

Hahira City Council
March 5, 2026
Council Meeting
6:00 PM – Hahira Courthouse

Mayor Terry Davis called the Council Meeting of the Hahira City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Klay Luke, Council Members Cindy Becton, Louise White, David Lindsey, and City Manager Jonathan Sumner. A quorum was present.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence for Officer Caleb Abney who died in the line of duty last month. After the moment of silence, the Invocation was given by Pastor Tony Jackson of Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church.
5. Review/Correction of Minutes were presented. Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the minutes. There were none. Councilman Lindsey made a Motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Luke. All were in favor.
6. Public Hearing
 - A. Petition to Request Name Change for Two McNeal Estates Streets: Barry Field Circle to McNeal Heritage Circle and Rosy Lily Lane to Merle McNeal Lane was presented by City Manager Sumner who gave the details of the request. An ordinance was adopted by the Council. The required advertisement was completed. He also stated that the cost is borne by the developer, and a final figure will be calculated. Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions from the Council of which there were none. Mayor Davis asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak on behalf of the name change. Chris Connell of 5996 US Hwy 41 North spoke in favor of the request. He stated he created McNeal Estates and that all the streets were originally to be named after all the family members. The co-developer did not name the streets correctly in this last phase and he is now taking the necessary steps to correct that. Chad Shenton, who is the attorney for Jerry Stoker, co-developer of the project, spoke in favor of the request. He stated Jerry made a mistake and he is trying to correct this error, asking for the Council's help in rectifying that. Mayor Davis asked if anyone wished to speak opposing the name change, there were none. No further discussion. Councilwoman White made a Motion to approve the name change request, seconded by Councilwoman Becton. All were in favor.
7. Mayor Davis asked Chief Jones if there were any Citizens to Be Heard. Chief Stryde Jones approached and requested to be heard. Chief Jones expressed his thanks for the support, love and compassion shown by all and stated it made an unbearable situation more bearable over the death of Officer Caleb Abney. He simply described it as love and thanked everyone on behalf of the entire Police Department. There were no other citizens to be heard.

8. Review of Bills/Budget Overages. Mayor Davis asked if there were any comments on the Review of Bills/Budget Overages. There were none. Councilman Lindsey made a Motion to approve the Bills/Budget Overages, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Luke. All were in favor.

9/10. Discussions/Department Requests

- 9A. Health Insurance Renewal: Mayor Davis stated that he had asked all to think about the information given from both Taylor Insurance and Partners Benefit at the Work Session and Retreat and asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council. Councilman Lindsey stated that everyone knew his opinion on the matter. Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to keep the insurance we currently have through Partners Benefit, seconded by Councilwoman Becton. All were in favor.
- 10A. Public Works Truck – SPLOST VIII was presented by Councilwoman White. She asked Director Jones for his opinion of the best truck that meets the department's needs, not necessarily the lowest bid. Director Jones stated that Fords are, in his opinion, the best vehicles. After discussion, it was stated the 2025 F250 from Ed Murdock was the vehicle he would choose at a cost of \$72,233. Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to approve the 2025 F250 from Ed Murdock, seconded by Councilman Lindsey. All were in favor.

11. Consent Agenda

- A. Award of Low Bid on East Coleman Resurfacing – LMIG & SPLOST VIII – The Scruggs Company - \$130,104
- B. Risk Assessment & Emergency Response Plan – Carter & Sloope - \$18,000 – SPLOST VIII
- C. Georgia Municipal Association Small Cities Conference & Training – Gainesville, GA – May 12-15
- D. Reappointment of Cathy Daniels as Chairperson of the Hahira Housing Authority
- E. 3% Increase for EMT Certification
- F. TAP '19 Authorization for \$291,000 Match – TSPLOST 1, SPLOST VIII & LMIG

Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Becton. All were in favor.

12. Reports

Councilwoman White stated that it was a tragedy losing an officer last month. While we are not the only community that this happens to, our community 100% came together. It is probably something she doesn't typically pay attention to until it hit home. We are a family in Hahira, we are close, we are a team. She stated she is praying for the Police Department and everyone affected. We never want to go through this again, but it was nice to see how all came together during this time.

Councilwoman Becton stated she is thankful for everyone here tonight. She is thankful for everyone employed with the City. Director Jones helped her find a leak at her salon. Everyone works very hard and she appreciates everyone.

Councilman Lindsey stated he echoes what Councilwoman White said and send out prayers for the Abney family. He wants to pray for this Nation and for President Trump and for our troops.

Mayor Pro Tem Luke gave his appreciation for all our Directors and for all that they have done over these past weeks and continue to do. Chief Jones did an incredible job and carried himself with grace, poise and empathy. He watched you deliver the most horrible news ever to be delivered. He is thankful you are part of this City and for everything you have done and gone through. Mayor Pro Tem Luke stated he appreciates Chief Thompson of the Fire Department who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Chief Jones, Director Price, office staff, City Manager, Mayor, Council. We all came together in a tough time but thankful for citizens of Hahira. He prays for everyone as we continue to move forward. He prays for Officer Abney's family. He is proud to be part of this City and proud of the work being done. He mentioned all the other public safety departments that came forward during this tragedy.


City Manager Sumner thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve. He echoed everything that had been said, deepest condolences and sympathies to the Abney family and to the public safety folks. Memories do not fade; it is a time to remember but also a time to be deeply appreciative of the sacrifice and risk that folks in uniform take every time they put that uniform on. That risk does not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated. He thanked Council for their leadership and for the opportunity to be part of this family.

Mayor Davis stated it hard to be last as everything has already been said. He stated he and Mayor Pro Tem Luke were on scene after receiving the phone call from the chief while Officer Abney was still in the patrol car. After 42 years of law enforcement, that is still tough. He appreciates what Chief Jones and Mayor Pro Tem Luke had to do. The outpouring of the love that came from the departments hundreds of miles away was unbelievable. He prayed a long time he would never have to bury one of his own in his 42 years, then had to do so after 3 months as Mayor. Let's keep praying for the Abney family. We will never get over it, but time will ease the pain a little bit. He stated Officer Abney was 26 years old and was about to marry in April. He had a beautiful family. Mayor Davis stated you could see the love from the family of Officer Abney at the funeral. Mayor Davis stated another tragedy occurred this morning at the Friendly Express where a customer exited his truck and didn't put the vehicle in park well enough. The truck pinned the man and killed him. Public safety worked and did the best they could. He stated public safety responded again to a crew hitting a gas line, thankfully that turned out well. Mayor Davis talked about public works out patching potholes and a second crew arrived to install the 20th stop sign going up throughout the city. Each district is getting 10 signs minimum. Mayor Davis stated he was tickled to welcome Teresa Smith to City Hall. It is as if our little family is complete again. Mayor Davis likes to catch people doing things and posting on Facebook. Mayor Davis read the numbers received from Director Price. The Father/Daughter Dance had to add a 6th session due to the response and brought in \$18,000; the first market back this year had a record breaking 45 vendors; the chili cookoff had the largest registration at 13 participants and 200 votes; 32 cars participated in the car club. It

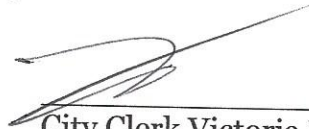
looks like it will be an incredible season this year. He stated Director Jones' crew is doing a great job, public safety has stepped up, and the ladies in the office have always done an amazing job.

13. Executive Session – Not utilized.

14. Mayor Pro Tem made a Motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilman Lindsey. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.



Mayor Terry Davis



City Clerk Victoria Ingram