

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2006

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in a regular meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. at the courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor, Johnny Stalvey; Councilmen Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu, Terry Benjamin, and Rose Adams; City Manager/ City Clerk, Janice Logue; PWD, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb; Recorder, Marilyn Brady

Mayor Stalvey called the meeting to order.

Reverend Ken Morgan of the First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Johnny Stalvey, was sworn in as Mayor by Rev. Morgan.

Rose Adams was sworn in as Councilwoman, District 4, by Rev. Morgan.

Terry Benjamin was sworn in as Councilman, District 1, by Rev. Floyd Rose.

Mayor Stalvey called on Councilman Terry Benjamin to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Stalvey called on Rev. Morgan to give the invocation.

Mayor Stalvey welcomed all visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES: October 31st WORK SESSION: November 3rd
COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Stalvey asked Council if there were any questions on the minutes? There were none.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Stalvey asked Council if they had reviewed the bills. Council Adams stated that she knew that the bills had been paid for November and December. At the Work Session, she asked questions on the bills and was not satisfied with some of the answers she received. She had concerns on the Sams Club and the gift card, repair of the buildings, environmental, repair of vehicles, casual labor, miscellaneous supplies, gas, oil, cleaning of the streets. She stated that until she becomes familiar with the policy of purchasing, she would like to review all of the bills when they come into City Hall so that she can have a better understanding of what she approves every month. She wanted to know where the money is being spent and on what it is being spent on.

ADOPT PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION RESOLUTION

Mayor Stalvey called on Mr. Nick Lacey, Director of the Lowndes County 911 Emergency Management Center, to speak on the resolution. He stated that last year they started to put together a plan that would be a roadmap for the County and the municipalities to how they could mitigate the effects of natural hazards on the county and municipalities. This would include the effects of hurricanes, drought, heavy and intense thunderstorms, etc. The policy commission on this was chaired by Commissioner Richard Lee and City Manager, Janice Logue, and former Councilman M. C. Nelson were on the policy committee. There were nine other committees that looked at a variety of things. The South Georgia Regional Development Center helped put together a plan. He asked Council to adopt the resolution.

Mayor Stalvey asked Council if they had any questions? There were none.

Council Benjamin made a motion to adopt the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Resolution, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Larry Kolb, 305 E. Stanfill Street, complained about speeding cars on Stanfill Street. He stated that he has three children and other neighbors have children. They are afraid that someone could injure or kill someone on the street. He thanked the Police Department on their work in slowing down the cars. He said, however, they can't be there all of the time and when they are not there, some cars are speeding. He said that he wanted something done tonight, whether it is stop signs or speed bumps.

Mayor Stalvey stated that he and Police Chief, Terry Davis, have checked on this and he asked Chief Davis to get some bids on some things that need to be put on that street. This will be brought back to the February Council meeting.

Mr. Richard Rice, 306 E Stanfill Street, stated that he agreed with Mr. Kolb and would be willing to participate in anything moneywise, or other that is necessary. He stated that the people who are speeding are cutting through. Some are not citizens of Hahira. He wanted to see something done.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Stalvey called for a motion to elect the Mayor Pro-Tem.

Council Benjamin made a motion to nominate Council Temple Ogundu as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Council Rose Adams. Vote was unanimous.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Stalvey stated that he and other councilmembers had not looked into this and thought it best to do more research before they do the appointments. He asked if anyone wanted to go ahead with the appointments. **Council Adams made a motion to go ahead, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Stalvey appointments:

Council Terry Benjamin	-	Public Works
Council Temple Ogundu	-	Police Department
Council Wayne Bullard	-	Fire & Street Departments
Council Rose Adams	-	Administration, Parks & Recreation Departments

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

- (A) Approve Fire Department training pay

Council Adams stated that this has already been paid.

- (B) Approve Chief's Winter Conference

Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that every year they are required to get executive management in-service training. There is a summer and a winter conference. This has been budgeted for.

Council Adams made a motion to approve the winter conference, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

- (C) Approve Mutual Aid Agreement with Cook County Fire Department

Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Cook County Fire Department, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous.

- (D) Approve Baptist Church request on sewer tap

PWD, John Thursby, stated that Council had asked him to get a letter from the Baptist Church for their request for a sewer tap. He stated that each Councilmember should have a copy in their packet. He said that they wanted to see if the city would let them pay the cost for the installation of the water system and sewer line. He advised them that he would have to get Council's approval. The tap fee for the 6" water main is \$6,000.00. the 2" water lines are \$1,500.00, 4" sewer line is \$1,500.00. Total is \$9,000.00. The city would be giving the cost of labor and the equipment. This would be from \$3,200.00 to \$3,800.00.

Mayor Stalvey stated that the city needed to look on setting future precedences on this. He recommended not accepting the request.

Council Adams made a motion not to accept the request, seconded by Council Benjamin. Councils Benjamin, Ogundu and Adams voted yes. Council Bullard voted no. Motion passed.

PROCLAMATION – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Council Ogundu read part of the Proclamation. Mayor Stalvey finished reading the Proclamation declaring January 16th as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

STANFILL STREET

Mr. Eric Croft, 304 E Stanfill Street, stated that through the years they had been told that Stanfill Street was a state road and it was the state's job to do something with it. He said that it was not. It is Hahira's. Something needs to be done before a child is killed. He appreciated what the Police Department has done, but he said they needed the stop signs, or speed bumps, 24 hours a day.

Police Chief, Terry Davis, reported that there are several spots in Hahira where there are speeding problems. He talked with Mayor Stalvey and Public Works Director, John Thursby, about the problem. They suggested installing a four way sign on the corner of Owens and Stanfill Streets, a three way stop sign at the intersection of Nelson and Stanfill and another three way stop sign at Hodges and Stanfill, a three way stop sign at Park and Blakely Streets, a four way stop sign at Hall and Park Streets. Hopefully, the four way stop signs would help to slow down the traffic.

Mayor Stalvey stated that he had asked Police Chief, Terry Davis, to get prices. This will be presented at the February meeting.

SEWER TAPS – Gary Minchew

Mr. Gary Minchew, 908 Moss Way, Valdosta, Georgia, stated that there were four developers currently developing subdivisions in Hahira. He said that Council had the proposal from the developers, which was the result of compromise and listening and something the EPD will go along with. It is fair to the city and the developers involved and some relief for the small builders that are in financial peril because of houses they have got under construction, etc. He encouraged Council to adopt the proposal tonight, or something that they can go on with.

Mayor Stalvey thanked Mr. Minchew for his presentation.

ADOPT RESOLUTION ON NEW PROCEDURES FOR TAP CONNECTION REQUESTS

City Attorney, Rob Plumb, stated that he was asked to begin work on developing a procedure on policy for approval on the issuance of sewer connections, which, with the signing of the EPD Consent Order, the oversight in the issuance of sewer taps is now placed back in the City of Hahira. He said that he spoke to the City Engineer, Ronnie Dudley, from Stephenson and Palmer. They are trying to determine what the capacity of the system is. Before a policy can be adopted, there has to be input from the engineering experts so that a policy that is put in effect has to work. He said that they did not have a policy in place at this time.

Mr. Ronnie Dudley of Stephenson and Palmer Engineering, stated that his company had been doing business with Hahira since the early 1960's, as Mr. Earl Stephenson designed the original wastewater treatment facility in 1962. Mr. Dudley stated that he went to work with Stephenson and Palmer in 1986. He

started coming to Hahira and working with the city. He said that he is very familiar with the water and sewer system, and the infrastructure system. The city hired a consultant, which he recommended, who will evaluate the sprayfield to see what the capacity is. He said that the consultant would be here next week and he asked the builders and the city to be patient. The consultant has been studying the information for about a month getting familiar with the operations. Mr. Dudley said that what they are hoping for is that as soon as he completes his evaluation and gives a report, that the report will show that the land application system will take more water than what EPD has permitted for. If that is the case, then they would go back to the EPD with the information and ask them for a permit modification to increase the amount of flow that can be discharged. Right now, there is no problem in the winter months. The problem comes in the summer months, May until November the city can only spray on the sprayfield. That limit is 200,000 gallons per day. He recommended the city keep the moratorium in place.

EXECUTE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Mr. Dudley stated that this did not have to be adopted tonight, as it is a lengthy document.

City Attorney, Rob Plumb, stated that the city has numerous issues they need to address beginning this month, relating to sewer tap issues and the EPD Consent order. There are two deadlines that are due in February, both of which will require the involvement of the City Engineer to prepare the necessary response. He recommended having a special meeting with the City Engineer to sit down and start formulating the policy for approving sewer taps and also to get the City Engineer started on the reports. He didn't think the city could wait until the February meeting to get started. Mayor Stalvey agreed.

After discussion, **Council Benjamin made a motion to execute the Engineering Services Agreement, contingent upon the lawyer's findings as far as the contract and meeting, if possible, with the Engineering Service to establish something on those deadlines, as far as reporting back to EPD, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- (F) Approve Community Development Block Grant Survey Distribution

Mr. Jason Davenport of the South Georgia Regional Development Center reported on the Community Development Block Grant that the city is interested in pursuing. To qualify for the funding, they need to know where areas of low to moderate incomes are at. After the surveys, the Council can discuss what project they would like to pursue.

- (A) Approve Corporate Resolution Updates

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that the City of Hahira is, in fact, a Corporation. When there is a change in leadership, there is also a

change in Corporate Resolutions. The city has two different banks. This would take off the old Administration names and add the new ones.

(B) Approve Mayor's Day in Atlanta

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that this is for mandatory training for the new members.

(C) Approve Table for Chamber Dinner

Mayor Stalvey asked Council if there were any questions on this? There were none.

(D) Execute Audit Services Agreement

Mayor Stalvey stated that there were two bids on this. One was Henderson and Godby, the other was Gary Zeigler.

(E) Approve Triple Crown 2006 Investor Agreement

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that this is a program to promote the city for senior citizens.

Council Benjamin made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item D, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

Council Adams made a motion to execute Audit Services Agreement with Gary Zeigler, seconded by Council Benjamin. Councils Adams, Benjamin and Ogundu voted yes. Council Bullard voted no. Motion passed.

REPORTS

(A) Council

Council Adams stated that she was very excited about what they were going to accomplish in the future. She thanked everyone who supported her in the election and for the opportunity to serve the City of Hahira. After the holidays, the new members were sworn in on Tuesday morning so that they could conduct business. Afterward, they made an inspection of the city's facilities, including the wastewater facility, Public Works facility, the Land Application System and City Hall. They found many things that had been neglected. She stated that the new Mayor and Council will move quickly to address what they found. The Public Works facility is in desperate need of organization and cleaning up. The houses across from the city barn have to look at this, also the people who live in Mulberry Place have to drive by. We must remember, what people see first in a community forms an impression that they will remember. She said that they spoke to the City Manager on the Consent Orders and the controversy on the sewer taps. This was confusing and still is. She stated that she had not been a supporter of the builders, because of the rapid growth, but after being told about the sewer taps, she stated she understood their frustration. She said that the Mayor and Council should see that all developers and builders and contractors

are treated fairly. She said that she would continue looking at the bills that are paid each month. She is not happy with what she has seen. She thought that the city could be more careful with the people's money. There are many things that she wants to accomplish in the next four years. The first on her list is to make the Community Center available to senior citizens, and she thought it ought to be open at least three times a week. Seniors will have a place to go out and meet. The North Lowndes Recreational facility is now open. She plans on attending the Industrial Authority meeting next Tuesday and every meeting after that, and will let them know that we want businesses to locate in Hahira. We want our citizens to have better jobs, more jobs available. She firmly believes that this Mayor and Council is committed in their hearts and minds to serve the people in Hahira. She looks forward in working with everyone. She asked for everyone's prayers and support.

Council Benjamin thanked his supporters in District 1. He said that they accomplished much in the last four years but there is much work to be done. He said that he was confident in the new members on board that share their vision and dream for Hahira. They are willing to take on the challenges that we are facing. He will be having meetings in District 1 to keep everyone informed, as that has been an issue in the past. He said that he was looking forward to working with the new council.

Council Ogundu said Happy New Year, God is in control.

Council Bullard welcomed new Councilwoman, Rose Adams, Councilman Benjamin and Mayor Johnny Stalvey and said that they were ready for a new year.

City Manager:

City Manager, Janice Logue, welcomed the new members on Council and said that she looked forward to working with them.

Mayor

Mayor Stalvey said that he appreciated the citizens returning him as Mayor of Hahira after 35 years. He said that he found out that it was a total different ball game since then. He said that people were putting a lot of trust in him and he appreciated it. He said that the new Administration is going to do great things for the City of Hahira. He said that he appreciated everyone coming tonight.

Mayor Stalvey called for a motion to enter into an Executive Session.

Council Benjamin made a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Meeting re-opened at 9:50 P.M. after Executive Session.

Council Benjamin made a motion for Council to allow the City of Valdosta to issue building permits on the 7 properties that have EPD sewer connection approval prior to the execution of the new consent order. Motion seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Johnny Stalvey
Mayor

Janice Logue
City Manager/City Clerk

Marilyn Brady
Recorder