

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 6, 2015

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting August 6, 2015 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Kenneth Davis, Terry Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and PWD Donnie Warren were all present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Davis, Hahira Methodist Church

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINTUES:

- A. JULY 6, 2015 WORK SESSION**
- B. JULY 9, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the minutes. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Dwight Bennett of 103 S West Street, Downhome Pizza business owner. He said that he would like to commend all of you on your diligence of forming the DDA. He said this an extremely important topic. As a business owner the meeting regarding the DDA was very informative and thank you for giving the business owners the benefit of another option. He ask that they all remain diligent and not listen to outside sources, know the facts.

Rose Adams of 611 Hodges Street said that she attended the training sessions regarding the DDA. It really stuck in her head what was said, we can have a good DDA or a bad DDA. She said that she had a lot of questions and one was that it was sponsored by the City of Hahira. She said the laws of the DDA satisfied a lot of questions but she would like to have the Council to have the option to answer her questions regarding the DDA. Her first question was regarding the geographical area, we have a designated area known as the DDA, and we have a resolution and a map to designate this area. Homes are in this area and they will have taxes levied on them. The Mayor said it is up to what we put in the

DDA map and resolution, we are not using the same one from years ago, and the old one cannot be found. This is nothing to do with the old map and resolution. Mrs. Adams said that she is asking all this on behalf of the citizens and knows you can change it at any time you want. She said she believes firmly that we need a series of town hall meetings between the citizens and the Council.

Barbara Stratton of 6233 Justin B Cain Street stated that she thought the DDA was a done deal, the way it was celebrated in the Goldleaf Newspaper. People in town want a town hall meeting. She then had statements and concerns regarding the DDA and the meeting to inform about the DDA.

REVIEW OF BILL/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted.

Councilmember Terry Benjamin made a motion to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSIONS:

The Mayor said that we will skip to B. 2040 Transportation Vision Plan and then come back to DDA.

A. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (COUNCILMAN DAVIS)

Councilmember Davis thanked everyone for coming out, he said he appreciates people coming and being proactive. He stated if you did read the article in the Goldleaf that the DDA is not close to being a done deal but that he does support it. He said he remembered also that Myra Register from GMA did say you can have a good DDA or a bad DDA and that is why we are here to follow the steps. It will take a lot of time to review the maps and he said he feels the DDA could be advantageous to Hahira if we make it fit to our community. We need to revitalize our business district, our business district has regressed and it needs to change. The question is how to do it, what format and the DDA is one way to go. The DDA would be a vehicle in which we could get certain grant monies and he feels that it could be looked into. This is not a done deal. He said the concern with the map is too many residential properties in the map. The North east portion needs to have some adjustments but other than that he has no problem with the map. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said he would like to see the residential property and the Railroad property carved out of the map, change the present map. Councilmember Davis said that he supports the DDA and thinks we should tailor it to the needs of our City. The Mayor said we need to check with Atlanta and see if we can use property lines for the map. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that he went out and talked to people about the DDA, nobody know about it, they have no idea and they have heard it is a tax district. He said he felt we should go with Roses suggestion, hold town hall meetings and educate the people. He said he feels we should send the map and resolution to all the citizens, he said he went to four businesses that did not hear about the DDA. He said we should not discuss until we inform all the people, this is a long term issue. Councilmember Davis said maybe that is not a bad idea, but we do not have that information yet, we have nothing to send. We have not done step one so we need to do the map, laws and resolution and then at that point send it out. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said we need to send it out before we vote on this. He also said he would like to see us take out the Baptist Church. Councilmember Benjamin said how many of you love Hahira? He said I love Hahira, we have no plans to destroy or have anyone take over the downtown. We have to come

up with something, some way to improve the downtown. He said we started talking about this 14-15 years ago and we are no closer today. He said that there is a lot of misinformation out there and that creates fear in people. We need to preserve what we have and that is what we are trying to do that. Please let me know if anyone knows anything different. We do not plan to create a tax district, the mileage is lower that it has been in in 20 years. Why would we want to raise taxes and not raise the mileage rate? We need more respect than that. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said the people have no idea, we have neglected to educate those that are in the map areas. City Manager Sumner said every single business was invited to the training and we have all talked about this for years. The Council meetings are held every month, come and learn. Mayor Pro Tem said that is typical government. The Mayor asked if anyone had any more questions. None noted. **Councilmember Barfield made a motion to accept the map which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.**

B. 2040 TRANSPORTATION VISION PLAN (MPO PLANNER)

Corey Hull MPO said that we have been discussing the 2040 Transportation Vision Plan for the last two years. He stated that Mayor Cain and City Manager Sumner have been involved in the meetings regarding the policy committee. Thank you for your service. His said that this is all done to improve the community transportation which includes Hahira, Bemiss, Valdosta, MAFB and Troupville. He said that they set 18 goals and said that we expect a lot of growth over the next 20 years. The strategies are all listed on the form that was presented. Mr. Hull reviewed the Transportation Vision Plan. He asked if anyone had any questions. None noted.

C. UNPAID LEAVE FOR OFFICER KEITH CAMION (CITY MANAGER)

Councilmember Benjamin recused himself. City Manager Sumner said that it is staff recommendation to authorize unpaid leave from July 4 to September 4th which is 60 days for Officer Keith Camion to return to us. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that would be at what cost? Sumner said it would be \$937.12 for two months (\$1874.24). The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to approve the unpaid leave for Officer Keith Camion which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmembers Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. POLICE DEPARTMENT SALARY INCREASES**
- B. FY 15-16 COLA**
- C. W/S EXCAVATOR TRAILER-SPLOST VII**
- D. GEORGIA RURAL WATER FALL CONFERENCE**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Consent agenda. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to approve the Consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PROCLAMATION (MAYOR CAIN)

The Mayor read the National Night Out Proclamation and thanked Lt. Shannon Kingston for her hard work the last two years. The National Night out will help the youth with bullying and stranger danger.

REPORTS:

Councilmember Barfield thanked everyone for being here tonight. He thanked Councilmember Davis for his leadership and insight. He said he had a comment response from tonight, he said that he wishes real research had been done regarding the DDA in Morrow. He said you should interview the Mayor and Council and find out about his contributions to the Morrow DDA. He said the City Manager in Morrow was unseated, the City Manager did things well beyond his reach. He said he sat as a witness with the DA against Old Towne Morrow. He said I am proud of the efforts that we made, we had to straighten out a lot of stuff and had to dig ourselves out. Next time please do real research, you cannot Google information that is the most dangerous thing that you can do. You have to go out and do real interviews. He said I love Hahira, I love what we have done and what we can do. I was born here, I have ties in the City and I have the best interest of all in mind. I have a great deal invested in the City of Hahira. He then thanked the City employees for all their hard work.

Councilmember Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and the opportunity to serve District 1. He thanked all the departments and employees for their hard work, he said this is what makes Hahira. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their diligence, he said that every topic is researched thoroughly and he thanked the Mayor, City Manager and Council.

Councilmember Davis thanked everyone for coming out, he said that he is the newest Council person with the least experience. He said that you have research things to find out the facts, review all the old minutes and try to resolve things. You have to take on things in the face of opposition, we have to research projects and improvements for the City and stick to your guns. Some things have to be done for the improvement to the City. We have to move forward. I do not think this has been true for many years, we have to make things happen and improve Hahira. He said that he is proud to be a part of it.

Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that he thought that there is a conflict on Mr. Barfield and the DDA. These chairs are filled for a change. Thank you for all coming out.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. He said that it is a pleasure and privilege to assist the citizens of Hahira. He said that he liked the slogan let us disagree without being disagreeable.

Mayor Cain thanked everyone for coming out tonight that we have a full house. Thank you to the department heads and the Council for all that they do. Thank you to the City Manager and City Clerk for their hard work. He said we can all do 10-15 great things and all it takes is one wrong move. Thank you to all City staff.

Councilmember Barfield made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin at 8:35 p.m. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN