

Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for the month of July 2008

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JUNE 30, 2008
6:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and City Council met for a Work Session Monday June 30, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils, Mayor Pro Tem Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PW Director Donnie Warren, PW Director Chris Stevens, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

REVIEW / CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

June 02, 2008 Work Session

June 09, 2008 Council Meeting

Councilman Clendenin stated that there were two corrections that needed to be made to the June 09, 2008 Council Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Adams also stated that she had two corrections to be made to the June 09, 2008 Council Minutes. City Manager Sumner stated that the requested changes would be made.

REVIEW OF BILLS / BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Pro Tem Adams had a few questions concerning the bills, she stated that she would go to City Hall the following day and meet with the City Manager and the Finance Clerk to discuss these issues. Councilman Cain stated that he had questions concerning the bills along with the budget, he stated that these concerns could wait to be discussed during the retreat.

DISCUSSIONS:

Presentation from CAR 41 NO Group (Work Session Only- Mayor Bullard)

Mayor Bullard asked if there was a spokesman for this group. Mr. Barry Braun of 5790 Old US 41 North Hahira, Ga. 31632 came to address the Council. Mr. Braun stated that

he had presented a copy of a proposal that was given to the Mayor and Council concerning the projected project of the expansion of widening Highway 41 North. Mr. Braun asked the Mayor and Council to officially oppose the Highway 41 project and to attend the DOT meeting the following day in support of Hahira citizens being against this project.

Honeybee Festival Committee- Request for Services During Festival (Carol Jacobs)

Carol Jacobs of 402 East Stanfill Street Hahira, GA 31632 addressed the Council. Mrs. Jacobs asked Mayor and Council for permission to have the festival this year and permission to close Lawson Street from the railroad tracks to Marshall Street during the festival. Mrs. Jacobs stated that after speaking with Police Chief Davis and Fire Chief Bennett, these two streets needed to stay open because of being able to use these streets as an emergency route. Mrs. Jacobs asked for an alternative suggestion as to where to put the Kids Zone without having to close any streets. Mrs. Jacobs was concerned with where to put the mountain climbing exhibit because it has to be on level ground. Mayor and Council suggested putting the mountain climbing exhibit in the parking lot behind City Hall along with some arts and crafts booths so that no streets would have to be closed.

Community Center Curtains (City Manager)

City Manager Sumner stated that the City had a request from a citizen (Mrs. Quida Lane) to put up new curtains in the Community Center. Mr. Sumner stated that some of the Council requested that this item be put on the agenda so it can be discussed. Councilman Benjamin stated he was trying to understand what the issue was with the curtains. Mayor Bullard stated that the City is trying to get some estimates on doing some work on the Community Center before hanging the new curtains. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that the curtains that were in the Community Center were made by Ms. Lana Hall and that it came before Council before they were hung. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that if Mrs. Quida Lane would like to help with updating the paint color in the Community Center, it would be appreciated.

Consideration of Infrastructure Recommendation for Water's Edge (City Manager)

City Manager Sumner stated that a letter was given to Mayor and Council from Stevenson and Palmer explaining that they have inspected the infrastructure but there were some concerns with storm water. The determination was made that since the application was made before the storm water ordinance was passed last year, certain requirements does not apply to Water's Edge Subdivision. Mr. Sumner stated that an effort has been made to look at many of the requirements of the ordinance and incorporate them into the design as the infrastructure is being installed. Sumner stated that a berm is going to be constructed, and also that there was a three year bond that

Water's Edge would be required to have. Sumner stated that if any abnormalities were observed, there would be money to go back in and change under the bond. He also stated that this should allow Mr. Waldrin to go ahead and move forward and start applying for his building permits and pouring of slabs. Mayor Bullard stated that he spoke with the Chancy's and that if the berm didn't work out, they would be willing to build a spill well over the holding pond for the storm water issue. Mayor Pro Tem Adams asked if the City would have the bond for Thursday night's Council meeting. City Manager Sumner stated that he would get in touch with Mr. Waldrin to see if he could have that paperwork ready for the Council Meeting on Thursday night.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

Purchase of Radio (Chief Bennett)

Fire Chief Dwight Bennett requested to use budgeted money from his capital equipment to purchase a Motorola XTS 1500 model handheld radio. Councilman Cain stated concerns on whether this radio would be used in one of the fire trucks. Chief Bennett stated that this radio would be used along with the six radios they currently have at the Fire Department. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she was concerned on getting the required bids on an item of this expense. Fire Chief Bennett stated that they are restricted on where they could buy radio equipment from.

TAAC Conference (Chief Davis)

Police Chief Davis requested that Court Clerk Bobbie Dumas be able to attend the TAAC Conference August 26th through the 28th in Savannah Georgia. Chief Davis stated that they are required to have a certain number of hours to be a terminal operator of GCIC.

Purchase of Passenger Van (Chief Davis, Director Warren)

Chief Davis stated that he would like to have a 15 passenger van to transport offenders to the County after performing road checks. He stated that it would be less expensive to be able to take several offenders in one trip, rather than one at a time. Director Warren stated that he would be able to use the van in transporting trustee workers to and from Lakeland to perform work in the City.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Wayne Bullard, Mayor

Belinda Chappell, Interim City Clerk

**CITY OF HAHIRA
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 03, 2008
7:30 PM
COURTHOUSE**

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PW Director Donnie Warren, PW Director Chris Stevens, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro Tem Adams

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

June 02, 2008 Work Session

June 09, 2008 Council Meeting

Mayor Wayne Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

REVIEW OF BILLS / BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Wayne Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills. City Manager Sumner stated that Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated concerns on the last bill disbursed to the auditor. Sumner stated that the auditors would be reporting on this issue at the retreat.

Mayor Wayne Bullard asked for a motion to accept the bills. **Councilman Cain made a motion to accept the bills, seconded by Councilman Terry Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mr. Willmon J. Stanley 308 Washington Street Hahira, GA. 31632 addressed the Council. Mr. Stanley stated that he was concerned about the Recycling issue, he stated that he wasn't clear on the issue with the recycling center, why the City residents could not take their yard debris to the center. Mayor Bullard responded that he is working on this issue and that it would be discussed at a later time.

Mrs. Sue Braun 5790 Old US Hwy 41 North Hahira, GA 31632 addressed the Council. Mrs. Braun thanked the Mayor and Council for attending the DOT meeting and for their support on the issue of widening Highway 41 North.

DISCUSSIONS:

D.) Consideration of Infrastructure Recommendation for Water's Edge (City Manager)

City Manager Sumner stated that a copy of the recommendation letter was given to Mayor and Council from City Engineer Ronnie Dudley. He stated that the letter asked for the provision of a three year bond for any repairs that needed to be made to the Water's Edge Subdivision. Sumner stated that Council asked that the bond provision be obtained by the time a vote was taken. Sumner also stated that the bond was for a period of two years and that he requested a cover letter be drafted by Mr. Waldrin which stated that the bond would be renewed for an additional one year after the two year period ended.

Councilman Cain stated that some bond companies would not go longer than two years on a bond, but with this provisional letter from Mr. Waldrin, this should stand up in any court of law if any problems should occur. Councilman Clendenin stated that he was concerned on the dollar amount for the additional year of the bond. City Manager responded that the costs would be \$30,000 for the additional year. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion , **Councilman Cain made a motion to approve, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, motion was carried unanimously.**

E.) Lowndes County Recycling Center (Mayor Bullard)

Mayor Bullard stated that he had spoken with County Commissioner Robert Carter and County Commissioner Edgar Roberts concerning this issue. Mayor Bullard stated that they assured him that they were planning a meeting on this issue for discussion. He also stated that he has received numerous phone calls from citizens about not being able to take their yard debris or other household items to the Recycling Center. Mayor Bullard stated that the City needs to come up with a plan to resolve this issue. City Manager Sumner stated that he had spoken to the County Manager regarding this issue and that he indicated that they would consider placing a roll off container at the Recycling Center for the Hahira citizens to be able to take their recyclables. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that the calls that she had received from citizens were more concerned with being able to dispose of their yard debris. City Manager responded that the City would be interested in what the County could offer regarding this issue.

F.) Presentation from CAR 41 NO Group (Mayor Bullard)

Mayor Bullard stated that the City would be drafting a letter to be presented to the County regarding this issue. City Manager Sumner stated that the letter that he had drafted to the DOT stated that the City of Hahira was against the widening of Highway 41 North. Councilman Cain stated that he thought the letter needed to be changed to the effect that the City needed to let the County know that the City is not in approval of this entire project but the City would like to have improvement on Highway 41 North without agreeing to the widening of the highway. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to draft a letter to DOT asking that the project be withdrawn as presented. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion to that effect, seconded by Councilman Cain, motion was carried unanimously.**

DEPARTMENT REQUEST:

Purchase of Radio (Chief Bennett)

Fire Chief Bennett requested that a Motorola XTS1500 radio be purchased from Hasty's Communications to be used for the Fire Department. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to accept the purchase of the radio, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

TAAC Conference (Chief Davis)

Police Chief Davis requested that Court Clerk Bobbie Dumas be able to attend this TAAC Conference in Savannah Georgia to continue her certification hours needed. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Cain made a motion to accept, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

Removed

REPORTS:

Councilman Clendenin thanked the Mayor and City Manager for resolving the INCODE issue. He also thanked the Public Works Department for doing a good job along with the Police Department. He thanked the Fire Department for doing a great job and continuing the research on the bio fuel project.

Councilman Cain thanked everyone for their hard work and wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the citizens for their concerns on the Highway 41 issue and wished everyone a safe and Happy Fourth of July.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams thanked all the Department heads for a job well done. She also thanked Mrs. Braun for her interest in the Highway 41 issue and standing up for Hahira citizens. She thanked Mr. Stanley for coming and expressing his concerns with the recycling issue.

City Manager Sumner wished everyone a safe and Happy Fourth of July weekend. He thanked all the Department heads for doing a tremendous job for the City.

Mayor Bullard wished everyone a safe weekend and thanked all the citizens and the Council for all the support they have given. He thanked everyone for coming and thanked all the Council for attending the DOT meeting and for their support on this issue.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Wayne Bullard, Mayor

Belinda Chappell, Interim City Clerk

**City of Hahira
Public Hearing
July 31, 2008
6:30 P.M.
City Hall**

Mayor Wayne Bullard and Council met for a Public Hearing at City Hall at 6:30 P.M. July 31, 2008.

Present: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell, and one citizen Ms. Tonya Adams.

Mayor Wayne Bullard called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was a Public Hearing to discuss the millage rate. Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on this matter.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner presented a 2008 tax break down sheet with a proposed millage increase of .50

to Mayor and Council that described the break down of the millage rate according to the house value. He also stated that the advertisement for the Public Hearing ran in the Valdosta Daily Times twice before the first hearing. Sumner stated that the millage rate was broken down into two separate groups. The first group was based on property without homestead exemption, and the second group was based on property with homestead exemption. The tax breakdown showed the difference between the current millage rate, which is 0.00538 and the proposed increase millage rate, which is 0.00588. Sumner stated that this was the second Public Hearing and the third Public Hearing would be held on August 7th at the Council Meeting. Sumner stated at the third Public Hearing, the Mayor and Council would hear the remaining public input and have an opportunity to set the millage rate at that time. Sumner stated there was two options concerning the millage rate, the first option was to keep the millage rate at its current rate of 0.00538 and the second option was to increase the millage rate to 0.00588 as advertised. Sumner stated that the proposed increase amounted to an additional \$1.50 per month for citizens with homes valued at \$150,000. Councilman Clendenin stated every county, with the exception of Brooks County, had rolled back their taxes this year. Councilman Benjamin stated the City of Hahira has not increased the millage rate in the past several years, while the surrounding cities and counties had increased taxes in the previous years consecutively. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she was concerned with the amount the City would receive on taxes this year if the millage rate was unchanged. City Manager Sumner

responded that the City was estimated to receive around \$264,000 dollars if we left the millage rate at 0.00538. He also stated that if the millage rate was increased to 0.00588, there would be an additional \$25,000 received by the City. Sumner stated that if the millage rate was not increased the budget would have to be recalculated to account for the difference in dollar amounts. City Manager Sumner stated that he had not received any calls regarding the millage rate increase and asked if any calls were received from Mayor and Council. Mayor Bullard stated that he had received one call from a concerned citizen. Councilman Clendenin stated that he had spoken to several citizens and they didn't see the advertisements that were posted in the newspaper and he also stated that he had spoken to a citizen that was concerned about the gasoline prices going up, as well as groceries and medications that are needed each month, that she couldn't afford to pay higher taxes. Councilman Clendenin stated that we are the custodians of Hahira and that we hold the purse strings of our citizens. He stated that the City needed to cut the budget and start saving money for our citizens. City Manager Sumner stated that he welcomed any input concerning the budget. Fire Chief Bennett stated that the Fire Department budget has already been cut drastically in areas that are of great importance to this department. Sumner stated that there had been several items suspended from the budget. Sumner stated that there would be more discussion concerning the budget during the budget workshops later in the month.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

Interim City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

**City of Hahira
Public Hearing
July 31, 2008
11:30 A.M.
City Hall**

Mayor Wayne Bullard and Council met for a Public Hearing at City Hall at 11:30 A.M. July 31, 2008.

Present: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

Mayor Wayne Bullard called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was a Public Hearing to discuss the millage rate. Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on this matter.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner presented a 2008 tax break down sheet with a millage increase of .50 to Mayor and Council that described the break down of the millage rate according to the house value. He also stated that the advertisement for the Public Hearing ran in the Valdosta Daily Times twice before the first hearing. Sumner stated that the millage rate was broken down into two separate groups. The first group was based on property without homestead exemption, and the second group was based on property with homestead exemption. The tax breakdown showed the difference between the current millage rate, which is 0.00538 and the proposed increase millage rate, which is 0.00588. City Manager Sumner stated that he had not received any calls regarding the millage rate increase and asked if any calls were received from Mayor and Council. Mayor Bullard stated that he had received one call from a citizen. Councilman Clendenin stated that he had spoken to several citizens and they didn't see the advertisements that were in the newspaper. Mayor Pro Tem Adams was concerned about why the advertisement was not put on the marquee outside of City Hall. City Manager Sumner stated that there were some size restraints with putting the Public Hearing on the marquee. Sumner stated that it would be posted on the marquee today for the 6 o'clock Public Hearing. Mayor Bullard asked if there were any comments. Fire Chief

Dwight Bennett stated that if the City was going to keep providing the same services, he supported the millage rate increase. Councilman Benjamin stated the City of Hahira is a separate entity and should not base itself on other cities or counties.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

Interim City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

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Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for the month of August, 2008

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AUGUST 4, 2008 6:30 P.M. COURTHOUSE

Mayor and City Council met for a Work Session August 4, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils, Mayor Pro Tem Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Director Donnie Warren, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell, Downtown Development Coordinator Emily Grace Newkirk.

REVIEW / CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

June 3, 2008 Work Session

July 3, 2008 Council Meeting

July 31, 2008 First Millage Rate Public Hearing

July 31, 2008 Second Millage Rate Public Hearing

There were no comments concerning the minutes.

REVIEW OF BILLS / BUDGET OVERAGES:

There were no questions concerning the bills.

Public Hearing

Third Public Hearing to Set Millage Rate (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated that a third Public Hearing was scheduled for August 7, 2008 at the Courthouse. Sumner stated that at that time Mayor and Council would hear any remaining input from citizens about the proposed millage

rate increase and have the opportunity to leave the millage rate at its current rate of 0.00538 or increase the millage rate to the proposed amount of 0.00588.

DISCUSSIONS:

LARP 2009 Priority List (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated that DOT asked the City to present a priority list of streets that needed to be paved with the assistance of the (LARP) Local Assistance Road Program. Sumner stated that this year LARP was planning to pave Owen Street from East Stanfill to East Main and also B.J. Miley Street from Marshall Street to Railroad Street. Mayor Pro Tem Adams was concerned with when these streets were to be paved. Councilman Cain stated that Reames and Sons Construction Company was in the process of getting ready to start the paving of the streets. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like to add Stanfill Street from Hagan Bridge to Highway 122 to be on the priority list for DOT. City Manager stated that these streets would be put on the priority list to submit to DOT by August 29th 2008.

Update on Water Meter Replacement Project (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that Public Works Director Donnie Warren was in the process of getting several bids on the different types of water meters to replace the old meters that the City is currently using. Director Warren suggested that the City should purchase the manual meters, verses the wand read meters. Warren stated that the manual read meters are the least expensive compared to the wand read meters.

City Pins (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that the City is getting ready to order City lapel pins and business name tags. Adams stated there are several different designs that the Mayor and Council could choose from. Adams stated that Downtown Development Coordinator Emily Grace Newkirk helped with getting the different designs and compared the pricing and quality of the pins. Mrs. Newkirk presented to Mayor and Council a price sheet from two different manufacturers of the pins, JL Concepts and Keys To The City. Councilman Clendenin stated that he was concerned with whether the City could receive a sample from each manufacturer of the pins. Mrs. Newkirk stated that the City could not receive a sample with the reason being the manufacturer would have to cast a dye to make the pin for the City, which in return would expect the City to purchase the pin from that manufacturer. Mayor and Council reviewed the price sheet and the quality of the pins from each manufacturer. Mrs. Newkirk also presented to Mayor and Council

examples of name tags for the Administrative personnel. She stated that she had received examples and comparison pricing from Action Printing and Harmon's Awards. Mrs. Newkirk presented these to Mayor and Council for review. Council expressed approval of the pin from Keys to the City , and tag design from Harmon's Awards.

D.) City Hall Sign (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that the marquee sign was not large enough to display the information that needed to be posted on the sign. City Manager Sumner stated that he had two quotes from Day Signs for the repairing of the sign. Sumner stated that the first quote is for making a completely new sign which would cost \$1,620 dollars and the second quote is for repairing the existing sign by adding a new track to hold six inch lettering instead of the nine inch letters that the City is currently using, the cost of repairing the sign is \$425 dollars. Council expressed approval of the lesser option.

E.) Exit 29 Clean Up (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that the area around exit 29 needed to be mowed and cleaned up. City Manager Sumner stated that he would speak with Director Donnie Warren and have the exit 29 area mowed within a couple of days.

F.) Water Wagon (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like the City to have a water wagon to water all the flowers and shrubs that have been planted in front of the Main Street businesses. Adams stated that several business owners have purchased the flowers and without water, the flowers and shrubs are dying. Director Warren stated that he would get a quote for the City to review.

G.) Urns for City Streets (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like to get quotes on purchasing flower urns for the City. Director Warren stated that he would find out where the urns that the City currently has was purchased and get a quote on them for the Mayor and Council to review.

H.) Knock-Out Roses Planted at the Caboose (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like the City to plant more knock out roses around the caboose area. Adams stated that these flowers would help to beautify the City of Hahira. Director Warren stated that he would look into this.

**Update on Manhole Rehab and Barfield Home Water
Condition (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)**

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she was concerned on the issue with the Barfield Home water condition. Director Warren stated that he had flushed the lines, that the water was running like it should be but the lines need to be flushed on a monthly basis to keep from settling. City Manager Sumner stated the City Engineer would have contract documents and bid advertisements ready very shortly for the manhole rehab project.

J.) Map of U.S. 41 Widening (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like to have copies of the map of the widening of Highway 41 North to give to concerned citizens. City Manager Sumner stated that a map has been requested from DOT and he would contact DOT to get an update on the map status.

K.) Appointment of Members to Beautification Committee (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she would like Mayor and Council to review the submitted names for the Newly Reconstituted Beautification Committee. Adams stated that she had five names for Mayor and Council to review for the committee, the names consist of Nancy Purvis, Tracy Davis, Belinda Chappell, Rose Adams, and Denise Rountree. Adams stated that if Mayor and Council had any names they would like to add to the Committee they should submit them to Council.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST:

FY2008 Cost of Living Increase for City Employees (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated that in August of 2007 a three percent cost of living increase was awarded to City employees. Sumner stated that it is time for the cost of living increase for 2008, that this increase is a raise to the employees that is budgeted for each year. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she was concerned with the amount of increase in the weekly payroll. Sumner responded that he would have that information ready by the Council meeting on Thursday night. Councilman Clendenin stated that he was concerned with whether the amount of increase was based on the gross payroll or the net payroll. City Manager Sumner responded that this amount was based on the net amount of payroll.

Attendance at Georgia Rural Water Training Conference (Director Warren)

Public Works Director Donnie Warren stated his request to Mayor and Council to attend the Georgia Rural Water Training in Helen Georgia during October 26th through October 28th, 2008.

City Clerk's / Finance Clerk's Training in Athens Georgia (City Clerk)

Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell stated request to Mayor and Council for attendance at the Georgia Municipal and County Clerk's / Finance Officers Education Program during September 14th through September 17th 2008.

Chappell stated that the classes would benefit both herself and the Finance Clerk Paula Stone by attending these classes. Chappell stated that by attending these classes she is working toward getting 100 hours to be a certified City Clerk to better serve the City of Hahira.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

Interim City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

**CITY OF HAHIRA
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2008
7:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, City Attorney Rob Plumb, Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: City Manager Jonathan Sumner

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

June 30, 2008 Work Session

July 3, 2008 Council Meeting

July 31, 2008 First Millage Rate Public Hearing

July 31, 2008 Second Millage Rate Public Hearing

Mayor Wayne Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Ralph Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated that she had questions concerning the bills, Adams stated the Finance Clerk answered any questions she had.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the bills. **Councilman Cain made a motion to accept the bills, seconded by Councilman Terry Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

Third Public Hearing to Set Millage Rate (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council a break down tax sheet that explained the current millage rate at 0.00538 on homes with and without homestead exemption and the proposed millage rate increase of 0.00588 on homes with and without homestead exemption. Sumner stated State Laws require the advertisement of the Public Hearing. Sumner also stated the three Public Hearings were advertised in the Valdosta Daily Times. Sumner stated the first two Public Hearings were held on July 31, 2008 at 11:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. at City Hall and this was the third Public Hearing. City Manager Sumner stated the differences Hahira citizens would expect to pay, between the current millage rate and the proposed millage rate increase. Sumner stated the reason for the proposed millage increase was associated with the rising cost of the economy which had an effect on the budget. Sumner stated that with the proposed millage increase it would bring an additional \$20,000 dollars into the budget, without the increase in millage, the budget would have to be cut in certain areas.

Councilman Clendenin stated that he was concerned with what the tax digest was for the City. City Manager Sumner stated that the proposed tax digest growth for 2007 and 2008 is approximately \$80 million dollars. Sumner stated that if the millage rate holds constant, the tax digest received would be approximately \$263 thousand dollars.

Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the millage rate increase.

Eldon Moore residing at 403 E. Stanfill Street Hahira, 31632. Mr. Moore came to address the Mayor and Council regarding the millage rate increase. He stated he was concerned with what the City was going to do in future years when the housing market comes to a minimum. City Manager Sumner responded that the growth digest was the growth in the appraised value of real estate, not just the new homes but the older homes as well. Mr. Moore stated he was concerned with what the City was going to do about lowering the budget. City Manager Sumner responded that measures had been taken to decrease the budget by suspending all large capital expenditures as well as eliminating unfilled positions in certain departments. Mr. Moore also asked what the City was doing about cutting back on the gas usage for departments. Fire Chief Bennett responded that the Fire Department was testing a bio-diesel program and the department was saving over a dollar a gallon, trying to take every measure possible to conserve money for the City.

Lee Isaacson residing at 1038 Stanfill Street Hahira 31632. Mrs. Isaacson came to address the Mayor and Council regarding the millage rate increase. She stated she was concerned with the increase in gas prices and the economy rising, that she could not afford a tax increase. She stated she was concerned with who was getting a pay increase if the millage rate was raised, that the Hahira citizens needed a break. She stated that something else could be cut rather than raising the taxes of the citizens.

Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor of raising the millage rate.

Wilmon Stanley residing at 308 S. Washington Street, Hahira 31632. Mr. Stanley came to address the Mayor and Council on the millage rate increase. Mr. Stanley stated with the increase of the population in Hahira and the number of houses being built, if the citizens wished to continue the services being provided, he was in favor of raising the millage rate. He stated this was a small increase that the citizens would be paying for the services that the City of Hahira was providing.

Gary Rake residing at Redbird Place Hahira 31632. Mr. Rake came to address the Mayor and Council regarding the millage rate increase. Mr. Rake stated he had lived in Hahira for two years and felt that his family was in good hands. He stated the proposed millage rate was a small increase and the City of Hahira was a great City and felt that the services that are provided are excellent. He stated he was willing to pay a small price to continue the services he was being provided.

Karen Camion residing at 405 W. Stanfill Street Hahira 31632. Ms. Camion addressed Mayor and Council that she was concerned with when the last time the taxes was raised in the City of Hahira. Mayor Bullard stated that the City has lowered taxes more than they have increased them. She stated that with the increase in the economy, the cost of living has increased for households as well as trying to run a City and that she is in favor of increasing the millage rate.

Mike Bryant residing at 405 W. Stanfill Street Hahira 31632. Mr. Bryant addressed Mayor and Council regarding the millage rate increase. He stated that Hahira citizens had been fortunate in the past regarding the increase in millage rate. Mr. Bryant stated that cities around Hahira was increasing taxes constantly in order to maintain the services that were provided. He stated that the City of Hahira had some excellent employees, and they were the lowest paid employees in comparison to surrounding cities. Mr. Bryant stated he was in favor of raising the millage rate to continue receiving the services that have been provided to him.

Freeman Rivers residing at 204 S. Hall Street Hahira 31632. Mr. Rivers addressed Mayor and Council regarding the millage rate increase. He stated that if the City had to increase the millage rate due to the growth of the new homes being built, he thought the increase was worth paying for. He stated if the increase would help to build the new fire station, he was in favor of raising the millage rate.

