

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

WORKSESSION

JUNE 4, 2012

6:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor Wayne Bullard and Council met for a Work Session June 4, 2012 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 and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A.) April 30, 2012-Worksession
- B.) May 3, 2012-Council Meeting

Councilmember Adams had a correction regarding the votes on Council minutes, stating that it should be stated who voted for a motion, and who voted against in every instance.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

None.

DISCUSSIONS:

FY 2011 AUDIT (CITY AUDITOR)

Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley and Associates stated he was here to present the Audit report for the FY 2011 to Mayor and Council.

He stated he would like to thank the staff for their cooperation and his staff for the work being completed in a timely manner. HE then went over the different highlights of the report on page 3-6. He then stated the revenues exceeded expenditures in the amount of \$115,619.00 to the reserve in the General Fund. He then reviewed pages 7-9 and stated the Proprietary Fund revenues exceed the

expenditure in the amount of \$41,334.00. He then noted that on page 7 that the Enterprise Fund would have to transfer \$247,112.00 to the General Fund to comply with the bond reserve. Mr. Valenti then pointed out pages 49-51 which pertain to internal controls and findings. The first finding generally pertains to all small governments and stated that he just wanted everyone to be aware of it. Finding 2 pertained to the budgets small overage. City Manager Sumner stated he would take step in the future to correct this. Mr. Valenti then made a few recommendations to improve. 1. Deposit Police Department fines more frequently. 2. Complete Bank reconciliations in a timely manner. He then stated it was an overall very good Audit report. City Manager Sumner stated he appreciated Valenti and Rackley and stated he felt that the administration is moving in the right direction, he thanked Ms. Paula Stone and Lisa Mashburn for all their hard work and also thanked all the department heads for all their hard work with the budget. Councilmember Benjamin stated he wanted to also thank Valenti and Rackley for completing the audit in a timely manner and the department heads for their hard work.

FITNESS STUDIO LEASE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that April Baccigalopi was not present tonight that she had to teach a class. He then stated the document before you is what they had discussed at last month meeting with one exception being the provisions for cancellation. Mrs. Baccigalopi requested a 30 day notice of cancellation instead of a full lease payment requirement. He then asked if any questions. None noted.

RAILROAD PROPERTY AGREEMENT/LAWSON RR CROSSING CLOSURE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that the Lawson RR crossing had been closed since the last meeting as requested and that we had received two complaints from the citizens about the closing at City Hall. Sumner stated that Mayor and Council would need to vote Thursday night regarding the agreement. Councilmember Benjamin then asked the City employees if they had any problems; none noted by the Police department and the Fire Department. It was then stated that they would have Citizens to be heard on Thursday night. One citizen who did not state his name asked why the railroad crossing closure. The Mayor then explained the exchange of 5 acres of downtown property for the crossing. Mayor Pro Tem Cain then stated that the railroad wanted to close the crossing anyway. Sumner stated

they can close the crossing because it is unarmed and that the railroad does not want to put up arms due to the expense. Councilmember Clendenin then stated the railroad can by law close the crossing.

DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING UPGRADES (ROSE ADAMS)

Councilmember Adams as previously discussed she would like to see the public works building upgraded. She stated she has meet with Public Works Director Donnie Warren and they have explained what they would need. It was stated that John Bailey and Jimmy Vinson are drawing up a plan and will and Warren stated he would get it to City Manager Sumner as soon as he received the drawings and prices.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (COUNCILMEMBER BENJAMIN)

Councilmember Benjamin stated he was approached by citizens about possibly forming a DDA. He stated this would possibly help businesses to get low interest loans and grants to help the downtown businesses, Councilmember Benjamin then gave a packet to Mayor and Council that explains the DDA functions and how to get started. Councilmember Clendenin stated that 3-4 years ago they tried to start a DDA and no one was interested. Councilmember Benjamin stated he thought that the DDA in the past was all a misunderstanding and thinks we should inform the business owners what the DDA can do to help them. He stated he thought we should meet with the downtown businesses and let them know that the DDA can be helpful. City Manager Sumner stated he can get information and start the process if it is what they want. Councilmember Clendenin stated he thought we should see if the businesses are interested. The Mayor stated he thought we should set up a meeting with the businesses and see if they are interested. Councilmember Clendenin thought we should get with Stacey the downtown coordinator and talk to them the next time they have a meeting. Councilmember Adams stated she thought they liked to meet early in the day before they opened for business. Councilmember Benjamin would like to be there and will see if he can be in attend.

DRAINAGE PIPE-S. HALL AND SARGENT STREET (COUNCILMEMBER BENJAMIN)

Councilmember Benjamin stated he was approached by a citizen, Mr. Ingram by letter regarding the maintenance of drainage ditch and the possible closure of the ditch in the future. Councilmember Clendenin asked if the ditch had every flooded out? PW Warren stated no and that it is one of the largest ditches in the City. He stated it drains to Frank's Creek. PW Warren stated he could price the pipes if they would like for him to. He stated the ditch is working and that it is maintained one time per year. Sumner stated the pipes would be costly to the City. Sumner pointed out that if citizens want the piping and the storm water funded by the City along with the cost of testing that this is when you have to decide if you want to pave roads or pipe ditches. Councilmember Benjamin stated he wanted to present to Council for them to decide if any action needs to be taken.

SET JUNE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

-RR property agreement/Lawson RR crossing closure

SET JUNE CONSENT AGENDA

-FY 11 Audit

-Fitness Studio Lease

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to enter into Executive session for Personnel discussion which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. All in favor. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to come out of Executive session which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. All in favor. The vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn