

CITY OF HAHIRA
DECEMBER 3, 2024
WORK SESSION
6:00 P.M.
COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on December 3, 2024 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: David Lindsey, Klay Luke, Mason Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White all present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. NOVEMBER 5, 2024 WORK SESSION

B. NOVEMBER 7, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted.

PUBLIC HEARING:

**A. ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING-REDRILL OF WELL #1
(CARTER AND SLOOPE)**

We will have a public hearing on Thursday night for public input for the redrill of Well # 1. Carter and Sloope will be here to answer questions and get authorization to proceed. They have suggested waiting 45 days to put it out for bid which would be mid-January. The construction of the well is valued at

\$1,150,000, which will be fully funded through grant proceeds. The cost for Engineering will be about \$200,000 and this will be paid by the City.

B. APPLICATION OF DAVID L. TURNER ON BEHALF OF FRIENDLY EXPRESS, 940 GEORGIA HIGHWAY 122 WEST FOR PACKAGE SALE OF BEER, WINE AND SUNDAY SALES (CHIEF JONES)

This is application for the newly constructed Friendly Express for sale of packaged Beer and Wine. The application was reviewed by Chief Stryde with no issues. It has been advertised in the paper. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

C. FY25 BUDGET FORMAL ADOPTION (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated the final FY25 Preliminary adopted budget is in your packets for review and as required ran in the legal organ. We have a copy at City Hall for review but we have not received any questions. We will have formal adoption on Thursday night. The budget is a moving target but this is the best guess at this point. We should have a better local at the overall FY25 budget after the FY25 retreat. We did end the year in the black and did not have to dip into the reserve accounts. We did see a 40 % increase in electricity the Recreation center, streetlights and lift stations. We did have an increase in Insurance cost also but did have increase in Franchise fees. The revenue was up in the Water/Sewer/Sanitation fund. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

D. FY24 BUDGET AMENDMENTS (CITY MANAGER)

The FY24 budget amendments are in your packets for review.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Thursday

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted.

DISCUSSIONS:

A. AUTHORIZATION FOR BID-\$1,150,000 DEEP WELL FOR REDRILL OF WELL #1-GEFA WIIN GRANT (CITY MANAGER-CARTER & SLOOPE)

This was all discussed in the Public Hearing.

B. ADDITION TO MEETING & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND AMENDMENT TO PERSONNEL POLICY-JUNETEENTH (COUNCILMAN LINDSEY)

Councilman Lindsey stated he received requests from Citizens to make Juneteenth a holiday for the employees of the City of Hahira. City Manager Sumner stated the cost is negligible and can be added to the Holiday schedule by amendment.

C. NEW FIRE TRUCK (MAYOR PRO TEM WHITE)

Mayor Pro Tem White said she has been talking with Fire Chief David Thompson regarding the purchase of a new Fire Truck. It would take a few years to actually get a new Fire Truck (3-4 years) and we have trucks that are older and I think we need to start the process. Both of the Engine trucks are over 20 years

old. City Manager Sumner stated there is possible grant money out there and we can apply. We are looking at about 1 million with a difference in debt service by about \$50,000. We can discuss this at Retreat as the expectation of SPLOST 9. Chief Thompson stated it could also be good for the ISO rating but that has many factors. Councilman Barfield asked about another Fire Station. Chief Thompson said yes that it could help with the ISO but require building, truck and staff. I think this is a good priority for the next 6 years. It will take a few years to get a new Fire Truck and then one year to start paying for it. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions? None noted. This would be approval to start the advertisement for bid.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. CONTRACT FOR FY25 STATE ACCREDITATION OF HAHIRA POLICE DEPARTMENT-DEB ROBINSON-\$20,000-SPLOST VIII (CHIEF JONES)

Sgt Yolanda Hall is here to discuss because Chief Jones could not be here tonight. This is to hire Deb Robinson to do work for State accreditation. This would be a contract for \$20,000. City Manager Sumner stated that the contract was sent to the City Attorney for review.

B. DESTINATION MARKETING ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT FOR HOTEL-MOTEL TAX WITH VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY CONFERENCE CENTER AND TOURISM AUTHORITY (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Manager Sumner stated the City Attorney is working on a draft document as required by the State for the collection of our Hotel-Motel tax. We collect about \$5,000 a year now and pay the Conference center \$800.00 to \$1,000 per year for compliance. We get 60% and they get 40%.

C. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POLLING PLACE (CIT MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated we have 3 polling places now in the City of Hahira. The Historical Society has declined to be offered as a polling place in the future. It was discussed about having 3 places for 3,400 people and it cost the City about \$15,000. It was suggested that we drop down to only one polling place. This would be advertised next year and this will make it easier for the residents and less confusing about where to vote. We could also have early Sunday voting if you are good with it. If we reduce to just one location for voting it would save the City about \$10,000. The Supervisor of Elections would just need authorization from the Mayor indicating this is the wish of Hahira.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN