**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**MAY 15, 2014**

**7:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Special Called Meeting May 15, 2014 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION**: City Manager Jonathan Sumner

**DISCUSSION:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL REQUEST (CHIEF BENNETT)**

Chief Bennett stated that he has approached the subject numerous times that we need additional staff for fire department. He stated that we are scheduled to have ISO evaluation in July because the time table has been moved up by about 7 months. He stated that with growth comes more calls and that he had 7 unanswered calls at night and that it is a growing concern. He said that with growth this will keep occurring. The Mayor said that on Monday morning the medical EMTs were out of town and a 6 month old baby died because of no response. Chief Bennett said the EMT’s responded but had to come from another part of the County. He said that our firefighters are EMT certified and can respond to these calls. Chief Bennett said that with the city growing it is of grave concern. He stated that 99% of the time we are staffed but says that if we can get 2 part-time employees for about $32,000 per year with no benefits that we can be fully staffed. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin asked how many volunteers we have at this time. None at this time per Chief Bennett, we had two last year and they could not make training and that made them a liability to the City. He said that it is a large problem to get volunteers and have them complete the training. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that this is not the first time that we have heard this and afford this or not we need to put Council on notice. Chief Bennett said that he has tried to look at it in a responsible way with no increase in numbers and that part time staff will give us 24 hour coverage. Councilmember Davis said if we bring in 4 or 5 part time employees would he have to worry about training for them. Chief Bennett said that he will bring on people that work with Valdosta or other agencies and that they get training with them. He said that we cannot hire people off the street and train them. Councilmember Davis asked are there are available people to work part time. Chief Bennett said that he has five people lined up to work if this passes tonight. City Manager Sumner said that if you will look on page two of the revenue report at the fines/forfeitures that we have collected 66% of the anticipated revenue and that it is more than collected in the last eight years. He said this is due to increased traffic monitoring and that the increase would offset the cost. Councilmember Barfield said that he was totally surprised when he toured the facility and that we have no night coverage that he thinks it is our responsibility to fill the vacancy and that even though we have great back up we need to support the Fire Department. The Mayor asked for a motion. **Councilmember Barfield made a motion to hire part time employees at the Fire Department with an increase in salary of $32,000 which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**TEACHER’S LUNCHEON (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that each year we do a teacher’s luncheon to show appreciation to the elementary and Middle School teachers of Hahira. HE stated that the Gourmet Guys are set to cater the luncheon which was talked about at the January meeting. The luncheon will be Wednesday, May 28th at noon. It will be held at the Methodist Church and he would like to invite Mayor/Council to attend so that we can show our teachers support. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion for the City to provide the teacher’s luncheon which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

**WEB SITE RECOMMENDATION (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that as discussed at last meeting with Tim Drexler he recommended EZ Site for City Web Site. Sumner would like to get with Tim Drexler and go over a contract with EZ Site and bring back to Council at the June meeting. Councilmember Davis said that the bid started at 9-10,000 but that it was noted that it could be up to $20,000 which was still be lower than the other bids we reviewed. **Councilmember Davis said that he would like to award the Web site bid to EZ Site as stated in the proposal which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS CHAIR PURCHASE (MAYOR CAIN)**

Mayor Cain discussed over the last few months researching chairs for the Mayor and Council. The Mayor said that after trying out a lot of chairs that the one that was chosen is the most comfortable chair and that it rolls. He stated that the cost of the 8 chairs with the City Emblem on them would be $1,800.00 and would be funded with SPLOST VII funds. **Councilmember Barfield made a motion to purchase the 8 chairs at a cost of $1,800.00 which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out tonight and asked for a motion to Adjourn.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Barfield to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

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**Mayor Bruce Cain**

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**City Clerk Lisa Mashburn**