**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**APRIL 2, 2015**

**7:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting April 2, 2015 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Mike Wells

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

1. **FEBRUARY 2, 1015 WORK SESSION /AMENDMENT**
2. **MARCH 2, 2015 WORK SESSION**
3. **MARCH 5, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

**None.**

**REVIEW OF BILLS/OVERAGES**

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

**DISCUSSION**

1. **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEE (CITY ENGINEER)**

Robert Ramsey with Stevenson and Palmer Engineering did a recap from the Storm water utility and User Fee System overview that Courtney Reich presented at the work session. He stated that Part I of the proposal of the storm water utility would be to check the existing condition, review the existing fund, WSPP Plan, MS4 Plan and mapping of inventory.

Part II would be to investigate the funding position of the City, cost of all items moving forward and look at the existing data base. A presentation would then be presented to Council once all this is done. The cost to identify problem areas and determine problems is about $19,000.00.

This would give the City the problem areas and cost assessments needed to obtain rate to charge for storm water. This could all be brought to Council once the study is complete.

The next step would be the ordinance and public notices and hearings.

City Manager Sumner said that this is not a capital asset but that the study could be paid out of the General fund. He stated that if we chose to implement the fee in the future the General fund could be reimbursed and stated that we have sufficient funds for the study. City Manager Sumner said the question is lower cost to residents’ vs residential property pays most of the tax. The residents will not be paying most of the cost because it is based on impervious surface and that would be mostly on commercial property. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that will be ½ mill in taxes. Councilmember Barfield said we are paying out of the General fund now and he asked if there is a line item in the budget now for storm water. City Manager Sumner said no, if we charge for it that would free up money in the General fund. We take care of ditches, personnel, equipment, retention ponds and the screenings now, most of the drainage system fall in under this now. Councilmember Barfield said we just had an increase in water/sewer fees and we have not determined what the increase will be at the end of the year. BY this time next year we may be able to pay for the storm water out of the water/sewer fund. City Manager said no that must be paid out of General fund. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin asked what is the street budget this year $140,000-$150,000, if you include the street lights (65,000 annually), this is where we go back to how much is public works and how much is streets. He said the budget is not that much. City Manager Sumner said that the storm water management fee would address capital costs. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that he does not see raising taxes to the taxpayer, we do not have a major issue. Robert Ramsey said we do have MS4 monitoring and clean out, it will be our responsibility. Councilmember Davis asked what the expected cost of the MS4 is. Sumner stated that it was about $9,000 last year which was our first year. Councilmember Davis then said about $9,000-$20,000. Robert said we must monitor watershed and MS4, when we see what happens with what we monitor, what goes in or what goes out. Councilmember Davis said the monitor fees come from the General fund, Sumner said yes. City Manager Sumner said whether we have a fee or not this will give you the study and it will help to make a more informed figure. The figure we have now is high end. Councilmember Davis said we need to have a good idea or we will waste $19,000. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said we will have more benefit than the assessment fee, we can check the drainage in our city, see the infrastructure of pipes and drainage. Robert Ramsey said that is more than the assessment when you evaluate a storm water master plan that is a more extensive study. We will only have the current problem areas is study, not the entire system. The Mayor said the MS4 criteria says you have 5 years to do the inventory of all the system. The Mayor said the master plan must be done for the MS4. Councilmember Barfield said why can’t we go ahead and do the Master plan, assess the problems and then get a plan. The Mayor said that would take 8 months to a year. Robert Ramsey said that it has to be done in steps. You have to do Phase I if you want to do a utility. Sumner said that it takes a lot of staff time to GPS each pipe. Councilmember Barfield said maybe we need to get names of other cities and call them. Councilmember Barfield said this is a lot of information, a lot of cities are doing this, what are they being told and what are they going to do. The Mayor said the cities are all different sizes and have different things but we can check around and see. The Mayor said I went with the PW Director Warren and City Manager Sumner and we all meet with the MS4 in Atlanta. We are a part of this because of Lowndes County and Valdosta, it is a Federal mandate and there is no assistance. Councilmember Barfield said if a lot of them are classified as MS4 then a lot of them are having the same issues, we need to all share so that we can feel good about what direction we need to go. Barfield said he would like to know what other are doing around the state, I can do this if it is happening around the state.

Councilmember Benjamin asked if there would be another MS4 training. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said we should do the minimum requirement for the MS4.

Robert Ramsey said that the MS4 plan has been written and submitted. It had a five year plan included and he reviewed some of it. He said that at the end of the five year plan we will have another five year plan, it will keep changing. Sumner said he will check and get ideas of what the other cities are doing for the MS4 and storm water and all the costs. The Mayor asked if the proposal of $19,000 for the assessment, will that change, Robert stated no it is good for a portion of time. The Mayor stated he would like a motion to postpone until next month**. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to postpone the assessment to next month which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

1. **HARVEY’S-HUDDLE HOUSE SEWER-SPLOST VII (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that after discussion on Monday night the two cost estimates remain the same. He recommended going with low bid Little River Contractor for the amount **of $**45,000. **Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin made a motion to accept the low bid from Little River Contractor in the amount of $45,000 which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**REPORTS:**

Councilmember Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out tonight and the opportunity to serve District I. He thanked the City Manager and Attorney for all their work on the railroad property. He is happy that after 15 to 20 years it is all signed and sent. Thank you to the department heads for the job they do. He asked that we remember that Jesus is the reason for the Easter season.

Councilmember Davis thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the Mayor, Council and City Manager for all they do.

Councilmember Barfield said ditto to all that has been said. Thank you to the City Engineer, he knows what he is talking about and thanked him for educating us. Please keep coming, we are all part time employees, we have to have professionals to educate us and sometimes it takes three times for us to get it. It will get done.

Mayor Pro Tem Clendenin said that he is happy to have the railroad property, he said it will be nice to have a new park and a possible building in the future. He thanked Mr. Stanley for attending all the Council meetings. Thank you Chief for the work to get the new ladder truck.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. He said his favorite part of the job is to interact with the citizens and address their concerns. He said that a few take me up on it but the other day he had a few visitors and addressed their questions. He thanked the Planning & Zoning department and said that they are top notch. He said when we have complaints they do a follow up and give top notch service. Thank you to the Mayor and Council and department heads for their hard work. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Mayor Cain thanked everyone for coming out tonight, thank you to the department heads, the Public Works department, Fire department and Police department. He thanked the City Manager, City Clerk and Sr. Finance for all they do day to day. Thank you to the Council for their hard work. We will learn and do what is best for the City.

City Manager Sumner said that he would like to brag on the Mayor. We had a problem with the manholes on East Main Street, two manholes collapsed. GDOT could not fix it and the quotes did not work out so the Mayor got with the Public works department and worked early too late and fixed the problems.

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

**ADJOURNED.**

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**Mayor Bruce Cain**

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**City Clerk Lisa Mashburn**

**ADJOURN.**