

Council Meeting

October 7, 2004

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

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Police Chief, Terry Davis; PWD, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

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

Mayor Crowe called on Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mayor Crowe.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 COUNCIL MEETING

Council Nelson 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Hahira regarding budget form and content

City Manager, Janice Logue, read the ordinance.

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

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

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

End Public Hearing

ACCEPT PROPOSED 2005 BUDGET

Mayor Crowe read the budget message. **Council Ogundu made a motion to accept the proposed 2005 budget, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to purchase 800 mhz radio for Engine 3 using \$3,590 of FEMA Grant Money

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, asked for approval to purchase the radio.

(B) Approval to spend the remaining FEMA grant money (\$1,035) and \$6,067 of matching funds from the city to purchase additional Turnout gear, gear bags, 1 power saw, hand lights, fire foam, foam educator and other misc. equipment

Fire Chief, Bennett, asked for approval to spend the remaining grant money and matching funds for the equipment.

- (C) Approval to purchase new truck

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase a new Dodge truck for \$18,769.00.

- A. Approval to submit Letter of Application to 2005 Georgia Law Enforcement Delegation to Israel

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to submit a letter of application for a two-week training session in Israel. All expenses, including hotel, would be included. If selected, he would waive the winter training session in Atlanta.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve DOT Agreement for I-75 Interchange Lighting

Mayor Crowe asked for approval to sign an agreement with DOT for I-75 interchange lighting. The city would pay for monthly electric charges, which would be about \$673.60. The total yearly cost would be \$8083.20.

- B. Approve Street Lighting Proposal and Tennis Court Lighting

Mayor Crowe asked approval for street lighting for different areas in the city. Cost of materials would be \$914.00. The proposed monthly fee would be \$140.94. This would be for 15 fixtures and 3 poles. Also included would be two lights for the tennis courts at the Middle School. Cost for the lights would be from \$400 to \$500.

C. Approval for the City to accept credit cards as a method of payment

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the rent for the machine would be \$15.00 and \$20.00 for each printer. The city would need two machines and printers. This would be on a trial basis. At this time, no surcharge will be charged. In talking with other cities, they had an increase of 10% when they started using the credit cards.

(D) Approve October 20th Training for Councilman Ogundu

Mayor Crowe stated that the training session would be held in Tifton. The cost would be \$125.00, plus gas expense.

Council Benjamin asked to add a light at the end of Sargent Street. Mayor Crowe called for a motion and to include a pole and another light for Sargent Street.

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

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Crowe asked for approval to purchase the property on Owens Street that is beside the old shop building. The cost of the lot would be \$18,000.00. Lot size is 60x100 and faces Owens Street. City will provide survey and place privacy fence between property once Fire Department is built.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the purchase of the property and proceed with the survey of the property, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR PLANS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS

Mayor Crowe asked for approval to request bids for plans for the Fire Department, which would include renovations on the brick building, plans for the actual Fire Department, and the layout and site plan. **Council Bullard made a motion to proceed with the bids, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT SIDEWALK BID

Mayor Crowe stated that the Council had previously approved the sidewalk project for the Public Works Department to do. This is the extension of the current sidewalks from N. Church to the city limits. The project started with sections completed and some uncompleted, due to the Public Works Department being overloaded recently. They advertised for bids. Two bids were received. The low bid was from Tricon Construction for \$28,163.00. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve Tricon finishing the sidewalks, seconded by Council Nelson.** (Discussion on tape) Council Ogundu and Benjamin voiced their concerns on the cost of the project and wanted the Public Works Department to finish the project.

Mayor Crowe called for a vote on the motion. **Councils Nelson and Bullard voted yes. Councils Ogundu and Benjamin voted no. Tie Vote; Mayor Crowe voted yes, breaking the tie. Motion passed.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Marshall Ingram, 411 Sargent Street, complained about a sewer problem in the street close to his house. Raw sewerage has been overflowing for some time and the smell in the area is bad. He asked that the city have the problem fixed as it is a health hazard for citizens. This has been going on for several years.

Mayor Crowe called on PWD, John Thursby, to inform the citizens on what is being done in this situation. Mr. Thursby stated that the City Engineers had been contacted on this. The city had made an effort in doing something about it. The water needed to be processed faster. The old pumps did not pump enough, so they increased the size of the pumps, increased their capacity and put the pumps on separate lines. This was still not enough. The city engineers were contacted again. Lime was put out in the area to kill bacteria and the smell. They will be talking with the EPD next week and see what can be done.

Mr. Gene Godfrey, minister of Newsom Street Church of Christ, also complained about the sewer problem. There was flooding in their fellowship area. He was concerned for church members and their families. He asked the city to have something done.

Kathy Ingram, 411 Sargent Street, was concerned about the field behind their house and asked that it be maintained better as it is an eyesore and a safety hazard.

Geneva Hutcherson, 204 Wright Street, stated that the drains needed cleaning out. She also asked about getting the field cut across from her house.

Wilmon Stanley, 308 Washington Street, stated that he agreed with Mr. Ingram and the minister about the sewer problem and the smell. He stated that it was an eyesore and a health problem. He stated that he would appreciate the city's help and concern in this matter.

Richard Lee, District 2 Commissioner, stated he applauded each and every one who came tonight and voiced their concerns and also applauded the Mayor and Council for their work. He mentioned the recent hurricanes and the problems caused by them. The work on the recreation facility has slowed but will continue to progress. He mentioned the growth in the area and the need for water and sewer and the possibility of using city water.

Mr. John Page, 5755 Coleman Road, candidate for State Representative, District 176, addressed Mayor and Council and the audience. He stated that he wanted to support Hahira and to be here to listen and asked citizens to call.

Mr. Rusty Griffin, 3821 Skipper Bridge Road, Valdosta, Ga, candidate for Senate, District 8, addressed Mayor and Council and the audience.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also thanked the city departments for their work during and recent storms, also during the Honey Bee Festival.

Councilman Ogundu thanked the people for speaking tonight. He also thanked the Honey Bee Committee on the festival, the Police and Water/Sewer/Sanitation Departments for their help during the festival. He offered condolences to Councilman Wayne Bullard on the loss of his aunt.

Councilman Nelson sympathized with Mr. Ingram and the neighbors who had the sewer problem. He stated that the city would continue to work for a solution. He thanked the Honey Bee Committee for the festival; He met with some neighbors and Dr. Moye to discuss a water problem in Audubon Heights subdivision.

Councilman Bullard reported that there was a good turnout for the Honey Bee Festival and he thanked the Public Works and Police Departments for their work. He thanked the candidates who were present tonight for coming; He spoke on the sewer problem that Mr. Ingram and others had suffered recently and promised to do all that he could do.

B. CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the 5-year Strategic Plan was available at City Hall. Those who are interested can come in and read it or pay for a copy; She stated that

this was her first Honey Bee Festival and she enjoyed it very much; She thanked Public Works for their work in cleaning up after the festival. Also the city will be picking up trash from the storm that happened just before the festival.

C. MAYOR

Mayor Crowe also thanked the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments for their work during the festival; He thanked the people who came tonight and spoke about their problems, and told them that he would be meeting with EPD next week and would be looking for a solution; He talked about ISO ratings in the city; He reported that the house at 202 Railroad Street was getting an "Extreme Makeover" and those who were interested could go by and see what was going on. The family has been out of the house during this time and will be returning by limousine on Friday at 5 P.M. WALB-TV will be filming the event.

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

Meeting ended at 8:55 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk