

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 30, 2018

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on January 30, 2018 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. JANUARY 3, 2018 WORK SESSION**
- B. JANUARY 5, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING**

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

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

DISCUSSIONS:

- A. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FOR DEDICATED FEES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (JOHN QUARTERMAN)**

Mr. Quarterman stated that he is here to help protect the local rivers. He is here requesting a Resolution to support HB 158 which proposed fees collected by state must go to that HR158 states and help protect our local Withlacoochee River. City Manager Sumner stated that similar resolutions have been passed by Valdosta and Lowndes County. The resolution is to support HR 158 fee division. I spoke to Representative Jay Powell regarding this bill, which is actually a Constitutional Amendment seeking to restrict the State of Georgia to spending fees that are collected on what they were intend for. Chief Davis is adamantly in favor of it as the resolution mentions the Peace Officers and Prosecutors Training Fund. It seems the fund is being raided to pay for completely unrelated items in the state budget... Mr. Quarterman stated that this cost you nothing, and it shows support in the form of a resolution.

- B. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RIVER TRAILS (JOHN QUARTERMAN)**

Mr. Quarterman stated that this resolution is to support river trails like our more local trails at Folsom Bridge which is 6 miles from here. The water is really low now but a great place to go down and see all the Cypress trees, snakes and birds. People come from far away to go down the river trails and they buy gas, food and equipment while they are here. This is something positive and good for Hahira, they do clean up as they go and it cost nothing to the City. He

then asked if anyone had any questions. Councilman Warren said they he grew up canoeing and appreciates what it has to offer. There is no money needed and our support is very important.

C. ZONING ORDINANCE-FOOD TRUCK TEXT AMENDMENT (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, CITY ATTORNEY)

This item was postponed until the Retreat on Friday, February 2nd so that the City Attorney and Planning and Zoning Administrator can be present and it will be placed on the March agenda.

D. GMA SUMMER CONVENTION (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated it is time for registration for GMA Summer Convention in June. I need a count of who will attend, classes and how long you will stay in Savannah. The convention is from June 22nd to June 26th. Everyone said they plan to attend. All paperwork will need to be turned in to Lisa by the end of February.

E. RAILROAD CROSSING CLOSURE REQUEST FROM NORFOLK SOUTHERN-LAWSON STREET (CITY MANAGER)

Sumner said that as discussed last month this item has been discussed for years, Norfolk Southern has again requested the closure of Lawson Street crossing. State law allows closure if certain criteria is met. If DOT is in favor of the RR closure then they can close crossing against City's wishes. The Railroad has offered an incentive of \$40,000. IF we decide not to close then they can continue with a petition to close the crossing and the funding will be off the table. The money could pay for more parking and amenities and there are feelings on both sides of the issue. The Railroad says they respect the City's wishes but would move forward without the City. The Mayor and I spoke to Representative Tim Golden and he said he would look into it and meet with us. Does anyone have any questions? Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin asked how long it would take to process. Sumner said I do not know, I can find out. The Railroad is waiting on the vote from Council, I feel like they would start petition immediately if city did not wish to close. They seem pretty firm. Councilman Barfield asked if there are any additional incentives, can we put parking on RR right of way. Sumner said we have parking to discuss at the retreat on Friday that will go from Lawson Street to Park Street. The matters are not connected but it is a matter of good will said Sumner. The DDA and HMA are in favor of parking 25 foot from the center line of track to have angled parking or parallel parking. Councilman Warren said that he thinks we should postpone for another month and talk about it at the retreat, it should be doable by the March meeting. Sumner said this is a sensitive local issue, we can have additional discussion and input. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said we had temporary closure at one time. The Mayor said the same thing happened to Lenox, they did not want crossing closed, and the railroad petitioned and closed the crossing. I think we should discuss it more at the retreat.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF BEER AND WINE SERVICE PERMISSION AT HAHIRA DEPOT (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said that 7 or 8 years ago we put in place policy for the community Center and one component of that was no alcohol on premises. We took the Community Center policy and modified it for the New Depot. This policy currently says that beer and wine are prohibited.

I have been asked to bring this to you to see about making a change in this part of the policy. We have cameras and security in place at the new depot. Councilman Davis said that he feels we should lift that provision, people want to rent the depot for wedding receptions or business function and this is a big detractor. Councilman Warren said I think if we green light it that it can get out of hand, people are going to drink anyway, we do not want to invite it in. Councilman Davis said I am not thinking of big parties, I understand your concerns, I am not sure if this is a big risk. Councilman Barfield said I think we should allow beer and wine, people will do it anyway, and we just need to be sure they put down that they will have beer and wine and we can be prepared for it. I think this is what you will need to do for wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin asked if we can restrict it to beer and wine only, Sumner stated yes we can do whatever provision you wish. Councilman Warren asked what Valdosta does. Sumner said yes they have it at events. The Mayor asked if anyone had any other questions. None noted.

B. RECOMMENDATION TO RAISE HAHIRA DEPOT RENTAL FEE FROM \$400 TO \$500 (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that we would like to raise the rental fee for the depot. The issue is the cleaning fee of \$125.00 that we have to pay to clean the building and be sure it is all in place and protected. We would like to raise the rental fee or add cleaning fee. Councilman Barfield said that if you rent a condo at the beach you pay a cleaning fee, I think we could just add a cleaning fee to cover the City's expense.

SET FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

-All items moved to consent agenda

SET FEBRUARY CONSENT AGENDA:

-RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF DEDICATED FEES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

-RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RIVER TRAILS

-GMA SUMMER CONVENTION

-BEER AND WINE SERVICE PERMISSION AT HAHIRA DEPOT

-ADD \$125 CLEANING FEE TO HAHIRA DEPOT RENTAL AGREEMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN