

Council Meeting

September 12, 2002

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, September 12, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt, Terry Benjamin and M. C. Nelson; City Manager, Bonnie Tindall; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, J. C. Plair. City Attorney, Willie Linahan.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Council Nelson to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Mayor Crowe. Visitors were welcomed.

Mayor Crowe called on a motion to approve the August 1, 2002 Council Minutes. Council Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Review of bills: Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

Presentation of Plaques and Recognition to Teachers, Deborah Taylor, HES, and Mary Ann Mason, HMS

Mayor Crowe presented plaques to Ms. Mary Ann Mason, Teacher of the Year at Hahira Middle School and Ms. Deborah Taylor, Lowndes County School System Wide, Teacher of the Year at Hahira Elementary School.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda Requests

(a1) Hahira Honey Bee Festival Committee's request to close Lowndes Street from B. J. Miley Street to Brigman's Warehouse and block off Lawson Street from Railroad tracks to Marshall Street.

Mayor Crowe reported on the request.

(a2) Use of the City Courthouse for HBO Train, Courthouse office for booth registration, bathrooms for Honey Bee Festival Committee, and grassy area around courthouse.

Mayor Crowe reported on the request.

- a. Request from Hahira/Lowndes County Community Outreach Corporation to use Community Center for afternoon program.

Mayor Crowe reported on the request to use the Community Center on Wednesday's from 4pm-6pm starting September 11 and going through May 2003 and on Saturday's from 9am to 12 noon starting in October for tutoring in English, Math and SAT.

(c) Request from Ron Borders and Marcus Holt for City to accept improvements for Edgewater-Phase 2 for final plat recordings contingent upon all requests.

Mayor Crowe called on a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Requests. Council Benjamin made a motion to approve as read, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Department Requests

a. Garbage Containers - Public Works Department

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested purchasing three (3) 8-yd and two(2) 6-yd aluminum containers from Boone at a cost of \$5,300.00.

Council Hunnicutt made a motion to approve as stated, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

b. Bucket Truck Rental - Public Works Department

Public Works Director, Thursby, reported that the truck would be used for cutting trees, putting up Christmas decorations, etc. from Thanksgiving until after the first of the year. Council Nelson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

c. 12-Hour Police schedule and pay - Police Department

Mayor Crowe asked Police Chief, Terry Davis, about the schedule, which was to be on a trial basis starting last month. Chief Davis stated that he would like to continue with the schedule as Lowndes and Cook County Sheriff's Departments were also on a 12-hour schedule. Council Nelson made a motion to continue, seconded by Council Benjamin. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Consent Agenda

a. Local Option Sales Tax Renegotiation Arbitration Agreement

Mayor Crowe reported on the agreement. He and the City Manager will have a presentation to make at the meeting on the Local Option Sales Tax.

- b. Local Assistance Fund Grant for Hahira Public Library from Department of Community Affairs

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall, reported that the grant was for \$5,000.00 from the Department of Community Affairs, which would be used for books and resources for the public library. The city is the administrator for the grant.

- c. Quick Claim Deed for Marshall Street from Lawson to Stanfill Street

City Manager, reported that Marshall Street on the Tax Assessors map goes from Lawson Street to Stanfill Street. There is no street and no alley there. It is used by Brigman Cabinets and one or more other owners. The city wants to do a quick claim deed and give it to the parcel owners, which would put it on the tax roll and would increase taxes to the city.

- d. Railroad Property Appraisal Request

Mayor Crowe reported that there have been several meetings with Norfolk Southern and the Lawson family on the property. The city will have to get an appraisal made.

- e. Purchase of Additional Christmas Lights

Mayor Crowe reported that this was a budgeted item. The cost of the Christmas lights is \$960.00. They will be shipped in three weeks.

- f. Retreat in Americus, Georgia on September 14 and 15

Mayor Crowe reported that the retreat would be Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15. They will be working on long-range and short-range items for the city, also the budget.

- g. Change October Work Session from September 30 to October 7 and Council Meeting from October 3 to October 10 for Honey Bee Festival Activities

Mayor Crowe reported on the changes.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the items as read, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Pedestrian Facilities Items #1 and #3 (Phase II of Streetscape Project)

Mayor Crowe recommended removing Item 1 (City Park Area for \$11,743.00) and adding #3 (Above ground street light system - \$66,044.00) to the project. Council Benjamin made a motion to go ahead with item 3 and let the city workers do item #1, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Salary Increases for 2002

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall, reported that a survey was made on salaries on cities of comparable size. Cost of Living and Merit raises were approved for city employees, with raises retro to July 1st.

Council Nelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed.

Motion was amended to read "accept as read, except for City Manager position", seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Reports:

A. Council

Council Benjamin stated his appreciation for the program at the City Park on Wednesday, to honor

the 911 victims. He recognized Fire Chief J. C. Plair and asked for a round of applause for his

help in organizing the program. He also recognized the Police Department and EMT's for the work that they do.

He stated his appreciation for the city workers for the work that they have done.

Council Hunnicutt reported that the city was looking good and it would soon be time for the Honey Bee Festival.

Council Nelson reported that on August 15th, he and Councilman Benjamin attended the Regional Planning Summit at Douglas, Georgia. It was a very interesting meeting on housing, public facilities, economic development and land use.

Council Nelson reported that he, the Mayor and City Manager attended a Rise-and-Shine breakfast to salute Moody Air Force Base at the Conference Center

Audubon Heights and Edgewater Subdivisions are coming along, with several new homes being built.

Potholes at the end of E. Stanfill Street will be filled.

He complimented Fire Chief, Plair, and other department heads for the program in the city park.

He also complimented Mayor Crowe on his speech.

Council Bullard had no report.

City Manager

City Manager, Bonnie Tindall, announced that the city had hired Lana Hall as the new Better Hometown Program Director..

Mayor

Mayor Crowe also thanked Fire Chief, Plair, on his program in the city park.

Council Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Myron Crowe, Mayor

Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn