

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

WORKSESSION

APRIL 4, 2016

6:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Work Session April 4, 2016 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Patrick Warren, Kenneth Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PWD Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. Chief Terry Davis was not present for the meeting.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

- A. FEBRUARY 4, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**
- B. FEBRUARY 29, 2016 WORK SESSION**
- C. MARCH 3, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions, corrections or concerns regarding the meeting minutes. None noted.

REVIW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

DISCUSSIONS:

A. REQUEST BY HAHIRA MIDDLE SHOOOL ARCHERY TEAM (MAYOR CAIN)

The Hahira Middle School Archery Team came to talk to Mayor and Council regarding help to sponsor team to attend the Nationals in Kentucky. A few of the Archery team members would like to speak regarding the National competition.

Gabe Norman a 6th grade team member said that he feels that being member of the team gives him a way to get better at things that he does. He said that it motivates him, he feels that archery is the best sport for him and he is happy to be on the team. He said that it is a great opportunity to have the chance to go to Nationals in Kentucky and says that he has never left the state of Georgia. This is a once in a lifetime chance and he is very proud of everything.

Kayla Rowland an 8th grade team member said that this is her first year but that they have come so far as a small group. Going to the Nationals from Hahira is amazing. I am proud of our team and thinks that everyone is doing their best.

Isaiah Harris an 8th grade team member said that this is his 3rd year on the team. This sport is special because even people with disabilities or in a wheelchair can participate. This sport does not care who you are, you can compete and go on. I started with a score of around 164 and now I am up to 250 which is 50 away from the best. This is a big deal for a lot of us, archery helps you to focus at school and at home. This is not a team it is a family.

Taylor Grace Lukens a 7th grade archery member said that the team has done many fund raisers, including Donut sales, raffles and working at Huddle House here in Hahira. We would like to ask

everyone to support our team and help us try to get to Nationals. We would like to put Hahira on the map by going to Nationals and winning. We have already broke all school records and we even beat Pine Grove.

The coach said that this group of kids practice at 7:00 a.m. in the morning before school and that they have 28 on the team. Our goal is \$10,000 and any help would be greatly appreciated. The Mayor stated that he has been to a tournament and that the kids are very good. This is all on a voluntary basis. This is the last year for the 8th graders and that he would like to give \$1,000 donation for Nationals trip to the team. He asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor thanked the Archery Team for coming tonight.

B. SPRINGEST FUNDING REQUEST (HMA PRESIDENT)

Vickie Rountree HMA President and owner of Monkey Britches said she is requesting funds for the Springfest that is April 17th through April 23rd. She went over the daily events and said the expenditures would be around \$1500.00.

C. POSITION REQUEST (HMA PRESIDENT)

Vickie Rountree HMA President said that as of July of last year the HMA has taken over all the City events. She stated that 20% of the businesses are doing 80% of the work. We need a person to do the admin part like copies, calling, returning calls and sending files. This would be needed mostly around events that are happening in the City. We feel that it is the best interest of this person to work for the HMA directly. I have talked to a person at a temporary agency and after much discussion it would be best for the HMA to find a person and have them work through the temporary agency because the person would not need to work every day or month, it all depends on the time of year and the events. This would be at a fee of \$14.00 per hour in which the person would make around \$10.00 per hour. The budget for the HMA is around \$28,000 for the year. City Manager Sumner said that he felt this is an outstanding idea, this has always been a problematic area and this would be a new partnership. The person would not report to staff but directly to the HMA and would be by contract only. Councilmember Barfield said that if you feel this is the best way then I think this is a great way to contract someone, this would be great to find someone and see how it can help.

D. CITY CENTER RFQ (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said that back in 2011 J Glenn Gregory did a master plan for the railroad property. This is a general drawing of what we want to convey and now we have purchased the railroad property. The property has been purchased by the City and we would like to bring this idea to a reality. This would be paid out of SPLOST VII and out of the General Fund. We put out a RFQ in February 2016 and received 6 bids for qualifications. The firms are: Altman and Barrett, Ellis Rickett Architects, Ingram and Associates, J. Glenn Gregory and Associates, Studio 8 design and Godwin GMC. They have all been examined by this body and are prepared to give an actual presentation. This is for design of the initial elements. Councilman Barfield stated that he would like to see the firms come in for presentation and tell us why they are qualified to do this work. City Manager Sumner said that we need to choice the firm that will do the best job for the City. Councilman Barfield said that he feels it is very important to have an extra night designated to this to hear from them all. City Manager Sumner said that we could have a

Special Called Meeting and set them up in 15 minute blocks for presentation. It was decided that the Special Called Meeting will be on Friday, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Courthouse. A notice will be posted and sent to the paper for advertisement.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING (CHIEF BENNETT)

Chief Davis said that he would like to first clear up what he feels was misguided information to this elective body. To ensure the safety of the citizens of Hahira that we would have a lack of response if we have a large structure fire. Our fire department is made of a large majority of part time staff and at present we only have three part time staff that live in Hahira. For whatever reasons they have left the City and it is a concern in the event that we have a large scale event. We have had 6-7 structure fires this year. I would like to try to fix the issue so I have drafted up three options. This will never eliminate the possibilities but it will reduce it. I would like to retain current part time staff and add one full time staff which would make 2 staff members each day. This is at an estimated cost of \$115,000 annual and \$75,000 for the rest of this year. We currently only have two full time staff and the rest is all part time. We have about 13-14 part time staff at current time. If we do hire a full time person the cost would include salary, training and insurance. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that he has seen the fire department grow over the last 13 years and it has made great strides. We used to be on voluntary basis but as the City has grown we have made them paid positions. We need more paid staff. What is the cost of a life? Chief Bennett said that 13 years ago we would have 23 call a year, now we have 400 this year. The Mayor said we can go on about this but how many full time firefighters do we need? The Mayor then said and you cannot do this without part time firefighters also. We have three options to look at. Councilman Warren asked the very best case scenario, how many full time firefighters we need. Chief Bennett said according to NFPA guidelines 4 persons should arrive on a scene. Councilman Barfield said nobody has the perfect number but how do we compare to other Cities of our size. Councilman Davis said that he would like to have the City Manager weigh in on the situation and the budget. City Manager Sumner said that based on the performance of the last several years, there is funds in the General Fund balance for remainder of this year. We have lean times but we have to consider our obligations. But the answer is yes we can do it. We do not know what the next year will be with revenues and expenses, a lot of it depends on the impact of the construction zone and on fines and forfeitures. Councilman Barfield said we have three major services; Water/Sewer, Public Safety and Fire. We must all understand that they all have risks. None of them are a risk free environment but we need balance. We have given enough money for the minimal and now you have come back to us to get the max. We are operating on the lowest millage in the County.

B. WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT TRUCK-SPLOST VII (PWD WARREN)

PWD Warren said that he has two old military trucks that we are working out of that are in bad shape. We have three estimates in the package to purchase another truck for Public works. The Chevrolet is the low bid at \$24,742. This is a SPLOST VII expense.

C. SUMMER TRAINING (CHIEF DAVIS)

City Manager Sumner said that he will speak on behalf of Chief Davis tonight, Chief Davis would like to attend Sumner certification training. The cost for the 20 hour course is \$405.00. He will have the expense of three nights in hotel at a cost of around \$184.00 per night.

SET MARCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

-Fire Department Staffing

SET MARCH CONSENT AGENDA:

-Request by Hahira Middle School Archery Team for donation

-Springfest Funding Request

-HMA Position Request

-Water/Sewer Department Truck-SPLOST VII

-Summer Training, Chief Davis

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN