

**CITY OF HAHIRA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 7, 2019**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** City Manager Jonathan Sumner

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- A. FEBRUARY 5, 2019 WORK SESSION
- B. FEBRUARY 7, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING
- C. FEBRUARY 8, 2019 RETREAT

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. RETIREMENT ORDINANCE-FIRST READING (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Plumb stated this is an amendment to the Retirement Benefit plan. If you will look at page 37 of the ordinance it requires changes for the IRS regulations/Federal requirements that we make the changes. It does not change the plan itself it only satisfies the IRS /Federal regulations. City Manager Sumner stated that it was sent to the City Attorney for review and if unanimous consent we can execute and send back to GMA. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the changes in the Ordinance. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the Ordinance. None noted. **Councilman Warren made a motion to approve the changes to the Retirement Ordinance per federal law which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Councilman Warren, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

**B. PANHANDLING ORDINANCE-FIRST READING (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Plumb stated as discussed at previous meeting the ordinance needs to be updated. We need this to better regulate solicitation and panhandling in the City of Hahira. After review and discussion it was decided to take out a specific area and have it be a general regulation. If you review the last paragraph it would result in a warning the first time and Citation to the City with the second violation. City Manager Sumner stated that we have had no comments from public and does Council have any questions. Councilman Warren the changes are centered on the Valdosta ordinance and is designed for a specific area, we do not have a specific area instead we have general terminology regarding the right of ways, ATM's and businesses. This will leave it more general. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the Ordinance. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the Ordinance. Willmon Stanley of 308 S Washington Street stated that he was here Tuesday night and I agree with the changes to the Ordinance. I think it is a good idea, we do not have a leg to stand on now. Thank you for putting this into place. The Mayor asked if we had any more discussion. None noted. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion to approve the Panhandling Ordinance as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Bobby Ellis of 3751 Pritchard Lane Valdosta is here representing the Hahira Masonic Lodge which is a charitable organization. I understand that there are two tiers regarding the water/sewer rates and they are all based on flat rate up to 3,000 gallons. I am here to request a third tier which would be for charitable organizations. We spend around \$900.00 per year for water/sewer/trash and we do not use that much, which is money that we could use for other things. City Manager Sumner stated that he and Mr. Ellis spoke in length about this and I thought he should bring this to Mayor and Council. I can reach out to other City Managers so see what that do and see if anyone has a third tier of rates, see if it exist.

Willmon Stanley of 308 S Washington Street said he would like to thank the Fire department, Chief of Police and the Mayor. We had a fire at my house and thanks to the fast response no one was hurt and no damage to house. Thank you all for taking care of my wife and home while I was not there at the time. I would like to also say that I preach at a church and it is considered non-profit and we pay the commercial rate just like they do at the Hahira Masonic Lodge.

Mark Lampert of 550 W Stanfill Street stated he is concerned about the traffic on Stanfill and the Union Road traffic. We need a stop light at 122. The Mayor stated that we cannot do anything about that and cannot put up traffic lights until DOT does study and decides where they should go. The Police department is monitoring the road as much as possible but they cannot stay there all the time.

#### **REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

MOVED TO PUBLIC HEARING

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. MOWER-\$8,995 JOHN DEERE-SPLOST VII**
- B. HAHIRA SQUARE PHASE 2.2-INVITATION TO BID-SPLOST VII**

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

## **REPORTS:**

Councilman Warren thanked the Mayor, Council and City Attorney for getting things done regarding the Panhandlers Ordinance. It is important for our Police Officers to have the tools that they need to combat the problems. I am excited about the new phase of the Depot. Don't forget to go vote on March 12 and please say a prayer for the former Mayor Wayne Bullard he is having a tough time.

Councilman Barfield thank you all for getting the job done every day. I know things are running smoothly because we do not have calls. It is pleasant to work in this environment where everyone is doing their job and I appreciate that. Be sure to go vote.

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and for the opportunity to serve District 1. It is a pleasure to get things done. My hat is off to all departments, it is a great relief to not worry about that each day.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said thank you for the great job that everyone does. It is a pleasure to work with the Council and staff. It is nice to have things running smoothly, there is a lot going on behind the scenes, a lot of work with a lot of people but things get done. I thank you all for the requests and comments, I like that you come and speak to the one who need to hear it.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and to the department heads for the day in and day out work that they do. Thank you to the front office staff and welcome to Jennifer our new Downtown person. Councilman Benjamin and I went to the CVIG newly elected training in Tifton as speakers. Councilman Benjamin did a great job answering the questions. Hahira only had good things to say but others have a lot of problems they are dealing with and we tried to help answer questions. IT was a good experience.

Mayor Cain said thank you to all department heads and employees, they do an awesome job. We are growing and everybody loves this town. We have the Police department keeping everyone safe, the Fire Department keeping people safe and the Public works keeps it all looking good. Thank you to the Council, it is a pleasure to work with you all, we get things done. We do not leave things on the table. I appreciate Rob the City Attorney for his hard work and keeping us legal. I appreciate the City Manager, City Clerk and office staff.

**A motion was made by Councilman Barfield to adjourn which was seconded by Councilman Benjamin. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

**ADJOURN.**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:45 P.M.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**