

## **Council Meeting**

May 6, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman Bullard to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Councilman Terry Benjamin.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF APRIL 8 (Regular Meeting) AND APRIL 15 ( Special Meeting),  
2004 COUNCIL MINUTES

**Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

(A) HA-2004-05 Billy Holtzclaw – Rezoning request

Alan Sloan of the Planning Commission reported that the applicant requested rezoning .41 acres from Single-Family Residential (R-10) to Light Manufacturing (M-1) for the purpose of relocating his existing business, Clinch County Glass. The surrounding area is a mixture of light industrial, commercial and residential uses. Although there are two residential uses on the west side of this block, the majority of the block is currently vacant. The property is currently used as an open-air storage shed. Staff and the Planning Commission found it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and recommended approval.

Council Benjamin asked about a fence. Mr. Sloan stated that there is a condition that the property to the west shall be buffered with a fence unless otherwise specified in the Hahira Tree and Landscape Ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the request to speak.

Mr. Billy Holtzclaw, 307 Forest Avenue, Valdosta, GA., stated that they are currently working out of the Coombs Air Conditioning building and parking their trucks at night under the shed across the street on the property owned by Mr. Raymond Stalvey. He stated that they wanted to clean up the three lots and build a new building. They would also put up a fence on the property as specified.

Mr. Raymond Stalvey, Rt 2, Box 254, Hahira, GA, stated that it had always been Commercial and any work Mr. Holtzclaw did with the property would be an improvement.

Mayor asked for those against the request to speak. There was no response.

**Council Nelson made a motion to approve the zoning request and the 6 foot fence, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

(B) HA-2004-06 Charles Bennett – Annexation/Rezoning Request

Alan Sloan, of the Planning Commission, reported that the request is to annex and rezone about 21 acres from Agricultural Use (A-U), Highway Commercial (C-H) and Flood Hazard (F-H) County to Highway Commercial (C-H) and Single-Family Residential (R-10) City for the purpose of developing a residential subdivision. The property is undeveloped and is located on Union Road, north of Hahira, across from Howard's End Way and with frontage on I-75 as well. The proposed residential area is compatible with existing residential development pattern in the area. The portion proposed to remain C-H is to the rear of the property and lacks access to the road through the property. There are wetlands located on the property. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the request to speak. Mr. Bill Kent, with ASA Surveying, speaking on behalf of Mr. Bennett, asked to postpone the request for one month, in order for Mr. Bennett to do more research and to decide on a course of action. Mayor Crowe asked Mr. Kent for a letter to that affect.

(C) HA-2004-07 J.C. and Catherine Cowart – Annexation/Rezoning Request – Postponed

(D) HA-2004-08 Text Amendment – Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Section 10A "Manufactured Homes")

Alan Sloan, of the Planning Commission, reported that in December, 2003, upon recommendation of the Planning Commission, the City of Hahira adopted new regulations for Manufactured Homes. It has, since, been brought to staff's attention that some of the new regulations are not practical in their application. Given the new information, it is now staff's sincere belief that some of the

requirements may place undue hardships on citizens desiring to reside in a manufactured home. These items were brought to staff's attention after the new regulations. Therefore, staff has prepared an amendment to the new regulations to address these issues by removing the five-foot height limitation on the utility pole, which is not allowable according to Georgia Power standards, and removing the requirement that the landing be attached to the manufactured home structure. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed text amendment.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the text amendment to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in opposition of the text amendment to speak. There was no response.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the text amendment, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

(E) HA-2004-09 Text Amendment – Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Section 10A "Wetlands Protection Districts") (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

Alan Sloan, of the Planning Commission, reported on Section 10A "Wetlands Protection Districts". Staff has prepared a text amendment removing this section from the Zoning Ordinance and adopting the same regulations as a stand-alone ordinance and placing the enforcement responsibilities under the City Engineer. This will require three readings by the City Council. In order to keep the regulations in effect, it will be necessary to make the approval of this item effective immediately after the adoption of the stand-alone version. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed text amendment.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor, or in opposition, to speak. There was no response.

F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of proposed change to Outside Burning Ordinance

City Manager, Janice Logue, read the ordinance on Outside Burning.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the ordinance to speak. Mr. Wilmon Stanley, 308 Washington Street, stated he was for the ordinance. He asked how he could get a permit to burn. Mayor Crowe stated that he would have to call the Georgia Forestry Commission for the permit to burn.

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the ordinance to speak. There was no response.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the change to the Outside Burning Ordinance, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

## End of Public Hearing

### SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICER STACI PRUETTE

Mayor Crowe called on Staci Pruette to come forward and be sworn in as a new police officer for the Hahira Police Department. He welcomed Staci and her family and thanked them for coming.

### EXECUTE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF HAHIRA AND HAHIRA/LOWNDES COUNTY COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORPORATION – Marshall Ingram

Marshall Ingram reported on the Community Outreach Program which includes tutorial services for students who need the support.

Mayor Crowe asked Council if there were any questions. None responded. He asked for a motion to approve the agreement.

**Council Nelson made a motion to approve the Community Outreach Corporation to use the Community Center, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

### DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval to attend July 28 training classes in Athens – Janice Logue

City Manager, Janice Logue, requested permission for Mona Robison and herself to attend a training session given by the GMA in Athens on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Cost would be \$175.00 each.

B. Approval to change 5 fire hydrants – John Thursby

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to replace 5 fire hydrants that parts cannot be found. The replacement would have to be done after 12:00 a.m. to allow for the water to be cut off to install each hydrant. The cost per hydrant would be \$1,750.00. Total cost would be \$8,750.00.

C. Approval for garbage collection (South Georgia Motor Park) –John Thursby

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval for the city to pick up garbage at the South Georgia Motor Park in Cecil. Total fee would be \$180 per month.

D. Approval to send 2 people to training – John Thursby

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to send Chris Stevens and David Thornton to a training session for water and wastewater collection. This is a budgeted item.

- E. Approval to hire part-time summer help – John Thursby

Public Works Director, John Thursby, recommended approval to hire two part-time summer laborers. It is a budgeted item.

Also approval to hire a part-time person to do filing and general record keeping for the PWD. This is not a budgeted item.

- F. Approval to spend \$46,364.00 in GEMA ODP grant money – Dwight Bennett

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested approval to spend \$46,364.00 in GEMA grant money.

- G. Approval to purchase \$3,322.00 in equipment – Dwight Bennett

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested approval to purchase equipment for the recently purchased service truck.

- H. Approval to sell 3 old air pacs for \$250.00 per unit – Dwight Bennett

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested approval to sell the three air pacs to Pine Valley Fire Department for a total of \$250.00 each and to use the money to purchase an AED for the Fire Department.

- I. Approval to attend 2004 TAC Conference – Terry Davis

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to send Bobbie Dumas to the TAC Conference on August 23 through 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a budgeted item.

- J. Approval to attend 2004 Chief's Summer Conference – Terry Davis

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to attend the conference on July 25<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.

- K. Approval to purchase 2 used police cars – Terry Davis

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase 2 used police cars for \$21,000.00. This is a budgeted item.

- L. Approval to hire part-time help – Terry Davis

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to hire someone part-time in the Police Department. This had been discussed with the Public Works Director, John Thursby. The part-timer would help in both the Public Works and Police Departments.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion on the Consent Agenda.

**Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Strategic Planning Session

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that the Strategic Planning Session is planned for Friday, May 7, 2004 at Austin's Steak House in Valdosta starting at 9:00 A.M. until 5 P.M.

##### B. Employee Appreciation Day

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that the Employee Appreciation Day would be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at the Community Center.

##### C. Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon

Mayor Crowe reported that the Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon would be scheduled sometime during the final week of school and would be held at the Baptist Church.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

#### EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that there were four bids received of which only one gave a definitive

Quote. The quote was from the Georgia Municipal Association. She recommended going with GMA. The annual cost would be \$96,768.00. The cost for July through December 31 would be \$48,384.00. This is not a budgeted item. Mayor Crowe stated that the insurance would start on July 1<sup>st</sup> for employees only. Next year they would put it in the budget.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to cover 6 months and make provisions in next year's budget, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.**

## CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No response.

## REPORTS

### A. COUNCIL

Council Benjamin reported that the subdivisions were coming along. He looked forward to the rest of the year.

Council Ogundu reported that at March 9, 2004, Council Meeting, a constituent brought to his attention a vacant house located at 415 Judy Ann Drive. After the meeting he made some phone calls and found out that the inspector of the City of Hahira Housing Division filed a lawsuit on December 2, 2003 against the property owners. On February 6, 2004, the Judge of the Municipal Court of Hahira rendered a decision and that decision was communicated on February 6 to the city. The decision was for the city to demolish or burn down the house.

Council Nelson reported that the sidewalks were being built on N. Church Street. More houses are being built in Audubon Heights.

Council Bullard commended Marshall Ingram on his job with the Outreach Program. He stated that a memorial service would be held on Memorial Day, May 31, at 11:00 A.M. at the Courthouse. Everyone is invited to attend.

## CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that the Strategic Planning Session would be tomorrow and the department heads had been working on their plans.

## MAYOR

Mayor Crowe welcomed Stacie Pruitte to the City of Hahira Police Department.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion to enter into an Executive Session.

**Council Nelson made a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss legal matters, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Regular Council Meeting ended at 8:30 P.M.

After the Executive Session, Council entered into a regular session.

**Motion was made to allow Mayor to execute documents for the lease/purchase of the new fire truck. Motion was made by M.C. Nelson, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

**Motion was made by Council Benjamin to adjourn, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Myron Crowe  
Marilyn Brady  
Mayor  
City Clerk