

Council Meeting

October 12, 2000

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, October 12, 2000 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt and Sonny Copeland; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Interim Police Chief, Lt. Terry Davis; City Attorney, Willie Linahan.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

Visitors were welcomed and a quorum of council was established.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes of September 7, 2000, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) Annexation/rezoning request by Chancy Development Co. P.C. file #HA-2000-04:

Mr. Matt Martin of the Planning Commission reported on the annexation/rezoning request and stated that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Mayor Adams called on citizens who wished to speak in favor of the request. There were none. Mayor Adams called on citizens who wished to speak in opposition of the request. There were none. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the rezoning/annexation request, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(B) Rezoning request by Paula Sue Webb Cross P.C. File #2000-5:

Mr. Matt Martin of the Planning Commission reported on the rezoning request. Some issues remain and they recommended waiting another month until they could be resolved. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to table for a month seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Mr. Walter Newsom, representing Ms. Cross, asked who the city's contact person was concerning zoning matters. Mayor Adams stated in

the absence of a city manager, he was the contact person and would be glad to meet with Mr. Newsom and Mrs. Cross concerning the rezoning.

END

Old Business:

(A) South Nelson Street widening, installation of curb and gutter on the west side of the street, and changing the street to one way from Highway 122 to Randall Street, Street:

Mayor Adams reported on the project and requested councils' approval to proceed. The approximate cost would be \$11,000.00. The school board will fund about 1/4 of the cost of the project with the city funding the rest. Council Bullard made a motion to proceed with the curb and gutter installation on the West Side of the street without widening or making the street one way pending further study. This will decrease the cost to the city to approximately \$5000.00. Cost to the LBOC would remain the same. Seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

New Business:

(A) Presentation of years of service appreciation plaques:

Mayor Adams presented Bobbie Dumas of the Police Department a plaque for five years of dedicated service to the city. Mr. John Thursby, Public Works Director, was also presented a plaque for 15 years of dedicated service to the city.

(B) Hahira Historical Society request for use of Caboose:

Ms. Barbara Milhous, President of the Historical Society, asked for approval to use the caboose for Historical Society museum. Council Harris made a motion to grant the Historical Society's request to use the caboose seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Mayor Adams stated that he would like to add to the motion that the Historical Society and the City enter into a lease agreement stipulating the Historical Society would be responsible for payment of the monthly electric bill. Council Harris agreed to amend the motion as stated by Mayor Adams. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Teen Explosion (Ms. Sheila Warren):

Miss Crystal Carter, President of Teen Explosion, and other members of the group, presented Mayor Adams with a Certificate of Appreciation for his help in one of their projects.

(D) Department requests:

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, asked for Council's approval to purchase a plate tamp for the Street Department. Cost would be \$1710.00. Council Copeland made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

Police Lt. Terry Davis, asked for Council's approval of a new roof on the part City Hall that houses the Police Department. Low bid was \$12,550.00 from Tricon Construction Co. This would also include a new air conditioning unit. Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Lt. Davis also requested refurbishing 5 shotguns in the Police Department at a cost of \$700.00 from Mike's Gun Repair. Council Bullard made a motion to approve seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams read a letter of appreciation from Mr. Tommy Stalvey of the Commercial Banking Company commending Lt. Terry Davis and the Hahira Police Department for professional handling of the crime investigation and securing the scene after the Commercial Banking Company robbery recently.

(E) Red Ribbon Month Proclamation:

Mayor Adams read the proclamation. The week of October 23 - 31 will be observed. There will be special events planned on October 26th, which has been designated "Community Day" throughout Georgia.

(F) Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation:

Mayor Adams read the proclamation on Domestic Violence. October is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month".

(G) Resolution for Home Depot credit card:

Mayor Adams recommended getting a credit card from Home Depot for the city's use. He read a resolution. Council Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Acceptance of Business Park water and sewer utilities:

Mayor Adams reported on the water/sewer utilities in the new Business Park and asked for Council's acceptance of the work noting the work is warranted for one year. Council Bullard made a motion to accept, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(I) Execution of amendment to SPLOST IV agreement:

Mayor Adams reported on a request from Lowndes County to amend the SPLOST IV agreement. The amendment would re-allocate \$800,000.00 of SPLOST funds that was designated for Valdosta/Lowndes County projects, specifically improvements to North Oak Street extension. The project has been funded by GA DOT and the funds can be re-allocated and divided between the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County, Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park and Remerton. The City of Hahira's share would be approximately \$14,000.00 Mayor Adams stated all parties except Hahira have signed the amendment and requested Council's approval to execute the amendment document for Hahira. He further recommended exploring the possibility of using these funds for recreation instead of the original designation of roads and streets and use the funds for development of the North Lowndes Recreation Facility. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the SPLOST amendment and direct the City Attorney to look into the legality of using the funds for recreation seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(J) Execution of amended EPD consent order:

Mayor Adams reported on the amendment to the consent order. Council Harris made a motion to approve executing the amended consent order seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(K) Execution of 6 month extension of AT & T Broadband cable franchise agreement:

Mayor Adams reported that the franchise agreement was about to expire. He asked for an extension of six months. Council Bullard made a motion to extend the franchise for six months seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(L) GMA 11th fall district meeting in Fitzgerald, Tuesday, October 31st:

Mayor Adams reported on the meeting and asked council if they wanted to attend to let him know, as there is deadline for registration and after the deadline the registration fee increases.

(M) 2000 Mayors Christmas Motorcade:

Mayor Adams reported that the community has participated in past years and will again this year. The Police and Fire Departments will solicit donations of gifts in the community for patients of Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville. The Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief join the Motorcade in Thomasville to deliver the gifts to the Hospital. It's a worthy project and the community is urged to participate.

Council's reports:

Council Copeland reported on a water leak in the street on Newsom Street. John Thursby, Public Utilities Director, is aware of the problem, which he stated was on private property. Mayor Adams stated that he and John Thursby would check on this tomorrow.

Council Hunnicutt had no report.

Council Bullard stated that the honeybee Festival and parade was very good. He also commended Sheila Warren on her work with the Teen Explosion group. He also stated that the city looked good.

Council Harris thanked the Honeybee Committee for the good job that they did.

Mayor Adams reported that last month the council decided to observe "Make a Difference Day" in Hahira on October 28th. Projects are planned in each Council district and the Sanitation Department will do a free pickup of yard trash. There will be a hamburger and hotdog picnic lunch at the Community Center. He encouraged citizens to volunteer in the community and let's really "Make a Difference."

The utilities in the new Business Park are proceeding. The first phase has been completed and the second phase should be completed by next March.

Mayor Adams met with officials from a company, to discuss their locating in the Hahira Business Park. They would initially employ 9 employees and if successful in the area expect to expand to 54 employees in 2004. The company is agriculture related business and would be very beneficial to the area. He also said "Wire Rope of American has committed to locating in the Park and want to be in operation on April 1, 2001." Wire Rope will employ 23 employees at startup.

Two grant applications were submitted during the month. A "Transportation Enhancement Grant" for sidewalk, and landscape improvements to West Main Street from the Railroad to Newsome, Street and a " Local Development Grant" for a city

Clock to be located in the city alley between Citizens Community Bank and the Commercial Bank.

The City Manager Search is on going.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn