

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 6, 2024

COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting on June 6, 2024 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Klayton Luke, David Lindsey, Mason Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, PWD Willie Jones, Police Chief Stryde Jones, Fire Chief David Thompson, MSD Jennifer Price and City Attorney Rob Plumb were present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Josh Owen

Councilman Barfield made a motion to put the department requests items, Billboards and Fire Truck back on the agenda. The motion failed due to lack of a second to the motion.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. APRIL 30, 2024 WORK SESSION**
- B. MAY 2, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING**

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. FY23 BUDGET AMENDMENTS (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner reviewed final budget amendments for FY23 Budget as discussed on Tuesday night at the Work Session. Memo with amendments and reason attached.

These have been advertised and suggested by the Auditors to close the books for FY23. He then asked if anyone had any questions. None noted.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the FY23 Budget Amendments. None noted.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the FY23 Budget Amendments. None noted.

Councilman Luke made a motion to approve the FY23 budget amendments as presented which was seconded by Councilman Lindsey. Councilman Luke, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem White all voted in favor of the motion.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Amanda Corneilus of 112 S Church Street (Sweetwater Medical Spa) said she is here to speak about the billboards. I have a deep

affection for Hahira and I think the billboards on I-75 are beautiful and progressive. I feel like they bring people into our town. I think \$400 per month is a good price to pay to advertise for the local small businesses. I feel like a millionaire in this community.

Josh Owen of 107/111 S Church Street (Church Street Café) said he is here to support the billboards. I think all businesses do benefit. I think it would be a great help. I feel like it is at good price.

Ms. Hill with Georgia Department of Community affairs said that she thinks the Main Street Program is the heart of the Community. It is designed to energize the downtown. She stated 2.5 million cars can see the billboard and improve the downtown. I think it would be asset for the downtown.

Miriam of Ish Delish at 205 S Church Street stated she moved here from Florida 2 years ago and I agree with Amanda I feel like I live in a million-dollar town. Everyone is warm and exceptional. I am in favor of the billboards ; they are artwork on a billboard. I think we need to keep them.

Jimmy Patel of Bigfoot/Hahira Liquors stated he has been here for 12 plus years and he has 4 businesses. I get a lot of Interstate business and I have 18 on I-75 for my businesses with 6 being for Hahira. I think it is very helpful for businesses.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem White made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem White, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Luke and Councilman Lindsey all voted in favor of the motion.**

DISCUSSIONS:

A. FY23 AUDIT (VALENTI, RACKLEY AND ASSOCIATES)

Nick Valenti of Valenti, Rackley and Associates is the independent auditor for the City of Hahira and was hired to do the FY23 audit. He presented the Mayor and Council with the draft audit and noted it was done by the deadline. Thank you for the cooperation of management and the staff. Our opinion is that the City has a clean, reliable opinion of the condition of the City. No findings. We treat it all fairly in all aspects of the government wide statements. He reviewed all the important points of the audit and was available for any questions. None noted. City Manager Sumner said he would like to thank Ms. Carol for her tireless work, she is under the weather tonight, I am deeply indebted to her. Thank you to Valenti, Rackley and Associates for getting the audit to us on time and we really appreciate the great job. Mr. Valenti reminded everyone that he is always here to communicate with you if you need him.

Councilman Lindsey made a motion to accept the FY23 Audit as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White. Mayor Pro Tem White, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Luke and Councilman Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.

**B. EAST PARK STREET SIDEWALK, RANDALL STREET
RESURFACING-LMIG (STEPHEN RAKESTRAW WITH CARTER
AND SLOOPE)**

The East Park Street sidewalk project of 850 foot would be \$104,000 and the Randall Street resurfacing project at \$84,000 which \$60,000 would be paid out of LMIG funds. City Manager Sumner stated we do not have funds to consider both projects, only the recommendation for Randall Street resurfacing.

Councilman Lindsey asked about dividing the project up for the sidewalks and rejecting that bid. It is noted to measure partial and see what price will be for July. Mr. Rackstraw said the resurface project could be resurfaced before school starts back in August. Councilman Lindsey made a motion to approve the resurface project on Randall Street for \$84,000 with Scruggs Company and it is to be paid with LMIG/General funds which was seconded by Councilman Luke. Councilman Luke, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem White all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Lindsey made a motion to reject the sidewalk bid and reevaluate later which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White . Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Luke, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem White all voted in favor of the motion.

**WOODBIDGE DRAINAGE RE-BID-ARPA FUNDS (STEPHEN
RAKESTRAW, CARTER AND SLOOPE)**

Stephen with Carter and Sloope stated we had bid opening for the Drainage re-bid. We put it out for bid last March 2023 and it

was extremely high so the City decided to wait and re-bid at later time. We had 2 bidders with Hancock and Associates of Doerun, Georgia as low bid. It was suggested to split into 2 phases. Phase A \$529,758 and Phase B \$439,980 for total of \$969,667. Mr. Hancock is a good contractor; I have worked with him on other projects in Bainbridge and Moultrie. As I understand from staff the City can only do one phase now and I suggest starting on the lower end, Phase A, which has the most problems. The next phase will be shovel ready and we have designs for Phase B when the City is ready. Staff concurs and will continue to look for funding. The next step would be to sign notice to proceed with Phase A with unanimous vote and approval. The contract would then be signed and a pre-bid meeting scheduled. City Manager Sumner stated we do have the funds for Phase A. **Councilman Luke made a motion to approve Phase A of the Woodbridge Ditch Drainage in the amount of \$529,758.80 which was seconded by Councilman Lindsey. Councilman Luke, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem White all voted in favor of the motion.**

C. SPEED BUMPS (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said as discussed on Tuesday night we need to create a speed bump policy. City Attorney Rob Plumb reviewed Valdosta's policy and feels it is adaptable. It is a good idea to have the policy changed to fit the City of Hahira. We need to decide who to get consent from and for how many blocks. We have to decide the whole scope of things from

engineering, traffic studies and the speed bumps and the cost associated with these things. A traffic study can cost up to \$2,000. City Manager Sumner said we do have City engineer and we could get her thoughts on it and continue to evaluate. Councilman Luke said we have stop bars and we can do more enforcement in those areas. It will save money and lives and this is what we have done in the past. He said he thinks we need to try other methods and postpone for now. **Councilman Luke made a motion to table and try other methods which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem White. Councilman Luke, Councilman Lindsey, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem White all voted in favor of the motion.**

REPORTS:

Councilman Luke said this is a special day, June 6, 73,000 soldiers killed in Normandy. Thank you for the sacrifice and the freedom we have today. Thank you to the Department heads, Public Works, Fire department and Chief Jones for the newsletter. Thank you to Ms. Price for your hard work and to all employees. Thank you to all those who spoke tonight on the billboards, Hahira is a special place. Thank you to the City Manager, Mayor and Council. It is an honor to serve and to God be the Glory.

Councilman Lindsey said he would like to remember those who sacrificed on D Day. Thank you to my Grandfather who served in WW2.

Councilman Barfield said he would like to echo all that has been said, his father served in WW2 also. I would like to go back to the billboards. Our job is to oversee the operations of the City. We have the experts to handle the day-to-day work, which is our department heads. If we do not feel they are doing a good job then we need to get someone else to do the job. I have never voted not to approve within the budget anything the department heads have requested. This \$6,000 is only 2% of it. The Fire truck was a rational request and can be put in the budget in the future. We need to keep the trucks on the road and out there to improve the quality of life. Our budget is in good standing and I think the billboards are a small part of the budget. We need to plan ahead for the trucks in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem White thanked everyone for coming out tonight and stated I love Hahira.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and said he would like to thank his grandfathers also for their service in WW2. Thank you to the department heads for all the long days and late nights. Do not forget we will have fireworks later this month. Thank you to the front office staff, Carol, Lisa, Victoria and Laura. Thank you to the Police Department for the weeklong high-level training they just completed.

Mayor Cain said I concur with all that has been said tonight.

Councilman Barfield made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mayor Pro White. Mayor Pro Tem White, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Luke and Councilman Lindsey all voted in favor of the motion.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN