

Council Meeting

January 8, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu (who was sworn in prior to Council Meeting); Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

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

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

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF DECEMBER 4, 2003 COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Crowe recommended appointing Council Nelson as Mayor Pro Tem. He asked Council for nominations. Council Benjamin nominated Council Ogundu as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Nelson made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Council Benjamin. Mayor Crowe called for a vote on the nominations. Council Nelson – one vote. Council Ogundu – two votes. Mayor Crowe stated that Council Ogundu would serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

SWEARING IN OF DAVID FAIRCLOTH AS NEW POLICE OFFICER

Mayor Crowe swore in David Faircloth as a new police officer for the Hahira Police Department.

PROMOTION OF SHANNON KINGSTON

Police Chief, Terry Davis, called on Shannon Kingston to read the letter of promotion to Sargeant. Police Chief, Davis, congratulated her on her promotion.

SWEARING IN OF JUSTIN PLY AS ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Mayor Crowe called on Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, to swear in Justin Ply as the new Assistant Fire Chief.

SWEARING IN OF ROB PLUMB AS CITY ATTORNEY

Mayor Crowe swore in Rob Plumb as City Attorney.

PROCLAMATION: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Mayor Crowe called on Council Benjamin to read the proclamation, with Mayor Crowe reading the last paragraph, designating January 19 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Crowe asked Police Chief, Terry Davis, if anyone had signed up on the list "Wishing to be heard." He stated that there was not. Mayor stated that this is the first meeting to include "Citizens Wishing to be Heard" and it will be included at each council meeting. Citizens will have to sign up for this.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR WATER/SEWER/SANITATION PAYMENT & COLLECTION

Public Works Director, John Thursby, reported on changes in water/sewer deposits and payments. He stated that he had checked other surrounding cities to find out the amounts of their deposits. The deposits were from \$75.00 to \$100.00. He suggested a \$100.00 deposit. He also asked the city to allow customers who couldn't pay the full deposit to pay ½ and then the balance in 30 days. Those in the military would pay \$50.00. H & S Rentals would pay \$70.00 for water and sewer, no sanitation deposit. He requested that commercial customers would vary from \$100.00 to \$500.00. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the changes on the water and sewer payments and collection, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

PURCHASE APPROVAL FOR JET RODDER

Public Works Director, John Thursby, asked for approval to purchase a new jet rodder from P & H Supply for \$24,750.00 plus shipping. He stated that he could pick it up and save the cost of shipping. This is a budgeted item. **Council Nelson made a motion to approve the purchase from P & H for \$24,750.00, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

PROPOSED CHANGES IN PAYMENT OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, reported that he had done research on the codes for the volunteer firefighters and there was a lot of room for interpretation in the ordinances. They wanted to make some amendments to the ordinances. They discovered that most of the amendments read that most of the volunteers were considered part-time employees and taxes were taken out. He wanted to correct this by having each volunteer not to be considered an employee of the city. This would make them exempt from taxes which would be considered a reimbursement to them for training pay. Training pay would be set at the amount that was discussed previously. Each volunteer that meets the requirement of 50% of Hahira Fire Dept. training meetings and 50% of all fire calls in Hahira will be eligible to receive \$180.00 annually, with the option of placing these funds in the Georgia Firefighters Pension Plan, or any other plan that the firefighter deems financially secure. **Council Nelson made a motion to make the changes, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Agreement for Public Works to complete parking area at Courthouse

Public Works Director, John Thursby, reported that the city would do the work in paving the parking area on the east side of the Courthouse. Estimated cost of the project would be \$1,600.00.

- B. Change allowing Accounting Clerk or City Manager authority to make necessary line item amendments to budget within departments with approval of Mayor

Mayor Crowe read the amendment to City Code Section 2-111 Transfer of appropriations. This is the first reading of the amendment. The second reading will be at next month's council meeting.

- C. Authority to execute Railroad Property Maintenance Agreement

Mayor Crowe asked for Council's approval to give him the authority to sign the Maintenance Agreement.

- D. South Georgia Medical Center-First Responder Agreement

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, reported that this would allow the Fire and Police Department to respond to emergency calls and to assist the EMT's. Training would be included from SGMC.

- E. Acceptance of 2004 City Council and Work Session Calendar

Mayor Crowe reported that the calendar would have the dates of the work sessions and Council Meetings and would be displayed in the display case in front of City Hall. (List attached)

- F. Acceptance of 2004 Employee holiday calendar

Mayor Crowe reported on the employee holidays for 2004. (List attached)

- G. Implementation of Employee of the month program

Mayor Crowe reported that the program will start in February. There will be an employee of the month award and an employee of the year.

- H. Approval to amend code concerning compensation of elected officials

Mayor Crowe reported that Section 44 of the Charter under "Compensation of Mayor and Council" needed to be changed. He read the first reading of the change. This will be read again at the next council meeting and council will vote on the amendment. (Copy attached)

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

COUNCIL

Council Nelson reported that Edgewater Subdivision was almost completed.

Council Benjamin congratulated Shannon Kingston on her promotion and David Faircloth as new patrolman for the Police Department, Justin Ply as new Assistant Fire Chief and Rob Plumb, new City Attorney. He stated that he would miss outgoing Councilmen Wayne Bullard and Joel Hunnicutt.

Council Ogundu also congratulated Shannon Kingston and David Faircloth. He thanked all of the voters who elected him.

MAYOR

Mayor Crowe congratulated Shannon Kingston, David Faircloth and Justin Ply. He also welcomed Rob Plumb as the new City Attorney.

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

Meeting ended at 8:15 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Mayor

Marilyn Brady
City Clerk