

Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for October, 2011

**Hahira City Council
WORK SESSION
October 3, 2011
6:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work Session October 3, 2011 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding

PRESENT:

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

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A.) August 29, 2011 Work Session**
- B.) September 1, 2011 Council Meeting**
- C.) September 12, 2011 Special Called Meeting**
- D.) September 15, 2011 Special Called Meeting**
- E.) September 20, 2011-Special Called Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asks if any questions concerning the minutes. Council member Rose Adams stated she did not find any corrections.. Mayor Wayne Bullard stated good job on minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FY12 Budget

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that the code called for the budget to be prepared each year in conjunction with the department heads and presented to the Council for preliminary consideration after such time that the Council has had an opportunity to work on the budget and see if any modifications that need to be made. Two work shops have been held; one at the August work session and at the September work session. The budget was preliminary adopted at the September 1, 2011 Council meeting as required by the code and also required advertisement in the Legal organ; The Valdosta Daily Times. A copy of the budget has also been made available at front desk of City hall for inspection by the general public. No comments regarding the FY12 Budget as per the code. The code requires Public Hearings. There were a couple of changes that Council asks for City Manager to make and these changes will be made

for the record. Previously stated changes at work session made with regards to public works proprietary fund and the sanitation department. Inert debris charges from \$30,000 to \$20,000. The additional \$10,000 will be put into repairs system wide. This will not change the bottom line figures. Council person Rose Adams stated she would like to modify the \$1000 in the Better Home Town Fund under dues and move to the supply/promotional which would make it \$6000 instead of \$5000. The only other change that you have is the Capital Budget/Special Revenue Fund Budget is required per the Audit. This is what is expected by the Department heads. All these are what was presented previously and carried over and put in a separate place on the Special Revenue Fund Budget. Police, Water, Sewer and Fire eligible under SPLOST VI and a recommended expenditure out of SPLOST VI which are budgetary items that would have to be approved individually by the Council should that be expended. This has all been consolidated and taken from the department budget line items. Council member Rose Adams ask if City Manager Sumner had any additional information on the cost of the Insurance. She stated the estimated amount is \$7,560 per employee. He stated this is estimation and she ask what would happen if amounts were more that this and he stated that he did budget a 25% increase. He was told it would be 25% at the most and understood that the Council did want to go out for bids again in the FY 2011 and that process will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks. He stated the Council would then have some health insurance information to look at by Thanksgiving. He stated we would like the same level of coverage for less; but he was told by Ronnie Blanton that it was 25% to stay with them at the most. That has not been confirmed as a concrete figure yet. Council person Rose Adams then stated the increase from 2011 to 2012 the total cost of \$26,000 increase. City Manager Sumner stated he would solicit quotes from GMA. local providers and current providers to submit proposals. He stated the goal in provide 100% coverage for the employees but will take all into consideration when quotes are received. Mayor Bullard ask if any more questions regarding the FY 2012 Budget.

REVIEW OF BILLS/ BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills. Council member Adams stated she had a question about the accounts payable disbursement report; on the first page we have the Veolia Pecan Row Fill and this is inert debris from the collection site and on the second page we have the Evergreen landfill inert debris which is contracted. This is an error and has been miscoded and should be contract. Also Veolia Environmental Services and this is also miscoded; on second page. City manager Sumner stated he will check on this before Thursday's Council meeting. City manager Sumner stated he did not believe the amount would be an additional amount added to the contracted amount. He thinks it may be a separate months billing. Council member Rose Adams questioned bills over the \$1000 limit and City Manager Sumner stated he thinks several projects were paid on one check and that each project did not exceed the \$1000 limit. Council member Adams questioned the check for Quick Stop Liquor for \$2000; The Mayor stated that this was refunding their money on the licenses. The state turned the license down so the money had to be refunded to them. The state denied them due to the measurement of?????. Council member Adams questioned the Big Foot Travel Center check and confirmed the process of filling up with gas and then the employee signs the ticket. The Lowndes County Board the \$4748.00 for radio equipment was that for the fire depart and it was explained by Chief Davis that this bill submitted quarterly by the Fire Dept and the Police Depart. She then

stated she sees two checks for Life Insurance and this should be cut out of payroll checks; Nippon is the name of the insurance company and CM Sumner stated.

DISCUSSIONS:

SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM UPDATE (Planning and Zoning Administrator). Matt Martin presented Mayor and Council with copy of comprehensive plan for our community which is for the entire County (six local governments). It was originally planned in 1990 and has gone through revisions over the years. In 2005 the State of Georgia updated its standards and guidelines for comprehensive plans so in 2006 there was an 18 month process county wide to create a whole new comprehensive plan. It has many different parts; one of those parts is called the short term work program and it is simply a five year listing of projects with all of the local governments combined together; sharing one big chart. (handout given to Mayor and Council). This chart is updated periodically and at minimum according to State law we have to pause and update at the five year mark which is where we are at now. This month all six local governments are going through this process. Beginning on page three at the bottom you see the ones that have blue highlighting around them; these are the items for Hahira. Review starting on page three; first two columns are goals and policies for the City of Hahira. Mr. Martin then referred the Council to page four for review of items. This is a draft copy. Under the state guidelines we review the draft locally and transmit it to the Regional Commission and to the Georgia DCA for their formal review and it starts a 60 day process and then it is sent back to City with review comments and then it goes through the adoption process. This must be done as Public Hearing; suggest putting on agenda for October 6, 2011 meeting. This will give the public a chance for public input. This does not have to be advertised locally because it has been done County wide. The Resolution will need to be adopted October 6, 2011 as a transmittal resolution.

REQUEST TO MODIFY ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Karen Tolbert owner of Hahira Liquors stated she gave City Manager a packet and would like to discuss with Mayor and Council. This item was post-paned due to the application process with State for Quick Stop. She is stated she spoke to Jeremy Thomas with the State and he gave them specifics of that and now it just seems appropriate to move forward with what they originally talked about which was the fact that the size of town and the population that they feel it is appropriate that the distance be further than the 500 yards as required by the state because the state law says that you have to have a minimum of 500 yards in any City in the state of Georgia can come up with what they feel is appropriate for their City. She states she noticed in the bi-laws and it says distance requirements from liquor store to church building, playgrounds and school but nothing that says specifically the distance between two liquor stores because it has not been an issue up to now. She stated she has talked to a lot of old timers that come into the store and stated only one liquor store allowed in the past. She stated she would like to propose that only one liquor store be allowed within the City limits. But at the very least if that is not an option to make the distance something that is a bit more appropriate for the size of the town which will allow the individual businesses to have a chance because with the size of the town it is really detrimental to their business. Throughout the form she has passed out there are some documentation to back her up. She pointed out the County Health rankings for Lowndes County and basically shows the Counties Alcohol density for Lowndes County. The alcohol density

ranking is the number of liquor stores allowed for a 100,000 people. The State of Georgia averages nine for 100,000. Lowndes County has a density of 13 which is one of the highest in the state. She then compared it to Fulton County with 1 million population has a density of 11. So Lowndes County is already saturated with Liquor Stores. She then stated the population of Hahira is 2700 so you can see that the need for another liquor store is not needed in the City limits. This is a good reason for the City to have the final say because the State can say what they think is a good measure; but the Cities know what is necessary for their population. Ask yourself do we really need another liquor store? The City has already added places that sell beer and wine; the saturation is already building in a town this size and what kind of impact will it have on the community as a whole. On the last page of the documents she presented paperwork regarding the alcohol density and that they can have a significant impact of public health and safety. The burden of proof should be on the applicant; they should give good reason why it will benefit the community. She stated she had never been at a council meeting where the other party ever stood up and spoke for themselves. On a personal note she said that she is proud of what they have done with Hahira Liquors that it is not what they are but who they are that has made them a benefit to the community. She thinks they have brought a lot of respect to the business and that they have done a lot of renovations. She is proud of her employees and the business has never had an issue with underage selling; revenue department and always run a good clean business. They also promote Hahira; selling shirts at cost and they feel they get the name out there. She stated they make donations to charities and make a note that they do not even take out bids; they used all local business. She stated she apologized to the Mayor ; she did not know he had a roll off business and would have used him if she had known that. She would like for Mayor and Council to please take a look at the distance policy and/or look at the number of liquor stores within the City limits.

DOOR-TO DOOR SALES

City manager Sumner stated through discussion at the August work session and discussion through legal council have been able to bring before you a draft of a door-to-door sales ordinance that would govern some of the provisions that you were talking about. It has the timing restrictions to the kinds of organizations that would need to register and the kinds of organizations that would need to license. If any modifications or questions he can pass them along to the City Attorney. He also stated he talked with Chief Davis and he stated he had reviewed it and would be available to answer questions. Council member Adams ask what has been added to the ordinance. City Manager Sumner stated his understanding was that significant modifications to the areas of pedaling types, pedaling regulations and time changes. Background checks, fingerprints and exemptions are some of the areas per Chief Davis. Clendenin stated that this is another area that has to be enforced. He stated when the government is going to slow down on all these regulations. He stated here we go doing the same thing. The people around the City have complained about the Federal Government and all its regulations; getting into everybody's business. The Mayor stated you have to have regulations because some folks like to aggravate; and we have to do amendment to the regulations in order to license the door-to-door. Council member Adams stated it is not fair to have business owners to purchase a business license if you're going to allow all other people to come in door-to-door to sell. Chief Davis stated is a problem with this type of people coming into town. They had a lady that reported they almost kept her captive in her own home for three hours; wanted to use her telephone to call the

business. Council member Clendenin stated you have an ordinance in place, why make it more comprehensive. Council member Benjamin stated it is more safe guards to our citizens. City Manager Sumner stated that the benefit they have is the policy making body of the City of Hahira. Council member Clendenin stated he is not saying bad to pass regulations but do we want more regulations on top of the regulations we already have and it will be something that is very difficult to enforce.

EAST GRACE STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated bids taken last week for the base repair and street resurfacing. Scruggs Company was low bidder and came in way under estimate. Thanks to the petroleum prices going down so much. The low bid came in at \$67,951.22. Council member Clendenin ask if it included the manholes from Lawson up to Hagen Bridge Road; this is not included in the bid. The Mayor stated this would have to be under a different project to get them fixed. Mayor Pro Tem Cain ask if we had anything that we need to add since the project came in under estimated bid amount. Discussion regarding North West Street and South West Street regarding what needs repair the most. City Manager Sumner ask if Mayor and Council would like to add South West Street for repair due to citizen complaints about the road. He stated SPLOST funds available to add to agenda.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT MOU/GRANT ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT

City manager stated this was discussed and approved in past. This is just a memorandum that needs to be signed by the Mayor and returned to South Georgia Regional Commission. The documents have been reviewed by the city attorney and approved with stipulated changes. TE Project MOU includes an implementation schedule that indicated the time line of completion for all the different items associated with the construction design of the project.

UPDATE OF STANFILL BUILDING

This is the fourth month this has been on the agenda and she has not seen any improvements at all to the buildings. The plywood is still out from the windows. Chief Davis gave a copy of the inspection and they have until October 13, 2011 to do something. How much longer is it going to take? He has until the 13th to be done. She ask what is to be done if not taken care of by October 13, 2011 and Chief Davis stated he will be given a summons to court where he can present his case to Judge Sandbach and he will then make a decision to give more days or condemn the building.

UPDATE ON EMT BUILDING

Discussion regarding inspection for lead and asbestos; the Mayor stated the person that does the inspection is out of town that he will be back in town next week.

DISCUSSION ON REMOVAL OF TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

Council member Adams believes they should talk to the owner of the property for bat removal and the smell problem before the property turned over because then it will be at the City's expense. City Manager Sumner stated the timeline the council has identified for the consideration of the property involves a transfer of ownership contingent on the closing of the railroad crossing. Design in the process; should be ready in the next 30-45 days. He feels we will have no leverage on getting this done and that an inspector cleared the structure. So from regulatory standpoint there is nothing we can do to remove it from a landlord standpoint. Council member Adams believes a dialog should be established.

DISCUSSION ON DONATIONS OF HISTORICAL ITEMS TO HAHIRA MUSEUM

Council member Adams states it has moved into the old hospital building and they need furniture. They have to borrow tables and chairs. Reminder to Chief of Police if he comes across items. She stated we have historical chairs in storage that could be donated to historical building. She would like to have Council approval to donate the items that are stored at the community center. They are now accepting donations.

STATUS OF FRED'S

Council member Clendenin stated he had numerous citizens stop his house voicing disapproval about Fred's going in old hospital property. City Manager Sumner states he has no information from developers regarding Fred's. Matt Martin stated they had advised the developers regarding Fred's that it would be a zoning issue and left it at that.

STATUS OF DOLLAR STORE

Matt Martin stated they had a realtor contact him about Family Dollar; stated no site plan. City Manager stated they previously presented at work session in spring; and no contact since then.

UPDATE OF THE T GRANT WITH A TIMELINE OF THE ISSUES THAT THE CITY MUST PROCESS PRIOR TO COMPLETION:

Council member Clendenin stated he sees the basic outline. City manager talks about the origination of the conversation. He states he attends the City Manager advisory council with GMA and he stated that at meeting one of the concerns of the City Managers of Georgia was the implementation of the TE Program by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The TE was very cumbersome and the regulations were very burdensome. It is a very time consuming process associated with almost every step involved to get the funds, to get the construction and close out. Council member Clendenin ask City Manager for a time line. The City manager stated the paperwork is time consuming. Clendenin stated he spoke to someone at the state that it can be done by fast track; year to year and a half should have the sidewalks in. City manager Sumner stated he has implementation paperwork but it is very time consuming. He stated the concept paperwork is being prepared by engineering firm. The delay is on the State and Federal side. Council member Clendenin ask if one through five can be completed at same time. City Manager Sumner stated he would ask.

DISCUSSION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:

Council member Clendenin stated he talked to a lot of citizens regarding trash and that he talked to a company in town and gave him a estimate price of around \$7000.00 for pick up verses \$11,000.00. He states that is an indicator to him that we need to re-bid garbage. He states we need to issue a RFP and give Griffin notice that they will issue an RFP for the City of Hahira. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated only one local company and Council member Clendenin stated several in this area. He thinks it would be a disgrace to not issue RFP and try to lower the price. Mayor ask if wanting to lower the rate if come in under current price and Council member Clendenin said no use that money to expand our sewer system. Discussion from Mayor Pro Tem Cain regarding going out and getting prices without RFP. Council member Clendenin stated no he get a round about price and that he thinks we owe it to the citizens to put it on the agenda. City Manager Sumner stated that one company has gone to the papers. He stated he has lost respect for that company (Veolia).

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. Billboard Funding-Ms. Burgess Special Event Coordinator Information given regarding the current billboard on North I-75 between exit 22 and 29 at mile marker 25. It is a left read and very difficult to read when driving north. It is considered the bubble billboard. Numerous businesses listed on the billboard have gone out of business. It is a lighted billboard. If we stick with the same company they would not charge us anything if we stay with same design. We currently have been charges \$300.00 a month for the billboard. She spoke to some of the business owners in town at meetings and they wanted a right read billboard; because they are easier to read. She stated she found a billboard on North I-75 just before you get to exit 29; it is a right read and currently advertises Creekside West community and thinks they are no longer under contract with the company Fairway Outdoors). She spoke to the company and the billboard is 26 x 40 ft and is lighted. The original production cost with our design will \$1560.00. They then negotiated a price of \$780.00 for production. (one time cost) The rate for that billboard will be \$300.00 every 4 weeks. (13 payments for year) That will be \$3,900.00 for the year. She then presented a design that the business owners have decided on. They would need a \$1,800.00 plus one 4 week payment to get started. The business owners wanted to know what the city would contribute to pay towards the billboard. City manager stated he estimated it would cost around \$390.00 per month. The current contract has lapsed and we were paying \$300.00 per month. The business owners want to know what the City will pay and they will take the balance and divide among them. They are not asking the City to pay the entire yearly amount. Discussion regarding what left in budget for advertisement. City manager Sumner suggest that some type of contractual arrangement be made with the businesses if we do a partnership to guarantee payment. The question is if the City will be willing to go under contract with the advertising agency to put the billboard up and in the event that something happens to one of the businesses the City will come up with the difference unless there is some type of arrangement contractually with the businesses. Sherry suggests getting the businesses to pay for the billboard up front but feels they would not do it. Mayor Bullard states we need to decide what amount we want to put into the billboard and then get with the businesses on what they would have to pay. The total cost would be \$4680.00. He ask how many businesses would be interested in the billboard and she stated between 6-9. There will be another business meeting on October 12, 2011. The Mayor

would like to get a list of business license and go from there. Council member Adams thinks we should have every business license holder to pay; this will benefit all businesses and draw people into City. The Mayor feels we should pay a large percent to help the businesses.

B. Christmas Party-City Manager Sumner

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to go ahead and get a Christmas Party date tentatively for December 5th at Hollis Farms Barn. One minor change will be the consolidated Christmas Party. We should have a bigger crowd and help to save money.

C. Meeting and Holiday Schedule for 2012

City manager Sumner presented Mayor and Council with the 2012 schedule; he did remind everyone that the dates for the November meeting are incorrect on the 2011 schedule. The work session will be on October 31, 2011 which is Monday.

D. Tree Removal-Randall Street

Public Works director Warren stated the oak tree on Randall at the Tyson house needs to be removed. It is on City property. He presented two estimates to Mayor and Council. The two estimates are \$1,200.00 and \$1,500.00.

SET OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Bullard stated the items to be placed on the Council meeting agenda will be:

-FY 2012 Budget

-Short term work program

-Request to Modify Alcohol Ordinance

-Door to Door Sales

-Donation to Historical Items to Hahira Museum

-Waste Management Contract

Mayor Bullard stated the items to be place on the Consent agenda will be:

-East Grace Street Rehabilitation Project

-Transportation Enhancement Project MOU

-Christmas Party

-Meeting and Holiday Schedule for 2012

-Tree Removal

Recognition of Service for City Clerk Belinda Chappell by Mayor Bullard for her years of wonderful service; she will not be at the meeting Thursday night.

Appointment of new City Clerk.

ADJOURN.

**Hahira City Council
Council Meeting
October 6, 2011
7:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting September 01, 2011 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT:

Mayor Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Ralph Clendenin, Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

Call To Order: Mayor Bullard

Establish Quorum: Mayor Bullard

Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Benjamin

Invocation: Council Member Benjamin

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

A.) August 29, 2011 Work Session

B.) September 1, 2011 Council Meeting

C.) Special Called Meeting-September 12, 2011

D.) Special Called Meeting-September 15, 2011

E.) Special Called Meeting-September 20, 2011

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes. There were no corrections to the meeting minutes. **Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Council member Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain, vote was unanimous.**

APPOINTMENT OF CITY CLERK

Councilmember Adams made a motion to appoint Lisa Mashburn as City Clerk, which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Oath of office taken by Lisa Mashburn.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A.) FY 12 Budget

City Manager Sumner stated that all qualifications for the budget were complete. He stated that all corrections had been made and that he would like to submit the budget for consideration. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak on the FY12 Budget. There were no public comments. Councilmember Benjamin stated he felt that the City Manager and the Department Heads did a good job of preparing the budget. Councilmember Adams asked if corrections from the previous meeting had been made. City Manager Sumner stated items had been corrected, as outlined from the previous meetings. **Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to accept the budget as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

B.) Short Term Work Program Update

Matt Martin Planning and Zoning Administrator stated the changes pointed out by Councilmember Adams in regards to the Municipal Complex had been made to the master copy. Mayor Bullard asked if there were any public comments or questions on this item. There were none. Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to accept the Short Term Work Program as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Vote was unanimous.

C.) Door-to-Door Sales Amendment

City Manager Sumner stated that this had been discussed since the August meeting. He stated it had been reviewed by Chief Davis and the City Attorney. The Council may adopt the ordinance or go to a second reading. Citizen Wilmon Stanley stated that controlling this could give citizens peace of mind. He stated that he had been victimized late at night (7-9 p.m.) with people trying to sell him alarm protection. He then stated that this ordinance would put his mind at ease. Mayor Bullard asked if there were any other comments. There were none. **A motion was made to adopt the door-to-door sales ordinance by Mayor Pro Tem Cain, which was seconded by**

Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Benjamin voted in favor. Councilmember Clendenin voted against. The ordinance would go to a second reading.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Gene Godfrey, minister at Newsome Street Church of Christ, asked the Council to consider allowing the Newsome Street Church of Christ to have a city garden if property was available in the City. He also asked that the Council consider putting a pipe to run from the driveway to the canal that runs behind the property. He stated that they have various reptiles close by and that they have children playing in that area after church.

Rhonda Posten with Veolia Environmental Services stated that she has been before the Council before. She stated that she applauded the Council for putting the garbage service out for bid. She stated that Veolia would appreciate the opportunity to bid. She stated that they are a Lowndes County employer who has several employees who live in the Hahira area. John Quarterman of Quarterman Road spoke on the school consolidation issue. He stated that he felt it would be a bad idea. He stated that it would not improve education, but would raise everyone's taxes. He stated the two school boards have voted to oppose it. He stated that he felt the Hahira City Council should also make a resolution of opposition. It would not be binding, but people do care what they think.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

City Manager Sumner stated that he had covered the comments received at the Work Session with the Senior Finance Clerk. An email went out to Mayor and Council. Councilmember Adams stated that she spoke to Paula about the difference in inert debris and household items. City Manager Sumner stated those items needed to be reclassified. After the next billing cycle, they will review and correct. **A motion was made to pay the bills with corrections as stated by Councilmember Benjamin, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSIONS:

A.) Moved to Public Hearings

B.) Request to Modify Alcohol Ordinance

City Manager Sumner read an email from the City Attorney under the direction of Mayor Bullard. Councilmember Clendenin suggested that the City review its ordinance. He then asked if the City should amend its ordinance to make it the same as the State. Councilmember Benjamin stated that they reviewed this ordinance before when it came up and that he felt that there was nothing was wrong with it. The Mayor then stated that the City needed to make its measurements the same as the State measures. City Manager Sumner stated that the City could have the Attorney review and compare the State Regulations with the City's. Councilmember Benjamin stated that he felt we did not need to spend the money until this came up again. Councilmember Adams asked the recommendation of the City Manager, who stated that it had

come up in the past and would probably come up again in the future. He stated that the City needed to have clarification. The attorney could compare the City's regulations with the State regulations. Councilmember Clendenin then stated that he would like to see it go to the City Attorney to review what the regulations are and if there are any conflicts with our ordinances. **Motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to have the City Attorney investigate the consistency between the regulations of the State of Georgia and the City of Hahira in regards to the Alcohol Ordinance, which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Vote was unanimous.**

C.) Moved to Public Hearings

D.) East Grace Street Rehabilitation Project-SPLOST VI

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that the low bid from Scruggs Company was \$67,951.22, and that he felt the City needed to put in a 10 percent contingency in case of any problems during construction. He stated that all contracts usually had 10 percent contingency and would like to add \$20,000 to the bid to do South West Street. He has not had time to meet with the low bidder but hopes to do that soon, and that the amount to add South West Street should be lower than \$20,000. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to accept the bid of \$67,951.22 to resurface Grace Street from Old Highway 41 to South Nelson Street, including \$20,000 to repave Southwest Street on Highway 122, and to raise manhole covers on Grace Street and South Nelson Street to Hagen Bridge. In addition he would like to add 10% contingency to the \$67,951.22. Councilmember Benjamin seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.**

E.) Removed

F) Removed

G) Removed

H) Removed

I) Discussion on donations of historical items to Hahira Museum

Councilmember Adams stated that she would like to donate the cane bottom chairs and other tables and chairs to the historical Hahira Museum. **A motion made to donate the items to the Historical Society by Councilmember Clendenin, which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Vote was unanimous.**

J) Removed

M) Discussion on waste management contract

Councilmember Clendenin stated that the City contract with Griffin Waste management is up at the end of this year. He stated that he had spoken with another Lowndes County firm that gave him a rough number for household pick up of approximately \$7.00, compared to the \$11.00 that

the City was paying now. His suggestion to the Council was to request bids from all firms located in Lowndes County for household pick up and inert debris pick up at houses. He stated that he had spoken with a number of citizens, and thought that it was ludicrous for the City not to do it. He stated that the price was so much lower than the City was paying and that it was citizen's money, not his. The Mayor asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Benjamin asked what company Councilmember Clendenin had spoken with. Councilmember Clendenin stated that it was Veolia. Councilmember Adams stated that she believed in free enterprise and that she believed that competition was good for everybody. She stated that she strongly thought that the City should put the waste management contract out for bid. She then referred to the discussion from the Work Session in regards to services used many years ago. The Mayor then stated that citizens paid \$2.00 per month on water bills to pay for a new garbage truck. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he knew it was about time to renew the contract, but he felt that the way the matter was being handled was not right. Mayor Pro Tem Cain referred to council members that talked to vendors about pricing on garbage pick-up. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he did not agree with it; he stated that council members should not be talking to vendors about pricing. He stated that he did not feel it was legal or ethical, and that he could not go along with it. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he felt that if an elected official wanted to speak to a supplier or a vendor, then they have the right to do so. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he was opposed to this effort until he receives clarification from his lawyer that it was legal to go out and try to get prices. The Mayor asked for a motion. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion for the City of Hahira to put out an RFP effective for the first of the year for household garbage service. This was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Mayor Pro Tem Cain and Councilmember Benjamin opposed motion. The Mayor broke the tie, opposing the motion.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A.) TE Project MOU,**
- B.) Christmas Party-December 5**
- C.) Meeting and Holiday Schedule**
- D.) Tree Removal- Randall Street**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as stated, and Mayor Pro Tem Cain seconded. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

The Mayor stated that he had received a letter from Bethel AME Church, Pastor Dale Flucus. The letter stated that the Church would be hosting Homecoming on October 23, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. The church and committee invited all to attend. The guest speaker would be Brother Ernest McCallister Sr.

Council member Adams thanked Harvey's for the beautiful mums donated and placed around the City. She also thanked the City's Public Works Director and his employees for the beautiful job they had done around the City. She stated that it was a lot of hard work. She gave her congratulations to Ms. Mashburn on her appointment as City Clerk. She thanked all in attendance for coming.

Council member Benjamin also welcomed Ms. Mashburn as the new City Clerk. He thanked everyone for coming out, stating that it was always good to see new faces. He thanked Brother Gene Godfrey for coming up with those suggestions, and stated that he felt a city garden would be good for the City. Benjamin thanked the Department Heads for all they did. He stated that he knew the employees did a good job of providing services for the City. He also thanked everyone for coming and asked that they come back for the HoneyBee Festival this weekend.

Benjamin thanked all the departments for the hard work they do every day for the City. Benjamin stated that the departments work hard each and every day for the services the citizens enjoy in the City of Hahira. Benjamin thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager, City Clerk and Finance Clerk for the job they do each day.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain thanked everyone for all the hard work that they do for the City. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that he wanted to thank the Fire Chief for a call he had at 2:00 in the morning. He stated that a lady called in and thought her house was on fire, but it turned out to be low batteries in fire alarm. The Fire Chief changed them out for her. He welcomed Ms. Mashburn and thanked Mayor and Council.

Council member Clendenin welcomed Lisa Mashburn. He thanked all for attending the meeting. He thanked the Valdosta Daily Times for coming. He thanked Public Works for their hard work and Police Chief for making everyone safe. He thanked the Fire Chief. He thanked everyone personally for the job they had been doing over the years.

City Manager Sumner thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve. Sumner thanked everyone for the adoption of the FY2012 Budget, and stated that it was a tight budget but a good budget. He thanked the Department Heads for helping to put the budget together and to the Mayor and Council for their input. He stated that all this was being done while keeping the mileage rate the same for the last several years. He stated that it would be all hands on deck Friday and Saturday for the Honeybee Festival. He stated that he had heard so many great things about the appearance of the City, and thanked the Fire Department and Police Department in advance for their service. He stated that Ms. Chappell was not there tonight but extended a thank you to Ms. Chappell for her service to the City of Hahira. He stated that her presence would be dearly missed. He then welcomed Ms. Mashburn and stated his appreciation to her for coming to work for the City.

Mayor Bullard thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and stated that it felt good to have everyone present. He thanked Brother Godfrey for coming. He stated that he felt that the garden spot would be a good thing. He asked that everyone be safe that weekend, that there would be a lot of traffic. He thanked Donnie for the wonderful job he did. He thanked the Fire Chief and the Police Chief. He thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Clendenin, vote was unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Mayor, Wayne Bullard

City Clerk, Lisa Mashburn

[Home](#)

Created And Maintained by
[Hahira Web Creations](#)

Last modified: 01/15/12