

Hahira City Council
December 4, 2025
Council Meeting
6:00 PM – Hahira Courthouse

Mayor Bruce Cain called the Council Meeting of the City of Hahira to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Louise White, Council Members Mason Barfield, Klay Luke, David Lindsey, and City Manager Jonathan Sumner. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Invocation was given by Pastor Jeff Riley of Bethany Baptist Church.

5. REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The November Work Session and Council Meeting Minutes were presented. Mayor Cain asked if there were any questions, of which there were none. Councilman Lindsey made a Motion to approve said Minutes and was Seconded by Councilman Luke. Minutes for the November Work Session and Council Meetings were Approved.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

6A. FY2025 Budget Amendment was presented by City Manager Sumner. City Manager Sumner explained the budget process over the previous years and explained the need for budget amendments beyond the fiscal year end. The Budget ends in December which is the calendar year. City Manager Sumner went into greater detail regarding each of the Funds. There were no additional questions by Council. Mayor Cain asked if anyone in the audience had questions or wished to speak, there were none. City Manager Sumner stated that the Amended was ran in the legal organ. Councilman Barfield made a Motion to approve the Budget Amendment, with Mayor Pro Tem Seconding the Motion. All were in favor of and the Amendment is approved.

6B. Ordinance for Street Renaming first reading was presented by City Manager Sumner. The revised draft was presented with the changes suggested at the Work Session and is made available to the public. This ordinance is largely based on the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County processes, but tweaked for the City of Hahira, and consists of one page. City Manager Sumner read the requirements in the proposed Ordinance. He stated that if Council was unanimously in agreement tonight, it can be codified, or if not would then need to be moved to a second reading. Mayor Cain asked if there were any questions from the Council, of which there were none. Mayor Cain then asked if there were any questions or statements by the public, of which there were none. It was recommended the Ordinance be moved to codification. Councilman Luke made a Motion to Codify the Ordinance, which was seconded by Councilman Lindsey. The Ordinance is Codified.

7. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Chief Stryde Jones read that there was one citizen, Sylvia Walker, signed up to be heard. Ms. Walker withdrew her request.

8. REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

No questions or corrections were presented. Mayor Pro Tem White made a Motion to approve, which was seconded by Councilman Lindsay. The Bills/Budget Overages were Approved.

9. DISCUSSIONS

9A. Request by Graylyn HOA for Street Light was presented by Councilman Barfield. Councilman Barfield stated he understood there was the opinion that approving this request could open an obligation to do this elsewhere in the city but said not necessarily as this would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. The mailboxes have a need for lighting in the Graylyn area as requested. Councilman Luke stated this was in his district and that he had looked at the area in question. He presented a picture of the area in the dark without headlights on and a picture of the area with headlights on, showing the difference. He believes \$6,000 is a lot of money but believes it is money well spent and needed. Councilman Lindsey is in favor of approving this and willing to look at other areas. Mayor Pro Tem White visited the area this morning. She stated that the neighborhood is still in development. She believes this light is the responsibility of the HOA, not taxpayers. Mayor Pro Tem White believes a study needs to be conducted throughout the city. She would like to see the cost of a regular pole rather than an ornamental pole as requested. She suggested again that the retention pond next to the playground poses a greater safety hazard. Mayor Pro Tem White suggested that if the HOA was willing to help contribute to the cost of the light, she would be willing to consider it. At this point she is against approving the street light. City Manager Sumner stated that the quote presented to Council does not include itemized costs for the light. Director Willie Jones, Jr., stated that the majority of the cost for the light is to bore under the roadway. Mayor Pro Tem White requested an itemized quote from the HOA. Director Jones brought up the fact that the new lighting does not cover the area as it used to due to the LED lighting. Further discussion was held by Council Members. Director Jones suggested that perhaps the light can be placed closer to the stop sign to eliminate the need to bore. Councilman Barfield stated if a motion to pass is presented, we could approve it and request that Georgia Power inspect the site to determine if a better location would be feasible. If the installation could be done for a lesser amount, that would be acceptable without having to come back to the City for another request and further delay. Mayor Pro Tem White remains unwilling to approve the lighting request. Councilman Barfield made a Motion to approve the lighting request for the maximum cost of \$6,020, but that if the installation could be done cheaper that would automatically be approved. Councilman Luke seconded the Motion. Councilman Lindsay also voted yes, Mayor Pro Tem White voted no. The request for street light was approved.

9B. Moved to Public Hearing.

10. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

- 10A. Georgia City-County Manager's Association Winter Conference;
- 10B. Furniture for the Fire Department;
- 10C. Public Works 1-ton truck; and
- 10D. City Clerk Lisa Mashburn leave without pay for 90 days with paid health insurance and designation of Victoria Ingram as Interim City Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tem White made a Motion to approve all department requests, seconded by Councilman Luke. All were in agreement. The department requests were all approved.

11. REPORTS

- A. Council Reports: Mayor Pro Tem White stated it was great to be able to make hard decisions and be able to agree to disagree when necessary. She is fighting for the citizens and strives to be a good steward for the citizen's money. She wished everyone a safe holiday. Councilman Luke expressed his appreciation for citizens. He thanked all department heads, Victoria Ingram, and office staff. It has been an honor to serve with Mayor Cain and with Mayor Pro Tem White. He has learned a lot from Councilman

Barfield. He is excited for the Christmas season and celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great city and is an honor to serve its citizens. Councilman Lindsey wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Councilman Barfield and stated it was an honor to serve Mayor Cain. He thanked Councilman Luke. Jesus is King! Councilman Barfield stated it was an honor to serve these past 12 years. This meeting had the most spirited debate, and it was refreshing! He recognized Councilwoman-Elect Cindy Becton and stated he was glad she could see the debate take place tonight. He enjoyed sitting next to Mayor Pro Tem White. He stated he knows what it is like to have a bad City Manager, we have a good one, one who respects the position and council. He stated we have left the city a little better than when we got it. He appreciates all the directors and all that they do. Call me if you need me. Councilman Luke asked for recognition of Mayor Cain and Councilman Barfield by standing ovation.

B. City Manager Report: City Manager Sumner stated he is thankful for the opportunity to serve. The city looks great, he thanked Director Jones. He lifted up prayers for City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. He thanked Victoria Ingram, Carol Royal and Laura Jones for coming together to keep the ball rolling in Lisa's absence. He thanked department heads for everything they do. He stated he was not good at goodbyes as we transition to another season of life with Mayor Cain and Councilman Barfield moving on. He thanked Mayor Cain and Councilman Barfield for their wisdom and insight and expressed what a tremendous pleasure it has been. Not a goodbye, good memories. Thank you!

C. Mayor Report: Mayor Cain thanked the department heads, stated it shows the kind of job they are doing when the calls don't come in. We have the best department heads who put their hearts into their jobs, and it shows. He appreciates each and every one of you. He wished the best of luck in the future. He thanked Victoria Ingram for stepping up as the Interim City Clerk and appreciates her. He thanked Carol Royal and Laura Jones for all their hard work and appreciates them. He appreciates council and it has been a privilege to work with them. It has been a privilege and honor to serve the past 12 years. He has tried to do what was best for the city and the citizens. He can't say enough about City Manager Sumner, he has been a good city manager. He was fortunate to have Jonathan when he came into office. This has been a good city to me and my family and wouldn't trade it for anything. Not a goodbye, it's a see you later. I love Hahira! Merry Christmas and remember what the season is for, and Happy New Year!

Councilman Barfield made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Luke.

The December 4th Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.


Mayor Bruce Cain


Interim City Clerk Victoria Ingram