

Council Meeting

June 10, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, June 10, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; PWD, 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 PWD John Thursby, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Commissioner Richard Lee.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MAY 6, 2004 COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Ogundu stated that on page 1, paragraph 4, a mistake was made on first and last name – (listed as Wayne Benjamin, should have been Terry Benjamin).

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

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) HA-2004-06 Charles Bennett – Annexation/Rezoning request

Alan Sloan of the Planning Commission reported that the request was tabled last month at the applicant's request. They are ready to continue with the request to annex and rezone 20.96 acres from A-U, C-H, and F-H to C-H and R-10 Residential City for the purpose of developing a residential subdivision. The property is undeveloped and is located on Union Road, north of Hahira, across from Howard's End Way and with frontage on I-75. The front portion of the property is what they are proposing to develop as residential. There are wetlands through the property that cut off access to the rear. The rear of the property is to remain C-H and is not included within the proposed lot layout. Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the request to speak.

Bill Kent, 105 W. Central Ave., Valdosta, GA., stated that he was there to represent Mr. Bennett and to answer any questions concerning the development.

Mayor Crowe asked how many lots were they proposing. Mr. Kent stated that, right now, there are 18 lots showing on the conceptual plan and with the R-10 zoning, they may be able to add a few more. Mayor Crowe explained that, if approved by council, the developer would be responsible for the lift station needed and would have to follow all subdivision guidelines as set forth in the City of Hahira. Mr. Kent stated that he understood.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in opposition of the request to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Ogundu. Councils Benjamin and Ogundu voted yes. Councils Bullard and Nelson voted no. Mayor Crowe voted yes. Motion was approved.**

(B) HA-2004-07 J. C. and Catherine Cowart – Annexation/Rezoning request – Request withdrawn

Mr. Sloan stated that the request had been withdrawn.

(C) HA-2004-09 Text Amendment – Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Section 10A "Wetlands Protection

Districts") (2nd Reading)

Mr. Sloan reported that this was adopted several months ago as a part of the Hahira Zoning Ordinance and this is the second reading. The city charter requires two readings and at the next meeting it can be voted on. They recommended approval of the text amendment immediately after the adoption of the stand alone ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked for those wishing to speak in favor or in opposition of the amendment to speak. There was no response.

(D) HA-2004-10 James D. Cone – Special Exception to establish an accessory structure on a separate lot; Variance to front yard setback

Mr. Sloan reported that the applicant is requesting a Special Exception to establish three accessory buildings on an adjacent lot in a Light Manufacturing (M-1) zoning district. The applicant is also requesting a variance to the front yard building setback. The property is located in the Hahira Business Park on Sonny

Rogers Memorial Drive. The applicant proposes to use the buildings for lumber storage. The Staff would like to see screening along the front of the property to shield the proposed structures. The Planning Commission recommended approval with the conditions that a wooden privacy fence be constructed between the two buildings and that the applicant comply with the Hahira Tree and Landscaping Ordinance.

Mayor Crowe called for those wishing to speak in favor of the Special Exception.

Mr. Jimmy Cone, 1806 Plum Street, Valdosta, GA. , stated that he was representing the owners and would answer any questions. He stated that the back of the buildings would be used as the fencing.

Mayor Crowe called for those wishing to speak in opposition of the Special Exception.

There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion from council. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Special Exception, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

(E) HA-2004-11 Text Amendment – Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Sections 5-1, 9-1, and 9-2 "Home Occupation and Home Business Signs"

Mr. Sloan reported that the Hahira Zoning Ordinance has allowances for Home Occupations and Home Businesses, which are small, extremely low-scale businesses operated out of the business owner's home. There was very little on restrictions on signs for Home Businesses. It is Staff's opinion that a 12 square foot sign is too large to allow by right in an established residential neighborhood. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Text Amendment.

Mayor Crowe called for those in favor of the Text Amendment to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for those in opposition of the Text Amendment to speak. There was no response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Text Amendment, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

End of Public Hearing

DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to attend August 20 training workshop in Macon

City Manager, Janice Logue, requested approval to attend a one-day training workshop for Ramona Robison and herself. Cost would be \$199.00 per person.

- B. Approval to implement 3% cost of living raise

City Manager, Janice Logue, requested approval to implement a 3% cost of living raise for city employees starting on July 1, 2004.

- C. Approval to purchase \$1,600.00 in AED for rescue truck

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested approval to purchase an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the rescue truck. \$750.00 would come from the sales of the air packs.

- D. Approval to attend August 12 Training Workshop in Valdosta

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to send Chris Stevens to a Training Workshop in Valdosta on August 12, 2004. The cost would be \$199.00. This is a budgeted item.

- E. Approval to attend July 14-18 APWA Annual Meeting

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to attend the APWS Annual Meeting. Cost would be \$99.00 for lodging. This is a budgeted item.

- F. Approval to purchase uniforms

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase new uniforms for the Police Department at a cost of \$4,000.00. This is a budgeted item.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Execute ordinance for employee health benefits through Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS)

Mayor Crowe reported that this was for approval to execute the ordinance on health benefits for city employees through GMA.

B. Execute Land Application System (Sprayfield) Agreement

PWD, John Thursby, reported on the agreement on the Land Application System. He recommended continuing with Mr. Rick Whitman.

C. Execute Water and Sewer System Capacity Study Proposal with Stevenson and Palmer Engineering, Inc.

PWD, John Thursby, reported on the proposal.

Mayor Crowe asked if there were any questions from council? Council Benjamin wanted to know if the GMA would send representatives to discuss the employee health benefits. City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that it would have to be requested.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

(A) Temporary shelter for fire truck

Mayor Crowe reported on the need for a temporary shelter for the new fire truck that has been ordered. He asked for council's approval to lease Mr. H. M. Barfield's property located on South Church Street for six months at \$200.00 per month.

Council Nelson made a motion to approve a 6 month lease starting in July, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

B. Authorization to pursue plans to recognize the Drew brothers

Mayor Crowe requested approval to authorize the Better Hometown Director, Kimberly Hart, to pursue plans on signs to recognize the Drew brothers.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Crowe called on City Attorney, Rob Plumb, to speak on a lawsuit against the city. Mr. Plumb recommended paying \$1,500.00 to settle the lawsuit. **Council Benjamin made a motion to pay \$1,500.00 to settle the lawsuit, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Joe Duggan, Hahira, Ga., complained about the Hahira Police Department (Comments on tape)

County Commissioner, District 2, Richard "Dickie" Lee, invited everyone to attend the groundbreaking services of the new Hahira Recreation Facility which will be on Tuesday, June 15th at 10 A.M.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Nelson reported that there was a lot of building going on in his area.

Councilmen Bullard, Ogundu and Benjamin had no reports.

B. CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked council to look over the new employee handbook and vote at the next council meeting to implement it.

C. MAYOR

Mayor Crowe reminded everyone to remember June 15th as groundbreaking of the new recreation facility.

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

Myron Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk