

Council Meeting

April 8, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

ABSENT: Police Chief, Terry Davis and Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett

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

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman Benjamin, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Councilman Wayne Bullard.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MARCH 9, 2004 COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) HA-2004-01 Joey Parker – Variance to the rear yard setback

Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission reported that Joey Parker requested a variance to the Zoning Ordinance Rear Yard Setback requirement. The subject property is located at 202 E. Lawson Street. The applicant is proposing to expand the rear of the house and add an open carport. He is requesting a variance of 20 feet, 2 inches. The proposed layout is compatible with the adjacent residential properties, which also have reduced rear yard setbacks. Staff found the request compatible and recommended approval. The Planning Commission also found it compatible with the surrounding development and recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the request to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in opposition of the request to speak. There was no response.

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

(B) HA-2004-02 Text Amendment to the City of Hahira Subdivision Regulations (Sections 2, 4, 5 and 7) as it pertains to Review and Approval Process

Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission reported that the proposed amendment would accomplish two significant tasks. First, it will remove the required Planning Commission meeting from the plat approval process. Staff and the Planning Commission believe that as long as a subdivision plat meets the standards set forth in the local development regulations, there should be no need for the Commission to make recommendations for approval or denial of such plats. Second, it will incorporate language to meet new approval criteria as established by the Georgia General Assembly in 2003. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe called for those in favor of the amendment to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for those against the amendment to speak. There was no response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the text amendment, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

(C) HA-2004-03 Text Amendment to the City of Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Section 5-1.2) as it pertains to Special Exception

Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission reported that this amendment will eliminate unnecessary duplicate zoning processes by allowing special Exceptions and Rezonings to be heard and approved in conjunction with one another. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the text amendment to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the text amendment to speak. There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the text amendment, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

(D) HA-2004-04 Text Amendment to the City of Hahira Zoning Ordinance (Section 13) as it pertains to Amendment

Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission reported that some errors were made when the Zoning Map was adopted in 1996. When these errors have come to light, it has been necessary to correct them by taking the property back through

the rezoning process. It has also been brought to staff's attention that, if the ordinance specifically allows it, in the case of a bona-fide error in the map, staff can legally make administrative corrections as long as the error can be documented. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the Text Amendment to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the Text Amendment to speak. There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Text Amendment, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

End of Public Hearing

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Freeman Rivers, Sr., 204 S. Hall Street – He stated that he had hoped that more people would have come to the meeting than last month. He stated that from time to time the Honey Bee Festival was mentioned and that was all well and good but the other problem that is going on in Hahira other than the Honey Bee Festival, people speak on that. He wanted it to be known that, also a former city official, city Mayor, that knows the situation, but won't speak publically at the City Council. Also he did not see the Mayor Pro Tem on the Agenda and wondered what action Council was going to take. What the Council attempted to do last month was wrong, but his problem with that in reference to the Mayor Pro Tem, the Councilmen in District 3 and District 4, knowing what was going on, should not have put it on the agenda and for that reason it's been tainted. The reason that he said it was the current Council in District 3 and District 4 should not ever be considered in their terms as Mayor Pro Tem. To let something like that happen, or attempt that, he would think they would at least step down, and even the Mayor and City Manager, who say they are going over something, but how long is wrong going to go on. He stated that he knew that they were public servants but his problem is that the people that know it and allow it to go on. Sometimes it's not the wrong that goes on, it's the people who see it, know it and allow it to go on.

Ouida Lane McKinney, 210 Randall Street, stated that as far as her lawsuit with the city, it was only to repair her car from a city tree limb falling on her car, breaking the windshield and denting the door frame. Her car has been repaired by the city's insurance and the lawsuit has been dropped. This should have been done from the beginning when she approached her city councilman, but other things happened. It is sad to say that she had to get a lawyer to get her car repaired. She hopes that the Mayor and Council has learned to treat all citizens as people and as

they would have liked to be treated. Due to all the agony and chaos going on since Mayor Crowe has been elected to represent Hahira citizens as the Mayor of Hahira, she and other citizens in the community are asking Myron Crowe to resign from office as Mayor of the City of Hahira. She asked for his resignation to be effective immediately. This will surely ease some of the madness that is going on with the city as far as the city charter which has been over the years understood and followed. You take an oath when sworn into office and the citizens of Hahira take that very seriously. They know and she knows that no one in the past has had a problem with misunderstanding the city's charter.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

A. Attend Personnel/HR Assistants Workshop and Laws and Standards (Audit Compliant) Training

City Manager, Janice Logue, requested approval for her and Ramona Robison to attend two workshops, the first workshop would be on personnel/HR Assistants which would be held in Tallahassee, Florida on May 20-21. Cost would be \$399.00 per person. The other would be on audit compliance training, which would be held in Dublin, Georgia on May 12-13. Cost would be \$249.00 per person. **Council Nelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

B. UPC Water Tank Maintenance Contract

Public Works Director, John Thursby, recommended approval of a maintenance contract for the new water tank in the industrial park with Utilities Services for \$8,156.00. This is not a budgeted item. **Council Benjamin made a motion to enter maintenance agreement with Utilities Services, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

C. Increase Tap Fees

Public Works Director, John Thursby, recommended increasing the water and sewer tap fees to \$750.00 per tap plus cost of material. **Council Bullard made a motion to increase the water and sewer tap fees to \$750.00 each, plus cost of material, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

D. Approval to purchase curbside and rear load containers

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase 70 curbside containers for \$3,500.00 from Consolidated Disposal and 3, 4, 6, and 8 yd containers not to exceed \$10,000.00 from Boone Welding in Ocala, Florida. This is a budgeted item. **Council Nelson made a motion to purchase the curbside containers and rear load containers, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

(E) Approval for Grant Funding Expenditure for (8) Air Packs, Thermal Image Camera and Miscellaneous Equipment

City Manager, Janice Logue, speaking for Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, who is out of town on a training session, asked for approval to purchase the equipment with funds from the FEMA Grant, which would be for \$27,670.00 for 8 air packs, 4 self-contained breathing apparatus carbon cylinders, 10 vented hoods, 1 hydrant wrench. \$12,853.00 for 7 sets of gear, 8 pails of AFFF foam, 2 spanners, 8 gloves, 12 flashlights, 8 helmets, 10 sets of boots. \$9,500.00 for a thermal image camera. Total would be \$50,023.00. The FEMA Grant is for a little over \$60,000.00. There would be about \$10,000.00 of the grant money left, if approved. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

E. Amend Outside Burn Ordinance

Mayor Crowe reported on the ordinance. City Manager, Janice Logue, read the amendment. Mayor Crowe stated that this was the first reading of the amendment. It will be brought up again at next month's meeting.

Nomination of Jeff Rumminger to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mayor Crowe asked Mr. Rumminger if he would accept the nomination. Mr. Rumminger stated that he would.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Great American Clean Up Day

Mayor Crowe reported that at the last work session, this was discussed. They decided to postpone the Clean Up Day for now and later it will be rescheduled.

B. Strategic Planning Session

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that the Strategic Planning Session would be at Austin's Steak House in Valdosta on Friday, May 7, 2004 from 9AM until 6 PM.

C. Employee Appreciation Day

Mayor Crowe reported that the Employee Appreciation Day would be planned by Mona Robison and Shannon Kingston. They will let everyone know when it will be scheduled.

Mayor Crowe read a letter from the Southeast Agency on Aging commending Ann Hagood on a job well done. Mayor Crowe then presented a plaque to Ann Hagood, Nutrition Program Director, for recognition of her work in the Nutrition Program.

Mayor Crowe also presented a plaque and a gift certificate to Chris Stevens, for recognition as Employee of the Quarter.

REPORTS

Council Nelson had no report.

Council Bullard thanked Chris Stevens for his work. He thanked Public Works Director, John Thursby, for the work done on the sidewalk on West Main Street.

Council Ogundu reported on the new houses built on S. Nelson and Judy Ann Drive. He stated that the Work Session should be on Monday's so that the council will have time to work on the issues before the Council Meeting on Thursday.

Council Benjamin thanked Public Works Director, John Thursby on the work on the sidewalks. Spring is coming up, keep up the good work.

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that the codification of the City's code book has been completed and sent to Tallahassee to Municipal Code Corporation. Work is being done on revising the personnel handbook, an employee evaluation system, and financial policies.

Mayor Crowe reported that the Work Session had been moved to Wednesday this month due to his absence but the regular time would continue to be on Monday. He apologized for the inconvenience.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Crowe called for a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. **Council Nelson made a motion to enter into an Executive Session, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Myron Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk

Special Meeting

April 15, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2004, at 2:00 P.M. at City Hall to meet with insurance representatives on their proposals for employee insurance.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Courtclerk Bobbie Dumas.

Mayor Crowe stated that the purpose of the meeting was to gather information on insurance for city employees.

(1) Mr. Steve Durden of Georgia Municipal Association presented his quote for insurance to council. He stated that if the city decided to go with them, the employee I D card would say "Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia", but the actual insurance will be with GMA. He presented three PPO's (Preferred Plan Org):

(1) 908300 90% in network/83% out of network with \$300.00 deductible

(2) 9081000 90% in network/80% out of network with \$1,000.00 deductible

(3) 806500 80% in network/60% out of network with \$500.00 deductible

This quote will be good for 60 days.

2. Mr. Ronnie Blanton of Life of the South stated that the home office was located in Nashville, GA. Their insurance covers life and health employee benefits and financial services. The three companies presented were Starmar, CBSA (Corporate Benefits Services of America), and Principal.

(3) Mr. Jerry Deloach of Principal Insurance Company presented his proposal for insurance to council. He stated that, until he has specific information, he would have to get a "best case scenereo" and a "worst cast scenereo" quote. Once the medical information is put into place with the underwriters, they will do a medical rating on the information. He presented council with copies of the reports.

3. Mr. James Gaskins, representative of Met Life Insurance, Douglas, GA., presented his proposal for insurance. (*Discussion on tape)

Council discussed the proposals and decided to contact other cities of the same size and get information on their insurance coverage.

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

The Special Meeting ended at 4:00 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk