

CITY OF HAHIRA
MAY 5, 2022
COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M.
COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Council Meeting at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Louise White, Tony Rosatti and Kenneth Davis. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Assistant Fire Chief David Thompson, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PWD Willie Jones and PWD Jennifer Price. Councilman Barfield was not present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Mike Davis

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. APRIL 5 , 2022 WORK SESSION

B. APRIL 7, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Council person White. Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council person White and Councilman Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. HA-2022-06 REZONING REQUEST BY SWEET BAY PROPERTIES, NORTH UNION ROAD SUBDIVISION (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Tracy Tolley Planning and Zoning said as discussed on Tuesday night, this is 72 acres that is vacant on North Union Road. The request is zone change from R-15 to R-6. This was rezoned and Annexed in 2008 to R-15 with no conditions. The Planning Commission vote recommended R-15 to R-10 not R-6. Matt has emailed the plat with R-10 size lots to you. It looks like 147 R-10 houses. There was also condition about the time line of when they want to start construction. The City currently has three subdivisions in process currently, Hall Street, Hagenbridge and McNeal Estates. The fact is that the City sewer system capacity is not ready for that now. It could be 3 ½ or 4 years. Jim Whatley working with developer stated the County could take it on. The Mayor mentioned and nothing figured out now. Mr. Whatley stated he could come back with something that will work. The Mayor asked if the Council has any questions. None noted.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the Rezone. Jimmy Whatley 2526 Jerry Jones Drive, Valdosta said he would like to thank everyone for the way he has been treated, you all do a super job and I learn something every day. I feel the proposal will create a good subdivision in Hahira with 1800-2800 square foot houses and two car garages. The sewer issue can be dealt with after discussion with the County. I don't think the developer will want to wait 4 years. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the rezone.

Ted Raker 724 Edgewater Place and DDA Chairman said I do not know if they will all meet R-10 lots. This is not what was presented at the Planning Commission meeting. I think we should table it and let the public decide or leave it the original R-15 zoning, they were zoned R-15 in 2008 for a reason.

David Lindsey 3001 E Park Street stated I have been to several meetings and everyone loves Hahira. Back in 1891 this was a rural area with vegetables and hogs and that is what gave Hahira its character. It has been well preserved for the last 100 years. I feel confident you will make the right decision, you keep changing the zones size and it will destroy Hahira. We can't go back to the small town.

Rita Thurman of Union Road said she does not want to see further development. I love my small town with the rural area of woods and cows. It has gotten very busy, we have increased theft and I care about where I live.

Kirby Tucker of 7300 Union Road said we have enough traffic on Union Road, I don't mind development but you are surrounding me with people and a lot of traffic. I have trash and litter every day, look at the people you are bringing in here, look at it long and hard.

Elton Redding said he lives outside town in the County. I have lived here for 80 years and we have controlled growth at this point but in haste we become victims of growth. Franks creek is maxed out, we need to look at the bigger picture. I think we should wait about 5 years and build a new sewer plant before we have more development.

Pam Scott 7389 Northcreek said my backyard is a river now. When you try to exit Union Road it is impossible now to get in or out. I am not against the subdivision but I think we need to think twice, we do not want to lose the uniqueness of Hahira.

Marshall Ingram 411 Sargent St said I love Hahira, I have grown up here. The waste station smells now and the closer to town you are really going to have a smell. I think we should wait for the City to get Sewer treatment system and then you can put the subdivision there.

City Manager Sumner said you can cancel or postpone to next meeting. If you move to next meeting we do not have to re-advertise, after that we will have to.

Louise White stated that District 1 smells it now and I am against this. I think we need to do it the right way and I vote against it.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said I think we need to table this, I really can't vote on something with so many loose ends. I think the Council would like more information and table it at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis made a motion to table HA-2022-06 and postpone to the next meeting on June 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. This was seconded by Councilman Rosatti. Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Councilman Rosatti voted in favor of the motion. Councilperson White opposed. The vote was 2-1.

B. 2020 CENSUS REDISTRICTING-SECOND READING (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said as discussed at the Work Session we have a new map from the General Assembly based on population. It has been 10 years since the last map and needs to be changed due to the 2020 Census. Some districts have changed based on where the Councilmembers reside. You can get a copy at City Hall. We had the first reading at the April Council meeting and it was then advertised in the paper for 4 weeks. It can now be codified with adoption after public input. The new map would start for elections in 2023. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor

of the new map. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the new map. None noted.

Councilperson White made a motion to approve the redistricting map as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis. Councilperson White, Councilman Rosatti and Mayor Pro Tem Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Marshall Ingram 411 Sargent Street said we have a lot of bad dogs in area. We have 3 big dogs across from me and when I go walking they are not on a leash. They are sometimes laying in the road and I am afraid someone is going to get hurt.

Terry Benjamin of 301 S Hall Street said he would like commend the fire department, we had a big fire a few weeks back and Brigman Cabinets. The fire was under control and the business was saved. Thank you for Council support, they all had a level of professionalism and I would like to congratulate them on a job well done. We have had talks of a second station and I would like to see that come to fruition.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Davis made a motion to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilman Rosatti. Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council person**

White and Councilman Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. COMPUTER FOR CHIEF DAVIS-VIRTUAL WOULD TECHNOLOGIES-\$1,650-SPLOST VIII**
- B. 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION-JULY 2, 2022-SOUTHERN SKY FIREWORKS-\$15,000**
- C. SWING FOR WEBB MILLER PARK-PLAYGROUND BOSS-\$4,206-SPLOST VIII**

Councilman Rosatti made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented which was seconded by Council person White. Council person White, Councilman Rosatti and Mayor Pro Tem Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS:

Council person White said she appreciates you all coming out and I hope to see you all back next month. I love you guys.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said thank you all for coming out and for your participation. It is appreciated.

Councilman Rosatti said thank you to Public works, Police department, Fire department, Administration, Mayor and Council members. I like to see this turn out and the participation, it is very much appreciated. The more people the

better to help us make the right decisions. Thank you and be safe.

The Mayor said thank you for coming out tonight. It is important to see both sides. Special thanks to the Fire department and Police department, I am thankful we have 2 fulltime firefighters on each shift. Thank you to Valdosta and Lowndes County and thank you to the Police department for keeping the crowd back. Thank to Public works, they were there to help with the water pressure. The building was saved. I appreciate the City Manager, City Clerk and City staff. We are like a family at City Hall.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN