

**Council Meeting
October 11, 2001**

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, October 11, 2001 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Adams presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councilmen Bob Harris, Joel Hunnicutt, Sonny Copeland and Wayne Bullard; Student Council, Chris Bullard; City Manager, Danny Lucas; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, 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 was established.

Council Harris made a motion to accept the minutes, as written, of September 6, 2001, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Review of bills: Mayor Adams asked Council if there were any questions on the bills. There were none.

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Consideration of Franchise Agreement with Mediacom Communications Corporation to provide cable services.

Mayor Adams introduced Mr. Brandon Taylor, GMA Coordinator and Ms. Sally Bloom of Mediacom. Mr. Taylor briefed Council on the agreement. Ms. Bloom thanked the City for past relationships with TCI Cablevision and AT& T stated she was looking forward to working with the city on the new Franchise Agreement and asked if there were any questions. Council Bullard made a motion to enter into the Franchise Agreement as presented , seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(B) Adoption of Resolution to adopt the FY 2001-2005 Hahira Five-Year Short-Term Work Program (STWP):

Mr. Eric Vorwald of the South Georgia RDC reported that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs had approved Hahira's Five-Year Short-Term Work Program (STWP) and now the council is required to pass a resolution for adoption. City Manager, Danny Lucas read the resolution. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Department requests:

Public Works Director, John Thursby, reported that he had received several bids on a mini-excavator. He recommended the 35ZTX John Deere from Flint Equipment Company in Albany at a cost of \$33,295.00 and a trailer from Nila's Outdoors in Sparks for \$2,065.00. This is a budgeted item. Council Harris made a motion to purchase the mini-excavator and trailer. Motion died for lack of a second.

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase a John Deer tractor and a side mounted mower to mow the sloping ditches of the created wetlands at the wastewater treatment plant as well as other hard to mow ditches around town. The \$25,000.00 cost is budgeted in the wastewater plant upgrades machinery purchases. Council Harris made a motion to purchase the tractor and mower. Motion died for lack of a second.

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase a new John Deer Gator all terrain vehicle for the Water/Sewer Department at a cost of \$6,400.00. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to purchase the new Gator, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Public Works Director requested approval to purchase a Dell computer to be used for record keeping for the wastewater treatment facility. Cost of the computer would be \$1,135.00. Council Bullard made a motion to purchase the computer seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Bid awards for Webb Miller Park playground equipment:

Mayor Adams reported on three bids on the equipment. He recommended the bid from Halsey's Recreation Equipment for \$15,000.00. He noted this was not the low bid, but the city has done business with the company in the past and was pleased with their work. Also the equipment will be comparable with that in Smith Park. There is \$15,000 in the recreation budget for this equipment. Council Bullard made a motion to award the bid to Halsey Recreation Equipment. Seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Council's Bullard, Harris and Hunnicutt voted yes. Council Copeland voted no. Motion passed.

(E) Proposal to resurface Grace Street from Hagen Bridge Road to Nelson Street:

Mayor Adams recommended paving Grace Street from Hagen Bridge Road to Nelson Street. Bids were requested and The Scruggs Company submitted the low bid of \$14,482.44. Funding will come from SPLOST. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to resurface Grace Street, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. request:

Mayor Adams reported that the city purchased two lots on Branch Street to build two houses through the CHIP program. Habitat for Humanity started the first house. They failed to get a survey of the lot before beginning the build. After the lot was surveyed it was found the habitat house was about a third of a foot over on the adjacent lot. Mayor Adams informed Habitat that they would have to purchase the lot. Habitat presented a proposal of a \$1,000.00 down at closing and \$125.00 per month for 24 months. Council Harris made a motion not to accept Habitat's proposal and require payment of the lot at closing, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(G) Hahira-Lowndes Outreach Community Development Corp., request to use Randall Street Community Center for tutorial program:

Mr. Marshall Ingram explained the program and asked for Council's approval to use the Community Center on Monday through Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. for a tutorial program until they could acquire a permanent building. Council Copeland made a motion to let the Hahira-Lowndes County Outreach Community Development Corp. use the Community Center on Monday through Thursday, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Consideration of bid awards for water system extension from Business park to main on Union Road and 250,000 gallon elevated storage tank construction:

Mayor Adams reported on the bids and recommended Standard Contractors bid for \$163,217.75 for the water main extension and requested that the bid award on the elevated storage tank bid be delayed until the November meeting pending funding. Funding for the water line extension will come from SPLOST. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to accept Standard Contractors bid, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(I) Consideration of Geosciences proposal to review adjacent Suwannee Swifty Site Files and submittal of findings report to EPD:

Mayor Adams reported that the cost for the report was \$2,470.00 associated with the removal of the old gas storage tank in the city parking lot. Council Harris made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Mayor Adams explained about the removal of the old tank.

(J) Hahira Honeybee Festival chairperson, Adeline Landrum, request to be on agenda to express appreciation to council, staff and employees for assistance with Honeybee Festival:

Ms. Adeline Landrum, Chairperson of the Hahira Honeybee Festival Committee, presented a plaque to Mayor Adams for the City in recognition of twenty years of support, service and dedication.

(K) Mayor's request for use of city employees to assist in setting up Hahira United Methodist Church annex for Red Cross blood drives, approximately every 56 days:

Mayor Adams reported in past years the Red Cross blood drives had been held at the Hahira United Methodist Church annex and recently had been moved to the Community Center. The Community Center has been used for the last two drives and has not been satisfactory due to the air conditioning system, space limitations, and inadequate parking spaces. He stated the Methodist Church will again host the blood drives at the annex but needs assistance with the set up before the drive and take down after the drive. He requested Council's approval to authorize city employees to assist church members to set up and take down for future blood drives at the church. He stated this should take two employees approximately one hour to set up and one hour to take down. Council Copeland made a motion to authorize the city employees to assist church members in setting up the blood drive seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(L) Request for Chamber & Visitors Center to sell copies of the Hahira promotional video as a fund-raiser and retain proceeds.

Hahira Executive Chamber Director, Bonnie Tindall reported that the video was authorized and funded by the council earlier in the year to promote the City of Hahira and the Business Park. The video was then premiered for council and the audience. After viewing the video, Council Bullard made a motion to grant approval to the chamber and Visitors Center to sell copies of the video as a fund-raiser, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Council's Reports:

Student Council, Chris Bullard, had no report.

Councils Copeland and Hunnicutt had no reports.

Council Bullard reported that the Honeybee Festival was good.

Council Harris also stated that the Honeybee Festival went well , even with the rain. He reiterated the need for the equipment that was requested by Public Works Director, John Thursby. He stated "there was no reason that the next administration should inherit the problems that we can take care of tonight."

City Manager, Danny Lucas, reported that renovations at City Hall had started. This is the second phase of a two phase project and should be finished before Christmas.

Mayor Adams thanked Council Harris's for his remarks concerning the purchase of equipment requested by the Public Works Director. He reported the city has tried out several mini-excavators supplied by companies that were competing sell their equipment to the city for the last couple of months. The city has used them on the on going water meter change-out project. Manually digging up the old meters and installing the new meters, requires a crew of two and they are able to install two meters per day. With the excavator doing the digging, the crew is able to install five meters per day. There are about 575 water meters remaining to be installed to complete the project. The excavator would come very close to paying for itself in time and labor savings on this project alone.

As to the tractor and mower that was requested. Two large holding ponds were built as part of the waste water plant up-grade with sloping banks that require mowing and can not be mowed safely with the mower the city is presently using. The requested mower and tractor is needed for mowing these sloping banks and can also be used to mow other ditch banks around the city. In fact the city just recently contracted with the County to mow some ditches that the public works employees couldn't mow at a cost of \$900.00. The mayor stated to his knowledge only one council member had taken the time to visit the wastewater treatment plant during the up-grade construction project. He encouraged the three council members that had not seen the work to contact the public works director or city manager and arrange for a visit. He further stated the money for the tractor and mower was included in the budget for the project.

Mayor Adams reported that the city will participate in the Mayor's Christmas Motorcade to Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, GA on December 13th. The Fire and Police Chiefs have again volunteered to head up the project to collect gifts to be taken to the patients of the hospital on that day.

A Public Hearing will be held at next Council Meeting on the budget, which is almost completed.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

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