**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

**Mayor Wayne Bullard and Council met for a Work session February 4, 2013 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.**

**PRESENT:** Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Cain, Rose Adams, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Public Works Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. Council member Terry Benjamin was not present.

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:**

1. January 7, 2013 Work Session
2. January 10, 2013 Council Meeting

Council member Adams noted one correction on first page; spelling error.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

City Manager Sumner stated that he had answered questions from Councilmember Adams regarding the Lee Office Equipment bill for $821.99 which was for Court Clerk furniture and the inquiry regarding the Blinds Unlimited bill that was to fix the blinds in the Mayor’s office that had deteriorated due to the problem with the window leak. Councilmember Adams then stated that the G Waste management bill was down from last month and that the inert debris bill was on this month also. Sumner stated that he thought all the billing was on track now.

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**ARBOR DAY**

Stacy Dershimer downtown coordinator stated that she was waiting to hear what to plant and to check with Mayor and Council re the date of February 20th. She stated she would like to move forward and not plant the olive trees due to the seeds causing a lot of problems. The Mayor suggested that they plant a Weeping Yaupon tree. Stacy then confirmed that the Arbor Day will be February 20th which would be a Wednesday and National Arbor Day for trees to be planted in the parking lot areas at City Hall parking lot. City Manager Sumner then stated that Donnie and public works will need to dig holes and rope off the parking lot the day before the event. Councilmember Clendenin then stated that he saw an Italian cypress that might look good in the parking lot. City Manager Sumner stated that he know this is a problematic area that is surrounded by pavement. Stacey then stated that the event will be around 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. and that she will contact the school for the best time for them. Councilmember Adams gave her the names of the tree board; Stan Reaves, John Adams, Seab Miller and Quita McKinney Lane for her to contact.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Stacey Dershimer downtown coordinator stated that the celebration will be on February 23, 2013 from 12 to 2:00 p.m. in the downtown area. She stated she had a meeting with Freeman Rivers to help coordinate the events for the day. She stated local Churches, Teen Explosion and a hip hop class group will perform. She stated that she will have a Proclamation at the Council meeting on the 7th to be read by Teen Explosion group. She also stated that on February 14th there will be a square dance downtown for all residents to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Councilmember Clendenin then asked Stacey about the newsletter. She stated that she would send out the rough draft to Mayor and Council after review by the City Manager. She stated it would be one page front and back in color and explained the contents of newsletter. Councilmember Adams stated that she had history of all the parks in town for news letter in March.

**REQUEST FROM FROGTOWN WINERY**

Mr. Craig Kritzer of 700 Ridgepoint Drive, Dahlonega, Georgia came to Mayor and Council in regards to Frogtown Winery. He introduced his wife Sydney who was with him and Bill Kent of Innovative Engineering and general contractor Andy Ganas. He stated he is general manager and part owner of Frogtown Winery in Dahlonega and that he is part owner of vinyard at Hwy 41 and Hall Road. He stated that he started helping with this project 5-6 years ago and that it is a 32 acre tract of land off of Union Road. He stated that Frogtown Winery was established in 1998 and has the most award winning wine not located in California. He stated that he would like to have a tasting room off of Union Road and I-75. He stated he planned to have the tasting room open 7 days a week. He stated he would like to put up a building for about $300,000 but that it would not be a bar; he stated it would be for people to come in taste the wine and get the wine to take home with them. He stated they would probably serve cheese but no cooking. He stated that he would ultimately like to have weddings at the location after it is established. He stated that the issue of the property road never dedicated by Lowndes County (Jones Road) and that it was a vacated road when they purchased. He stated he is seeking approval to operate with septic system and approval of the road that would be gravel. He also stated that he would plant vines there. He stated that they would only plant 2-3 acres for show at this location because the location on Hall Road has about 20 acres of vineyard. He stated that later as things grow they would probably put more vines. It was then stated by Mayor Pro Tem Cain that there is no fire protection there. Mr. Kritzer stated that they have the lake there that they can pump water from in case of fire. Councilmember Clendenin asked if they have water/sewer out that far. Mr. Kritzer stated that they would only need septic and that they would have a well. City Manager Sumner asked what we need. Mayor Pro Tem Cain asked how wide the road is in which Mr. Kritzer stated it would be 16 foot, 8 foot each lane. Councilmember Adams stated that she had rode out there but that the road was in bad shape and she did not go up in there. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he thought there was an ordinance stating no wells. The Mayor stated that you can have well but not drinking water. Sumner stated that he would have to confirm with the City Attorney and that the developing needs to be confirmed. He then stated that he would have to check and see if any bond restrictions and that he think there are not any. It was then asked if any restriction sinking of well or septic with planning and zoning. Sumner stated that he had spoken to Matt Martin and that he stated that there are no restrictions that he is aware of and that it is a policy decision at this point. The decision of the infrastructure is up to Council. The City engineer stated that the water runs on south side of property within 1000 foot per health department. Sewer is 1200 foot back to manhole and may have to have lift station. Councilmember Adams stated that Hahira Nursery and the apartments on Union Road all put down wells for irrigation. Sumner stated that the bond restriction on sewer needs to be investigated. Councilmember Adams asked if that land is wetlands and it was stated that it is not. Kritzer stated he is assuring that the city would not pay for water or septic. Sumner stated that originally this project was going to be a large facility and now this is not what is happening. He stated that originally it was discussed that water/sewer would be brought in but that was for larger facility. PW Warren stated that the water/sewer lines stop at Northcreek and that is 12-1500 feet. Sumner stated that if a lift station is necessary it would be at a cost of about $100,000 and that it could be paid for out of SPLOST VI funds. Mr. Kritzer stated that he had one (lift station) built for about $16,000 before and that if necessary he would de-annex this property into Lowndes County. He stated that there would be less water used at the location than a 3 bedroom house. Councilmember Adams then asked what he would do if the water turned out to be no good; she stated that Mr. Cowart a developer back years ago had problems with that and after 4 or 5 different wells he had to have the city furnish the water. Kritzer stated that he is a regulated company and that the issue is the sewer. He stated he would like to have the City bring water/sewer out there and that he would love to have police and fire protection from the City. Sumner then asked if no bond restriction, what the City would like to do. Councilmember Clendenin stated he had no problem with septic tank and that he thought it would be a beautiful building. Sumner stated that he thought it would be an intangible benefit to the city and that it would bring notoriety. The question of license for Sunday sales came up. Mr. Kritzer stated that there is a Georgia Farm Ordinance for state of Georgia which was originally created to have the winery’s in dry counties. He stated that no referendum is required. He stated that they go by State requirements and that only a resolution would be required. He stated that the City would benefit from sales tax and Excise tax and that they have 300 wine club members in Florida that would create business for this location. The Mayor then stated that they would check on things and get back to him. Mr. Kritzer stated that if there is anything he can do to help he will do it. City Manager Sumner stated that the City would have to adopt the Georgia Farm Winery Ordinance and check the bond restrictions and that he should have some answers for him on Thursday night.

**GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

City Manager Sumner stated that he would need to know who would attend GMA Annual Convention and that he would need the registration and housing information. He stated registration for the conference will open before the next regularly scheduled meeting in March. The estimated cost of attending is $1,500 per person.

**JULY WORK SESSION/COUNCIL MEETING**

Sumner stated that he would like to change the July meeting dates because there is a holiday on the first Thursday of the month and there would be a meeting during convention time. He stated he would like to move the meeting to July 11, 2013. Councilmember Adams stated that we do not have to have a work session. Sumner stated that a lot is discussed at the work session and that he thinks we need one. Mayor Pro Tem Cain and Councilmember Clendenin think we should move the work session to July 8, 2013 and the Council meeting to July 11, 2013 and that they would be happy with that.

**AMERICAN LEGION AWARD HONORING CHIEF DWIGHT BENNETT**

City Manager Sumner stated that this will be a presentation for Council meeting on Thursday night.

**NEW CITY PARK SIGNS**

Councilmember Adams stated that a list of signs and rendering are in packet for new city park signs. She stated that they changed the size on them to cut down on prices. She stated that the smaller signs would be 24 X 16 and the larger would be 47 x 29. She then asked if we would like to have a hook at bottom of the courthouse sign and put the date on it. Councilmember Clendenin asked if there was a warranty on the signs. Councilmember Adams stated no but that she could ask. Councilmember Clendenin stated he would like to put the date of the meetings on the side of the building not on the sign out front. It was then stated that KRS does a lot of local business in the city and work all over and feels that the cost of the signs would be $5500.00 with $3791.00 down to build the signs.

**EMT SIGN FOR NEW LOCATION BUILDING**

Councilmember Adams stated that SGMC would like to put up new sign for the new EMT building. It was then stated that SGMC would pay for the sign and that the Mayor/Council would need to approve the sign concept before it ok. Sumner to resend the email originally sent to them in regards to the sign.

**ODOM BUILDING**

Councilmember Adams asked when the Odom Building would be empty because she was told it would be empty in December 2012 but that it is not. Per Mayor that he is trying to get house set up to move office to and that they should be out at the first of March. Councilmember Adams stated that she feels we should start charging rent if he is not out by March 1st and that we should charge him what we charge for Zumba building.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

Chief Bennett stated that he would like to attend the Annual Spring Training in Savannah on April 14-17th. He stated the cost would be a 3 night stay and $200 for the conference.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UNIFORMS-SPLOST VI**

Chief Bennett stated he would like to purchase Fire department uniforms from SPLOST VI this year. He stated that the cost for 10 people would be $1250.00.

**LADDER TRUCK**

Chief Bennett stated that he would like to purchase a ladder truck by the end of next year. HE stated that we need one because ISO will hit hard if we do not have one. He stated that the City needs to replace pump capability and he is trying to figure out an avenue to remedy this problem. He stated that we need a new or used ladder truck or a new or used engine truck. He then stated that the current engine truck would be paid off in June 2013. He stated the ladder truck would be necessary to reach three story buildings and a new ladder truck would cost between $600-$700,000 and that a used ladder truck could not be financed. He also stated that with a used ladder truck you do not know what you are getting. He stated that the focus is on the gallons per minute that the Engine truck can pump and that we need something to cover the new apartments safely. HE stated that you could probably get 20 years out of a new ladder truck. Mayor Pro Tem Cain suggested that they attend the Equipment show on Tuesday, February 12th to check prices. Chief Bennett stated that the urgency is for ISO.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UNIFORMS-SPLOST VI**

Chief Davis stated that he would like to purchase police department uniforms this year from SPLOST VI funds. He stated that no uniforms were purchased last year and that they are really needed. He stated the cost would be for short sleeve uniforms and that it would be around $4000.00.

**SET FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

**-**Black History Month Proclamation

-American Legion Award honoring Chief Dwight Bennett

-Request from Frogtown Winery

-EMT sign for new location building

**SET FEBRUARY CONSENT AGENDA**

-GMA Annual Convention

-July Work Session/Council Meeting

-New City Park Signs

-Spring Conference

-Fire Department Uniforms

-Police Department Uniforms

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.**

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Mayor Wayne Bullard

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City Clerk Lisa Mashburn