myron Crowe to Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors:

Mayor Adams recommended two replacement members for the seven person DDA board, Ms. Denise Rountree and Mr. Myron Crowe. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to appoint to the DDA, Ms. Rountree and Mr. Crowe, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Council Reports:

Council Copeland reported that some concerned citizens had come to him about Mr. Spearman's store.

Council Hunnicutt reported on cars speeding on Hagan Bridge Road. He also concurred with Council Copeland on Mr. Spearman's store.

Council Harris reported on improvements in Hahira. He, also, has been receiving letters and visitors about Mr. Spearman's store. He spoke on the importance of enforcement of the City substandard code ordinances regarding unsafe buildings.

City Manager, Lucas, reported that the courthouse doors that were damaged by fire would be finished and hung in two weeks. He had visited the Hahira Community Center, where the Camp Learn-A-Lot was being held and enjoyed visiting with the young people there.

Mayor Adams reported that the 2002 Budget workshops would begin next month.

- A letter was received from the City of Duluth, thanking Hahira for providing honey for the GMA convention held in Savannah recently.

- EPD has announced water conservation restrictions will be lifted tomorrow for this part of the state due to the recent rainfall; however, the odd/even address requirement of watering days will remain in affect. Citizens are still urged to use water wisely.

- Wire Rope of America still plans startup operations of their distribution center in the Hahira Business Park around the first of September. Also another business has contacted the Industrial Authority and expressed interest in locating in the Business Park.

- Qualifying for city elections is only two months away. In the November elections citizens will have the opportunity to vote for mayor and for districts # 1 and # 4 councils. Mayor Adams stated he hopes there will be lots of interest in the election process and several candidates will qualify during the qualifying period to be held in early September.

- Mayor Adams thanked Council Harris for his remarks supporting the closing of Mr. Spearman's store due to numerous safety, health and code violations. Mayor Adams further stated that property owners are not only required to abide by city ordinances that protect the health safety and welfare of citizens but have a responsibility to take pride in their city and their property, not allowing either to become a health or safety hazard and unsightly to other citizens or visitors to our community. People visiting our city form a lasting impression of our city by what they see while here.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn

