

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 7, 2005**

Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira met in a regular session on Thursday, July 7, 2005, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin; City Manager/ City Clerk, Janice Logue; PWD, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb; Recorder, Marilyn Brady.

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

Mayor Crowe called on Police Chief, Terry Davis, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with the invocation given by Mr. Wilmon Stanley.

Mayor Crowe welcomed everyone.

Mayor Crowe asked if there were any alterations or corrections to the minutes of the regular session May 5<sup>th</sup>. Council Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Crowe stated that Council had reviewed the bills.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- (A) HA-2005-04 Rezone/Annex 4.8 acres into the city limits of Hahira and to rezone from C-H (Highway-Commercial/county) to R-6M (Multi-Family Residential/city)

Mayor Crowe called on Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission. She stated that Mr. Butler had asked that the request be withdrawn. He has not issued a letter to that effect as yet. The Planning Commission Staff asked if the city would postpone this for 30 days so they will have time to get in touch with him to see what his wishes are.

**Council Nelson made a motion to postpone the request for 30 days, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted yes. Councils Ogundu and Benjamin voted no.**

**2005 Capital Budget Amendment**

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, stated that this amendment is for the SPLOST Capital Project for 2005. The Fire Department project costs were more than was budgeted for and there was an emergency well repair. The net change on the amended budget is \$131,000.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the amendment.

Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges St., stated that he was against the amendment because it was irresponsible and poor planning. \$92,000.00 is being taken from

the budget and putting it in the Fire Department to pay for a building that the city should have made arrangements to pay for when it was planned. It is taking away from the streets, which are getting in terrible shape, and the water and sewer system, which already has problems, and it is irresponsible

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

Mayor Crowe called for a motion from Council.

**Council Bullard made a motion to amend the budget, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

#### ORDINANCE 05-03 ORDINANCE TO AMEND OCCUPATIONAL TAX AND REGULATORY FEE SCHEDULE (2<sup>ND</sup> READING)

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, read the ordinance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone against the ordinance to speak. There Was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the ordinance to speak. There was no response.

#### CLOSING OF LAWSON STREET RAILROAD CROSSING AND PURCHASE OF RAILROAD PROPERTY (COMMUNITY VIS PROGRAM – SGRDC)

Mayor Crowe called on Ms. Sherry Davidson of the Planning Commission, who had a computer presentation to show of the area and possible future planning. While waiting on the program to get ready, Mayor Crowe decided to go ahead and give some information on the plans. He stated that for the last 3 years, Council Nelson was working with the Lawson family on acquiring the land located from the caboose back to Lawson and Stanfill Streets. Mayor Crowe had been talking with the railroad officials. The property is approximately 4-5 acres. It has not been surveyed yet. The Lawson family agreed to sell the property at a total cost of \$60,000.00. The railroad wanted the Lawson Street crossing closed then they would work with the city in helping to acquire the land. The Council will not take any action tonight, but wanted to let citizens know what the possibilities are. The city is landlocked with residential on three sides and they thought plans for a park and other things in the downtown area would be beneficial.

Mayor Crowe asked citizens, either for or against, to speak.

Ms. Karen Camion, 405 W. Stanfill Street, stated that the city should meet with the citizens that this will directly effect before the city makes any decision on it.

Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges Street, stated that he is opposed to the crossing until he sees a specific plan and makes sure that the city owns the property, not some developer.

Sherry Davidson presented the computer program, which was a “fly-in” of the city

that showed what the area could look like with buildings for businesses and restaurants, a park, etc.

Mr. D. K. Hollis, 101 N. Hagan Bridge Road, asked the Mayor and Council to look 5 to 10 years in the future. By his calculations, the number of lots to be developed in the community in the process right now, we would be doubling the population within 5 to 6 years. With the growth in north Lowndes County, we could triple it within 10 years. He is concerned about taking two city blocks off of the tax records. As the community grows, we will need more crossings, not less. He has dealt with large corporations before and asked the council to make sure that it is in black and white before signing. He stated that he was concerned about what the railroad would do or not do, but mostly concerned about Hahira.

Mr. Tim Coombs, Coombs Heating & Air Conditioning, Lawson Street, stated that his is the only business facing Lawson Street. Unlike Mr. Hollis, he was concerned about the business and stated that he would like to see some kind of lights at the crossing.

Mayor Crowe thanked everyone for their comments and ideas. He stated that they would be making a decision at the next Council Meeting.

#### ORDINANCE 05-04 AMEND GEORGIA POWER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, stated that Georgia Power has been in negotiations with GMA and they reached an agreement to amend the Franchise Agreement, which says that Georgia Power will pay for relocation of its distribution facility within the city's right-of-way for non-beautification projects (street widening, not for streetscape). The city will agree to work with Georgia Power early in the planning and project design process to minimize relocation costs.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the agreement? There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the agreement? There was no response.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion from Council.

**Council Bullard made a motion to amend the Georgia Power Franchise Agreement, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

#### END OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. John Adams, 611 Hodges St., stated that back in May the city sent out it's quarterly newsletter "News From the Hive". It was sent out to about 3,400 people in the 31632 zipcode at a cost of \$400.00 in postage. He didn't know how much it cost to print it. He referred to an article by the Mayor, where he defended his and Council's actions on Smith Hospital and condemned citizens and one Council

Member who was opposed to their action. He thought it was a misuse of the newsletter. It is supposed to be an informative newsletter for the citizens of this town, not the whole 31632 area. It is not for the Mayor to editorialize in. Also an article attached to it, called "Hahira at a Financial Glance over the past 3.5 years". His figures were in error.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- (A) Execute Hahira-Lowndes Co. Community Outreach Dev. Corp. Agreement

Ms. Sheila Warren requested use of the Community Center for the Outreach Program, as in the past. She thanked Mayor and Council for their support of the program.

Mayor Crowe commended Ms. Warren on the Outreach program.

**Council Nelson made a motion to execute the Community Outreach Agreement, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

#### DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

- (A) Approve Fire Station change order request for \$961.00

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, asked for approval of the change order. The amount would be \$961.00.

- (B) Approve TAC Conference at Jekyll Island

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval for Sgt. Bobbie Dumas and himself to attend the TAC Conference.

- (C) Approve Purchase of 2 6-yard cans and 2-8-yard cans

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase 2 (6-yard) and 2 (8 yard) cans from Boone Welding. Total cost would be \$5,580.00.

- (D) Approve Lawson Farms Lift Station

PWD, John Thursby, asked to postpone this. Mayor Crowe stated that this would be removed, per PWD, John Thursby's request.

- (E) Approve Purchase of 4" Trash Pump

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval to purchase a 4" trash pump.

- (F) Approve hiring 2 people (1 for sewer inspections & line locations and 1 for Streets

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval to hire a person for the Street Department. He also asked for approval to hire a person to inspect sewer lines and line locations.

(G) Approve new sewer and water inspection policy

(H) Approve limit of 3 taps per contractor at one time

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to limit 3 taps per contractor at one time.

(I) Approve 50X50 ft area on Hall Road city right-of-way for Alltel substation

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval for the Alltel substation, which would be located on city property.

(J) Approve soliciting bids for purchase of flow measuring device

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval to solicit bids to purchase a flow-measuring device.

(K) Approve tap fee increase

PWD, John Thursby, asked Council to approve the tap fee increase.

(L) Approve driveway pipe installation increase

PWD, John Thursby asked Council to approved the driveway pipe installation increase.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding item D, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Motion was amended to approve the Consent Agenda, except items D& H, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

#### VOTE TO REJECT ALL BIDS ON SMITH HOSPITAL

Mayor Crowe stated that over the last few months, we have had a bid out that was accepted from Larry Dean for demolition and renovation of the back portion of the hospital. Some of the Council members wanted to reject the bid and start over again.

**Council Bullard made a motion to reject all bids on Smith Hospital, seconded by Council Nelson. Councils Bullard and Nelson voted yes. Councils Ogundu and Benjamin abstained.**

#### IMPLEMENT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW CONSTRUCTION AND ADDITIONAL SEWER CONNECTIONS

Mayor Crowe called on Mr. Jeff Lovell, City Engineer, who spoke on the moratorium. (Long discussion on tape)

**Council Ogundu made a motion to have a moratorium on sewer connections. No second to motion.**

Council Benjamin stated that they needed to have a meeting with Jeff Lovell and go over what EPD findings are and implement some kind of a plan.

Mayor Crowe asked Council Ogundu if he would remove his motion. Council Ogundu stated he would if the city could have a meeting within 2 weeks.

After more discussion **Council Ogundu made a motion to meet next week to discuss the issue of the sewer problem, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

#### DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

(H) Approve limit of 3 taps per contractor at one time

Mayor Crowe asked for Council's decision. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve 3 taps per contractor, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Crowe presented Shannon Kingston, Police Department, with a plaque for recognition as Employee of the Quarter.

#### REPORTS

(A) COUNCIL

Council Nelson reported that there was a lot of water in Audubon Heights. He said that they needed to push a little harder and see what can be done.

Council Bullard stated that he was happy to be back. The Fire Department building is almost through and looks good. He thanked everyone for coming.

Council Benjamin also thanked everyone for coming. He stated that the City was doing everything they could about the infrastructure. He mentioned the railroad property.

Council Ogundu welcomed Council Bullard back. He reported on the water problem on Hall Street. He stated that the utilities should be put underground.

(B) CITY MANAGER

City Manager/City Clerk, Janice Logue, reported that she had talked with the Mayor of the City of Adel and he said that every time that he came through Hahira he was always impressed about how clean the city was.

She stated that she had a call from Mr. Rogers, thanking the City for their work in a drainage problem.

She stated that Mr. Richard Parham recently had a family reunion at the Recreation Center and the family collected a donation of \$100.00 to give to the City for the Recreation Center.

She thanked the city employees for their work.

(B) MAYOR

Mayor Crowe welcomed Terry Benjamin back after his recent health problems. He also welcomed Council Bullard back.

He thanked the citizens of Hahira for their kindness and gifts in the birth of their daughter Katherine Grace.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

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Myron Crowe  
Mayor

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Janice Logue  
City Manager/City Clerk

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Marilyn Brady  
Recorder

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
JULY 18, 2005**

Mayor and Council of the City of Hahira met for a Special Called Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2005 at City Hall at 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin; City Manager/ City Clerk, Janice Logue; PWD, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Recorder, Marilyn Brady.

ABSENT: Mayor Crowe

Mayor Pro-Tem, Terry Benjamin, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss infrastructure and sewer expansion options.

A quorum was established.

City Engineer, Jeff Lowell, presented a Power Point program. He explained the water flow to the aeration pond and how it is treated. The City of Hahira is under a Consent Order from EPD. New sewer connections in the city have to be reported to EPD before being approved. Also the sewer connections will have to be evaluated monthly. The city is experiencing growth in several areas. There are problems with infiltration and inflow (I and I), in which rainwater and groundwater flows into the system through the cracks.

The county has offered to take wastewater from the city if they were interested. Council Ogundu asked the City Manager to do a cost benefit analysis.

PWD, John Thursby, stated that they needed to reduce the I & I.

Council Benjamin stated that they needed to have a plan for the I & I.

Council decided to let the Public Works Director, John Thursby, send out for bids for the I & I repairs.

There being no further business to discuss, Council Ogundu made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

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Terry Benjamin  
Mayor Pro-Tem

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Janice Logue  
City Manager/City Clerk

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Marilyn Brady  
Recorder