Quida Lane residing at 210 Randall Street Hahira 31632. Mrs. Lane addressed Mayor and Council on the issue of raising the millage rate. She stated she was in favor of raising the millage rate. She stated that with the City growing at the rate it was growing, the millage rate needed to be increased.

Lawanna Benjamin residing at 539 Hall Street Hahira 31632. Mrs. Benjamin addressed Mayor and Council on the millage rate increase. She stated that the City needed to increase the millage, the reason being, if she called for help at her home, she wanted to know that she would receive services that she deserved. Mrs. Benjamin was in favor of raising the millage rate for Hahira.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council a copy of the FY2009 draft one budget was prepared and available to citizens at City Hall if they would like to request a copy.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she had reviewed the draft one budget and she stated there were areas in the budget that could be cut and still give the citizens the same services they are receiving from the City. Mayor Pro Tem Adams was opposed to raising the millage rate.

Councilman Clendenin stated he had spoken to several citizens and they are opposed to raising the millage rate. He stated there are areas that could be cut in the budget rather than ask the citizens to pay higher taxes. Councilman Clendenin was opposed to the millage increase.

Councilman Benjamin stated each year it was getting more difficult knowing the City was only putting a certain amount of money in the budget for the departments and expect the department heads to continue to run their departments the way it should be ran. Councilman Benjamin stated the millage rate was held constant for the last ten years and has not been raised. He stated with the economy constantly rising, the proposed millage rate increase was a small price to pay to continue receiving the services the citizens deserve. He stated he was in favor of raising the millage rate.

Councilman Cain stated there were areas in the budget that could be cut, he also stated he did not want to cut services the citizens are receiving just to keep from raising the millage rate. Councilman Cain stated to be able to keep the services the Fire Department, the Police Department, as well as, the Public Works Department he was in favor of raising the millage rate.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the millage rate increase. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion to accept the increase as requested, seconded by Councilman Cain. Mayor Bullard asked for all in favor, Councilman Benjamin and Councilman Cain were in favor. Mayor Bullard asked for all opposed, Mayor Pro Tem Adams and Councilman Clendenin were opposed.** Mayor Bullard stated with the economy rising, the last thing he wanted to do was to have the citizens pay higher taxes. Mayor Bullard stated this was not a high increase in the millage rate. Mayor Bullard stated that if the millage rate was not increased, eventually it would have to be raised two mills instead of raising a half a mill, due to not raising the taxes in the past ten years. Mayor Bullard stated there were things in the budget that could be cut this year. **Mayor Bullard opposed, motion was defeated, millage rate was set to remain at the current rate of 0.00538.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Freeman Rivers residing at 204 S. Hall Street Hahira 31632. Mr. Rivers addressed Mayor and Council, he was concerned with the recycling issue on Union Road. Mr. Rivers also stated he was concerned about the Ethics Committee and when the term of the committee ended. Mayor Bullard responded on the recycling issue, he stated he had spoken to County Commissioner Edgar Roberts and he was in the process of setting up a meeting to resolve the issue.

Wilmon Stanley residing at 308 S. Washington Street Hahira 31632. Mr. Stanley addressed Mayor and Council, he stated he was concerned about the recycling center on Union Road, that if something wasn't done to resolve this issue, the City would have to provide this service to the citizens of Hahira and that would be of cost to citizens. Mayor Bullard responded that the City would pick up yard debris for an additional cost of \$25 dollars to the citizens.

DISCUSSIONS:

A.) LARP 2008 Priority List (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the LARP list was due before the end of the month. Sumner stated there was a new street that was added to the list to be paved, Stanfill Street from Hagan Bridge to Highway 122. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned on how LARP prioritizes the street to be paved. Mayor Bullard responded with LARP had a map of all the streets on the priority list. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the LARP list. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to accept the list, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

B. – J. (Removed)

K.) Appointment of Members to the Beautification Committee (Mayor Pro Tem Adams)

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated to Mayor and Council she had a list of people to add to the Beautification Committee, these included Nancy Purvis, Tracy Davis, Rose Adams, Belinda Chappell, Denise Roundtree, and Sandra Warren. City Manager Sumner asked Mayor Pro Tem Adams if she would consider adding Emily Grace Newkirk to the Committee. Mayor Pro Tem Adams responded if Mrs. Newkirk was willing to serve, the Committee would be glad to have her. Councilman Clendenin was concerned if the Committee was strictly volunteers. Mayor Pro Tem Adams responded the Committee was strictly volunteers. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion to accept the list of names, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

FY 2008 Cost of Living Increase for City Employees (City Manager)

City Manager Jonathan Sumner stated to Mayor and Council a prepared breakdown sheet to explain the Cost of Living Allocation (COLA). Sumner stated every year there was an option for Mayor and Council to grant a cost of living increase to employees. Sumner stated sometimes the increase is more than three percent and sometimes is less than three percent. Sumner stated the cost of living increase estimate per week was \$300 dollars, this was based on the three percent increase of the net payroll each week, not the gross payroll. Sumner stated that Mayor Bullard asked for the increase to be recalculated based on the gross weekly payroll. Sumner stated the percentage would be greater because it was based on the gross and this amount would be around \$400 dollars weekly, which is a \$100 dollar difference per week. Sumner stated there was money in the budget to satisfy this cost of living increase to employees. Sumner stated the total amount budgeted on personnel salaries for this year was \$1,043,281 dollars. Sumner stated that as of July 31, 2008 the amount expended was \$529,131.40 dollars. Sumner stated that if the amount that has been expended so far was divided on a monthly basis you would arrive at \$44,094.28 dollars, this was the amount the City could expect to pay on a monthly basis for gross payroll. The three percent COLA calculated on this figure was \$1,322.83, this figure was three percent of the \$44,094.28. Sumner stated the total payroll for the last five months of 2008 would be \$227,085.55 if the COLA was approved. Sumner stated this amount does exist in the 2008 budget. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned about last August COLA approved increase, would this increase go through to next August 2009. City Manager Sumner stated this COLA increase would be for August 2008 through August 2009. Mayor Pro Tem Adams was concerned if the City had enough money in the budget to approve this increase. Sumner responded that the City does have the money in the budget for the COLA increase.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to approve the COLA increase. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

Attendance at Georgia Rural Water Training Conference (Director Warren)

Director Donnie Warren stated to Mayor and Council he would like to attend the Georgia Rural Water Conference in Helen Georgia. Councilman Clendenin was concerned with the cost of this training. Director Warren stated the cost would be around \$850 dollars. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

City Clerk's / Finance Clerk's Training in Athens Georgia (City Clerk)

Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell stated to Mayor and Council her request to attend the City Clerk/ Finance Clerk training in Athens on September 14-17, 2008. Chappell stated this would give her the opportunity to work toward her 100 hours to be a certified City Clerk as well as our Finance Clerk, Paula Stone will have the opportunity to start obtaining her hours in the finance training class. Mayor Bullard stated his request to attend an Ethics class in Athens on these same dates. **Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

City Clerk's Luncheon August 12, 2008 (City Clerk)

Interim City Clerk Belinda Chappell stated to Mayor and Council her request to host the Clerk's Luncheon on August 12, 2008 at 12 P.M. in honor of Diane Bellflower. Chappell stated Police Chief Davis would be speaking on the topic of Identity Theft. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

REPORTS:

Councilman Clendenin thanked everyone for attending the meeting, also all Council members for working hard, he thanked all the department heads and also thanked Belinda Chappell for a job well done.

Councilman Cain thanked everyone for showing up, he expressed his disappointment in the outcome of the millage rate increase and as always, he thanked all the employees for doing a great job.

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for attending the meeting, he stated his disappointment in the millage rate increase outcome and stated it gets tougher each year to work with the budget that was given. He thanked all the departments for the hard work they do everyday.

Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated the Courthouse and City Hall needed to be looked at because of termite damage. She also stated the window blinds needed to be replaced in certain areas of the City buildings. She also stated money needed to be spent on the City streets for repair.

City Manager Sumner thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and thanked all the department heads for the tremendous job they continue to do as well as the City staff. He thanked Belinda Chappell for stepping in, with the passing of Diane Bellflower, and

doing a great job. He thanked Paula Stone for coming into her own position and doing a fine job for the City. He thanked everyone for everything they have done and expressed that it had been a pleasure working for the City of Hahira.

Mayor Bullard thanked everyone for showing up in support of the tax increase. He thanked all the dedicated employees of the City and expressed his appreciation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to come out of executive session and enter back into the regular meeting. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion to exit executive session and enter back into the regular meeting and authorize the Mayor and Interim City Clerk to sign the affidavit certifying that the only thing discussed in executive session was personnel, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

Meeting was adjourned at 10 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

Interim City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

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