

Council Meeting

December 2, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, December 2, 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; Police Chief, Terry Davis; PWD, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; Finance Director, Ramona Robison; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

ABSENT: City Clerk, Marilyn Brady

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

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman Nelson, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Councilman Benjamin.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

Mr. Richard Parham, Randall Street, presented the city with a framed diploma that was given to Horace Overstreet on May 10, 1918.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF NOVEMBER 4TH COUNCIL MEETING

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes and go back and amend the portion concerning the Gov. & Growth class, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. HA-2004-16 Variance to the City of Hahira Subdivision Regulations specifically Section 5-6.9

Right-of-Way Extension – Charles Bennett

Mr. Jason Davenport of the Planning Commission stated that Mr. Bennett had requested a variance to the property. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the variance request. Mr. Bill Kent, ASA Engineering, 105 W Central Ave, Valdosta, GA said that he was representing Mr. Bennett and would answer any questions.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in opposition. There was no response.

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

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to be heard. Mrs. Eula Copeland, 210 Branch Street, said that she was here to speak on behalf of some of the citizens in the community. She said that some things were going on with the council that shouldn't be. She stated that she believed in City Government and the Mayor and Council are elected officials and it grieves her heart, when she looks around and sees certain things happening among the Mayor and Council. She said that they should leave their personal disagreements outside the door and when they come in they should have a mind to do the work for the city government which they were elected to do. She stated that they expected the Mayor and Council to be civil to one another when they are inside the courthouse. Their emotions are expressed in their faces and voices and even show it in their walk. She said that she respected them but did not always agree with them.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve 2005 Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the schedule.

- B. Approve 2005 Holiday Calendar

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the holiday calendar.

- C. Approve Holiday Schedule Change from ½ day Dec. 24th and Dec 27th to ½ day Dec 23rd and Dec 24th

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the change would be to accommodate the sanitation pickup which would start on Monday morning after Christmas. After New Years Day holiday, sanitation service will begin as usual.

- D. Approve City Employee Christmas Bonuses

Mayor Crowe asked for approval of employee bonuses in the amount of \$5,670.58.

- E. Approve 2004 Excess Sick Leave Pay

Mayor Crowe asked for approval of excess sick leave pay in the amount of \$2,976.44.

- F. Approve Fire Department Training Pay

Mayor Crowe asked for approval of the Fire Department training pay in the amount of \$5,025.00 for the volunteers and \$710.00 for Justin Ply, Assistant Fire Chief.

- G. Approve Chief's Winter Conference in Atlanta

Police Chief, Terry Davis, asked for approval of the winter conference in Atlanta, if his application for a winter conference in Israel is rejected. He is required to attend two conferences each year, one in the summer and one in the winter. Cost of the Atlanta conference would be \$500.00.

- H. Approve Public Works Department to proceed with engineering evaluations on the overflow problem

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval for the engineering evaluations on the overflow problem. Council Ogundu asked if the Council could be notified when they meet with the engineers.

- I. Approve De-chlorination Equipment

PWD, John Thursby, asked council to approve the equipment. Cost of the de-chlorination unit and the chemicals would be \$1,500.00 to get started.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Department Request Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Council Benjamin recommended sending a letter to the Newsom Street Church of Christ and Mr. Marshall Ingram regarding the engineering evaluations. Vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve corporate table (10 people) at Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner \$300 – January 25th

Mayor Crowe asked for council's approval for the corporate table at the Chamber of Commerce Annual dinner.

- B. Approve January 22-24, 2005 Mayor's Day Conference in Atlanta

Mayor Crowe asked for council's approval for the Mayor's Day Conference.

- C. Approve FEMA and GEMA grant re-imbusement for hurricane

Mayor Crowe asked for council's approval to approve FEMA and GEMA grant re-imbusement.

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

APPROVE EXECUTION OF EPD CONSENT ORDER

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the consent order from EPD was sent due to the fact that there have been some inaccurate and incomplete reports. We have a contract with a laboratory. There were some months that the reports were late, incomplete or inaccurate. The EPD did not notify the city until July 2004. They are going back a year and the city will be charged a fine of \$6,626.00 for a problem that the city was not aware of. They are also requesting a Standard Operating Procedure, which the city engineers, Stephenson and Palmer Engineering, has already provided to them. Within thirty days they are requesting written procedures and schedules for checking secondary flows instrumentation calibration on a routine basis, which, right now we do not have a schedule for. Beginning August 1, 2004, any penalty will be \$2000.00 per month for anytime that the city is late, inaccurate or incomplete reporting. Within 60 days from the third month in which the city violates the modified permit monthly average flow, the city shall submit to EPD a Corrective Action Plan and schedule. The city has to have a corrective action plan and schedule to them within 60 days after this consent order and the modified permit is signed. Then within 60 days of receipt of the wasteload allocation approved by the EPD, which is what the city is waiting on. For year round surface water discharge submit to EPD in writing the city's proposal for addressing its future wastewater needs based on the approved wastewater allocations.

Mayor Crowe asked for council's approval to execute the consent order.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the consent order, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Council Ogundu wanted to know who was responsible. PWD, John Thursby, stated Poythress Environmental Service. Council Ogundu requested that a letter be sent to the company to see if the city can recover some of the fine money. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE FRANK'S CREEK PROJECT

Mayor Crowe reported that the city paid for an "in-depth study" of the water and sewer capacity with Stephenson and Palmer Engineering, dated September 2004. It was a comprehensive study. They looked at the potential growth in the area. They talked with some developers who are looking at some areas and would like to be annexed into the city. They found out that the city's water was fine. An additional 170 homes can be connected to the sewer without being in violation. When they met with the EPD in Atlanta, they found errors in the study that Stephenson and Palmer Engineering made. They had made a couple of minor errors that the EPD brought up at the meeting. They were unsure about the 170 water taps. Once the city executes the consent order, they are going to change our flow and then the city will be able to get the number of taps that we should get under this study.

Mayor Crowe asked PWD, John Thursby, to explain the monitoring and how we are going to accomplish this with the change. He stated that the problem exists because with the first treatment, we changed the monitoring so that all of the water that is treated is monitored. The flow that was going into the treatment pond, which is the secondary treatment of the plan. What we propose, or want to do, is change it from that monitoring point back to the original monitoring point with discharge through the Land Application System. It doesn't make any difference how much water we put into the holding pond, it makes a difference in how much water we put back into the environment. All of the water flowing out of the holding pond that could violate our permit is storage water. If we go to the Land Application System, it will let more water discharge. That will increase the amount of water flow.

Mayor Crowe stated that part of the problem is that during the wet months, November through April, a portion of the wastewater is directed to the constructed wetlands and then is discharged into a tributary of Frank's Creek. We are not able to discharge there on a 12 month period. We can put water on our Land Application System. Stephenson and Palmer Engineering, on their report, stated that the city would have to meet with EPD to discuss permit modifications, of which the city is doing. Once this is done they will change the permitting. Then Plan B stated that the city should plan to upgrade to accommodate additional flows to the treatment system. After talking with EPD, Stephenson and Palmer Engineering and another Engineering firm, we are going to need to discharge into Frank's Creek. We have a construction cost estimate to go to Frank's Creek. Approximate cost would be \$301,514.88. This is only a projection. We have spent \$10,000.00 on the study. The recommendations are there. We are going to get our permit change with execution of the consent order. We are going to be in a bind if we don't start this project. He asked for council's approval for the engineering phase of looking into going to Frank's Creek, although we will have our permit modified once the consent order is executed.

Council Ogundu made a motion to table it, seconded by Council Benjamin. Discussion followed. Council Benjamin asked if the city was looking for bids on the engineering. Mayor Crowe stated that this was basically a bid from Stephenson and Palmer. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE HAGAN BRIDGE ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT

PWD, John Thursby, reported on the sidewalk project from Hagan Bridge Road to Claudia Drive. The sidewalk is set too close to the road. This is a traffic hazard. His plans are to install 18" pipe

past the existing sidewalk to the road that they are proposing to put in. Put in a sidewalk on Claudia Drive up to Grace Street so that children will not be in the road. The cost would be around \$4,500.00.

Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that the sidewalk definitely needed to be moved over.

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

RECOGNITION

A. Thank you letter from Nspire Magazine

Mayor Crowe reported that this was a thank you letter from Nspire Magazine editor, Cindy Bardes, thanking the city for their help in the recent home makeover. The house that was remodeled is located on Railroad Street and the owner is David Ferrier. He asked that everyone support this magazine.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Benjamin wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Council Ogundu congratulated Mayor and Jessica Crowe on their recent announcement on expecting their first baby.

Council Ogundu stated that last month, the council rejected his offer to attend a Govt. and Growth Conference in Atlanta. He felt that this would benefit the City of Hahira and he took it upon himself to attend the class. This was a very informational class.

Council Bullard wished everyone a happy holiday. He also stated that the ditches were looking good and complimented the Public Works Department. He invited those who could to join the American Legion and also to ride in the upcoming Christmas parade.

Council Nelson stated that there was a water problem in Audubon Heights. Water was flowing across Highway 41, causing a problem. Dr. Moye met with PWD, John Thursby to find out what needed to be done. The sidewalks have been completed on North Church Street.

Council Bullard stated that he had heard from many citizens who enjoyed the newsletter that was sent out.

B. City Manager

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the Christmas Parade would be on Saturday the 11th at 5:00 P.M., also a Christmas Bazaar would be held downtown starting at 10:00 AM and Open House starting about 3:00 P.M. They are hoping that the train display will be put up in the courthouse, but have run into some problems. She also stated that she had heard from citizens on the newsletter that was put out by the BHT and asked for support of the newsletter from local businesses through advertising. She wished everyone happy holidays.

C. Mayor

Mayor Crowe asked citizens and businesses to support the newsletter.

Mayor Crowe called on Police Chief, Terry Davis, to report on the Mayor's Day motorcade. Chief Davis stated that he and Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, are accepting donations of cash and gifts to be taken to Southwestern Hospital in Thomasville for the Mayor's Day motorcade.

Mayor Crowe stated that it was a blessing for him to go there each year. He also said that some of the local churches were sending donations.

Mayor Crowe stated that Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, was working on lowering the ISO rating in the city.

Mayor Crowe asked for a motion from council to enter into a short executive session.

Council Nelson made a motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting ended at 8:30 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Mayor

Ramona Robison
Acting City Clerk

Special Council Meeting

December 20, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, December 20, 2004, at 9:30 A.M. at City Hall 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; PWD, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett

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

Mayor Crowe reported that "Citizens Wishing to be Heard" should be on the Agenda. He asked if there was anyone wishing to speak. There was no response.

APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Mayor Crowe called on Mr. Richard Hill, architect, to give his proposal. Mr. Hill stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to council on the new Fire Department building. He presented a set of drawings for council to review. The survey was made by Stan Folsom. They have been working to get the drawings ready for bid. Site plans were studied.

Mayor Crowe asked council if there were any questions. He then called for a motion to approve the completion of the plans and put it out for bids. **Council Nelson made a motion to proceed with the bid process, seconded by Council Ogundu. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.**

APPROVE UV LIGHTING PROPOSAL

PWD, John Thursby, recommended Georgia Power Company to put in the transformers. He said that the cost would not exceed \$5,000.00, and possibly would be no charge.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve Georgia Power to install the UV lighting and not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE FRANK'S CREEK PROPOSAL

Mayor Crowe reported on the proposal. Stephenson and Palmer Engineering cost would be 14% and Lovell would be 8%.

Council Nelson made a motion to go with Lovell for the Frank's Creek pump station, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Motion was amended to go with Lovell for Frank's Creek pump station and send the city two letters of recommendation, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE SARGENT STREET SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

PWD, John Thursby, stated that he did not like the proposal from Stephenson and Palmer. He recommended to let Lovell do the study. Cost would be \$5,500.00.

Council Ogundu made a motion to let Jeff Lovell come and do the study, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE TEXT AMENDMENT ON SUBDIVISION REGULATION

Mayor Crowe reported on the text amendment. He suggested that the RDC study this.

Council Benjamin made a motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

The Special Meeting re-opened after the executive session at 10:45 A.M.

Mayor Crowe asked for council to approve pay raises for the Department heads at 6%.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Department Heads pay raises at 6%, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Crowe asked for council to approve a pay raise for Kimberly Hart, Better Hometown Director at \$10.00 per hour.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Better Hometown Director's pay raise to \$10.00 per hour, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

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

The Special Meeting ended at 11:00 A.M.

Myron Crowe
Mayor

Marilyn Brady
City Clerk