

Council Meeting

August 7, 2003

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, August 7th at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen Wayne Bullard, M. C. Nelson and Joel Hunnicutt; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Interim City Attorney, Pope Langdale.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Council Bullard, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Mr. Terry Benjamin.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MAY 12, 2003 AND JULY 7, 2003 COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the Called Council Meeting on May 12th and July 7th Council Meeting, with a change from Rob Plumb, City Attorney, to Pope Langdale, City Attorney as present, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Approval of Amendments for Fiscal Year 2003 Budget

Mayor Crowe reported that the 2003 Budget amendments would not increase or decrease the amount of the Budget.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the amendments to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the amendments to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion. Council Bullard made a motion to amend the budget as stated, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

(B) Compensation of Elected Officials

Mayor Crowe stated that this did not require a Public Hearing, but he wanted it to be a Public Hearing so that the citizens would have the opportunity to express their thoughts.

Mayor Crowe stated that there has been no compensation for the Mayor and Council since 1993. Certain guidelines have to be followed and this has to be done before qualifying for elections. He had asked the City Manager to check on other cities of comparable size and get an average on salaries of public officials. The average Mayor's salary was \$4,879.90. The average Council's salary was \$2,470.00. The average number of citizens was 1823.

Mayor Crowe asked for Council's input. Council Bullard stated that he was on Council when the last raise was voted on in 1993. He proposed a salary of \$3,600.00 for the Mayor and \$2,100.00 for each Councilmember, which he stated was not an excessive raise in 10 years.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak who was in favor of the request.

Ms. Karen Camion, 405 W. Stanfill Street, stated that she thought it was more than fair for the City officials to get an increase and there may be other people who would like to participate. Hahira is going to get bigger. She also stated that the City needed to look at raises for the city workers. She mentioned Freddie Lawrence, Jr., who works with heavy machinery. She also stated that the city officials needed to look into insurance for city employees. Citizens should be given a voice at Council Meetings instead of once every three months.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the request.

Mr. Eldon Moore, 403 E. Stanfill Street, stated that he was once a Councilman and was paid \$200.00 per year. It was something that the city gave as appreciation. Now it has become big money. He stated that he did not think they deserved the increase. He could not classify them as on a salaried position but it should be out of serving the community. He did not think that the city could afford to raise their salary. He stated that the money could be used for better means, such as raises for the city employees or insurance.

Ms. Bee Folsom, 300 S. Nelson Street, stated that she was not totally against the increase. She was concerned about insurance for city employees. She thanked John Thursby, Public Works Director, for having a hole filled in after she had called to report that she had stepped in the hole and fell down. She stated that she could have been badly hurt. She stated that there were lots of things around town that needed fixing.

Mr. Freeman Rivers, 204 S. Hall Street, stated that he was not against the increase, but he thought that the Council was doing it too hastily, and there was

no representative for District 1. He stated that Council needed a raise, but he asked them not to vote on it tonight.

Mayor Crowe stated that it had not been done in haste, as it had been advertised and Council had been discussing it for the last few months. He called for a motion.

Council Bullard made a motion to raise the Mayor's salary to \$3,600.00 and Council's to \$2,100.00, seconded by Council Nelson. Council Bullard and Nelson voted yes. Council Hunnicutt voted no. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Acceptance of Bid for Paving New Downtown Parking Lot

Public Works Director, John Thursby, recommended Reames Construction to do the paving for \$3,950.00. Mickey's and Subway will share the cost of the gates. Total cost would be around \$8,000.00. Mayor Crowe stated that \$5,100.00 would be paid from DDA funds and \$2,500.00 from SPLOST funds. Council Bullard made a motion to go ahead with project so that it will be ready for the Honey Bee Festival, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

(A) Approval to Use DDA Funds Transferred to Better Hometown Program for Paving New Downtown Parking Lot

Mayor Crowe reported that \$5,100.00 would be transferred from DDA funds to Better Hometown Program to be used for paving the new downtown parking lot.

B. Transfer of Better Hometown funds to Better Hometown Board for Use in Revitalization of Downtown Area

Mayor Crowe stated that the funds would be transferred to the Better Hometown Board.

C. Appointment of Nick Lacey to Serve as Coordinator of Homeland Security

Mayor Crowe stated that GEMA was requesting a local point of contact. He recommended Nick Lacey, who will be representing the County.

D. Execution of ADA Compliance Contract with KD and Company

Mayor Crowe stated that this was voted on last month. This will bring the Courthouse, Community Center and City Hall into ADA Compliance. Total cost will be \$24,650.00, which will come from SPLOST funds. He asked for the authority to sign the contract.

E. Confirm Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Work Sessions

Mayor Crowe reported that a Budget Work Session would be held on Tuesday, August 19th at Austins Steakhouse in Valdosta from 8AM until 5 PM. There will be a Called Council Meeting on August 25th to approve the preliminary budget and a Public Hearing will be on September 23rd to approve the 2004 Budget.

F. Permission for Authorization of Signature Changes on Bank Signature Cards

Mayor Crowe reported that the signature cards needed to be changed until a new City Manager is hired.

G. Permission for Authorization of Names for Department of Administrative Services (DOAS)

Mayor Crowe stated that the Department of Administrative Services oversees the distribution of federal and state surplus property. He listed Public Works Director, John Thursby, Police Chief, Terry Davis, Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, Councilman M. C. Nelson and himself to be put on the list.

H. Approval of four way stop signs at Coleman Road and Hagan Bridge Road

Mayor Crowe stated that residents in the Hagan Bridge Road area had inquired about slowing the traffic in the area. Police Chief, Terry Davis, recommended putting 4-way stop signs on Coleman Road and Hagan Bridge Road.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed on Item G. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Hunnicutt had no report.

Council Bullard thanked Public Works Director, John Thursby, for work that was done in the city and removing the ragged flags.

Council Nelson reported that the city was waiting on the D. O. T. for verification before starting the sidewalk project on North Church Street.

MAYOR

Mayor Crowe reported that the Mayor/Council compensation would start in 2004.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion to adjourn. Council Bullard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting ended at 8:20 P.M.

Myron Crowe, Mayor

Marilyn Brady, City Clerk

Called Council Meeting

August 25, 2003

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in a Called Meeting on Monday, August 25th at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen Wayne Bullard, M. C. Nelson and Joel Hunnicutt; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett.

Mayor Crowe called on Public Works Director, John Thursby, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Mayor Crowe.

Mayor Crowe stated that the purpose of the meeting was to approve the preliminary 2004 budget. A Public Hearing will be held.

Mayor Crowe briefed Council on the 2004 preliminary budget. (See attached preliminary budget)

Mayor Crowe asked Council if there were any questions. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called on a motion to approve the preliminary 2004 budget. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the preliminary 2004 budget, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Council Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Myron Crowe, Mayor

Marilyn Brady, City Clerk