

# Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for the month of December 2008

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**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 1, 2008  
6:30 P.M.  
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work Session December 1, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Terry Benjamin, Ralph Clendenin, Bruce Cain, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, Director Chris Stevens, City Clerk Belinda Chappell, Downtown Coordinator Emily Newkirk.

**SPEAKER:** City Engineer Ronny Dudley with Stevenson & Palmer Engineering.

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**A.) November 3, 2008 Work Session**

**B.) November 6, 2008 Council Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes. There were no questions concerning the minutes.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned with the bill of repairing the garbage truck. City Manager Sumner stated that with the budget amendments, the repair costs for the garbage truck would not exceed FY2007 totals.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Amendments to the FY2008 Budget (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that all the legal requirements had been met per the code regarding the FY2008 budget. Sumner stated that no citizens had come in to City Hall to examine the budget amendments. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if the Proprietary Fund was reimbursed from the General Fund for FY2007. Sumner stated there was a small amount that still needed to be repaid, which could be amended for in the FY2009 budget. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if the City of Valdosta was repaid for the check that was sent in error to the City of Hahira. Sumner stated the Senior Finance Clerk was still in the process of verifying the exact amount that needed to be repaid. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned with the garbage collection amendments. Sumner responded that the increase was due to the rising costs of the economy that included the increase in gas prices.

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**Consideration of Greater Lowndes Planning Commission Ordinance  
(Chairman Ken Sherrill)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that Chairman Ken Sherrill was unable to attend the meeting at this time.

**Northeast Quadrant Manhole Rehabilitation Project-Bid Authorization (City Engineer)**

City Engineer Ronny Dudley stated to Mayor and Council that in the past when the City had heavy rains there were problems with the pump station overflowing on Highway 122 East. Mr. Dudley stated a bid package was put together for the manhole rehab work that the City had requested. City Manager Sumner stated he was concerned with the total cost for the project. Dudley responded that the total cost for the project would be \$41,691 dollars.

**Propose DOT 2008 State Aid Grant Requests (City Engineer)**

City Engineer Ronny Dudley stated to Mayor and Council that DOT was taking a different approach this year with the grant requests. Dudley stated each City would send in a separate application for each project that needed grant funding. Dudley stated these projects would be scored and based on the score given the highest scoring projects would be funded first. Dudley stated that each City and County was eligible for up to \$750,000 dollars of grant money. Dudley stated that the City could submit up to eight applications. City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that in the retreat meeting in July the Hall Street project was at the top of the Council's priority list to be repaired and it was up to Council as to what projects were to be submitted for the State Aid Grant money. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned on what needed to be decided on to get the State Aid Grant. Mayor Bullard responded that the two projects needed to be decided on before the applications could be submitted to DOT.

City Engineer Ronny Dudley stated to Mayor and Council that he was concerned with the issue of the sludge build up in the wastewater pond. Dudley stated instead of dredging the pond, which would cost around \$200,000 dollars, the City should consider purchasing an enzyme material that would reduce the amount of sludge build up in the wastewater pond and cost around \$3500 dollars compared to the \$200,000 dollars for dredging the pond to reduce the sludge build up. City Manager Sumner stated the wastewater pond had not been dredged since the year 1992 and the pond had about 17 years of sludge build up that needed to be removed.

**Selection of EIP Grant Engineer (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the Employment Incentive Program Grant required the selection of an engineer for economic development infrastructure activity within the Hahira Gateway Project. Sumner stated the proposals would be received by Thursday night's Council Meeting for Council to review and to decide on the engineer who would conduct the Preliminary Engineering Report included in the grant and the design for the overall project.

**Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that he had spoken with the Safe Routes to Schools Grant coordinator in Atlanta and stated there was potential for a Hahira project. Sumner stated this grant was for the purpose of safety improvements in or around schools. Sumner stated with Council approval, the City of Hahira would go ahead and submit an application for this grant.

**Consideration of 2009 Meeting and Holiday Schedule (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the meeting and holiday schedule was an annual occurrence and that there were no dates that needed to be shifted. The only exception was the Council Meeting in October, which needed to be shifted to October the 8<sup>th</sup> to avoid the Honey Bee Festival; and the Council Meeting in January was moved to January the 8<sup>th</sup> due to the first Thursday is on New Years Day. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned about the employees having to work a half a day on Christmas Eve. Sumner responded that this was written in the personnel policy and it was the discretion of the Mayor if changes needed to be made.

#### **Telephone Franchise Ordinance (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this was a similar Ordinance that was voted upon in June for the Cable Franchise Ordinance. Sumner stated this Ordinance was for the purpose of continuing to collect franchise taxes from the telephone company.

#### **Right Of Way Ordinance (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner requested Council postpone consideration of this Ordinance until further study could be performed.

#### **Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance (Downtown Development Coordinator)**

Downtown Development Coordinator Emily Grace Newkirk stated to Mayor and Council that the Hotel-Motel tax purpose was to promote tourism within the City of Hahira. Mrs. Newkirk stated that currently, the City of Hahira did not have a Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance in place. Mrs. Newkirk stated the Conference Center in Valdosta was currently receiving the Hotel-Motel tax from Hahira, which was promoting Valdosta's tourism. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned if this Ordinance was approved, would this help Hahira's Third Thursday as well as other events within the City. Mrs. Newkirk responded this would promote the City of Hahira tourism events. Newkirk stated the funds had to be spent on tourism events. Newkirk stated currently the tax being sent to the Conference Center was five percent, and Newkirk proposed keeping the five percent hotel-motel tax rate. Newkirk stated the City of Hahira could expect to receive around \$3000 dollars a year from the Hotel-Motel Tax if the Ordinance was approved. Councilman Benjamin stated he was concerned why the City of Hahira wasn't receiving this tax money already. Mrs. Newkirk responded the Ordinance had to be established and passed before the City of Hahira could start receiving the tax.

#### **Letter of Intent with Frogtown Winery (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council a letter that detailed a proposed agreement with Frogtown Winery. Sumner stated this letter of intent included the investment of extending water and sewer utilities to the property in exchange for the investment of the Winery construction. Sumner stated this letter would protect the City of Hahira from expending assets without development assurances. Sumner stated if Council found the letter of intent satisfactory, the City would submit the letter to Craig Kritzer for review and wait on his response. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if the City was going to run infrastructure down to the Winery. Sumner responded the City was not going any further until an agreement of construction with the Winery was reached.

#### **Proposals for Solid Waste Pickup (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner reviewed with Mayor and Council the proposals that were submitted to the City of Hahira for Solid Waste Pickup. Sumner stated this issue was visited in the year 2006, but the City of Hahira chose to continue the solid waste pickup for their customers. Sumner stated the Mayor had

proposed the issue of solid waste pickup be revisited this year. Sumner stated he had received proposals from Griffin Solid Waste and from Milo Sanitation. Sumner stated the third submitter from 2006 was Viola, but that for this proposal, Viola needed more time to submit their bid for the solid waste pickup. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned about the age of the City's garbage truck. Director Warren responded the truck was about eight years old and the City would probably get a couple more years out of it. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated the City was already spending too much money on repairing the truck and having to keep purchasing new tires was getting to expensive for the City. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated it was in the City's best interest to outsource the garbage pickup.

#### **Attendance at Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this was a dinner every year when Council would have the opportunity to visit with other Government officials. Sumner stated there was a limited number of seats at the table and needed a response from Council on who would be attending the dinner. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned on the cost of the dinner, and who would be attending. Sumner responded that the City had purchased a table in the past that would seat ten people, and that Council and Staff could attend if Council chose to exclude spouses. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned about how the City was going to pay for this dinner. Sumner responded there was budgeted money in the Proprietary fund for the dinner.

#### **Contribution to Moody Support Committee (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council that this was something the City had always budgeted for and contributed to in the past. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned with how much money the City contributed to Moody. Sumner responded the City contributed \$1000 dollars each year and that it was money well spent. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if the contribution was a budgeted item. Sumner responded the \$1000 dollar contribution was in the FY2008 budget.

#### **Text Amendment for Zoning Ordinance for the Provision of Abandoned Signs (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this was an amendment that was created to the City's zoning ordinance. Sumner stated the amendment read: signs that had been abandoned shall be removed and charged to the owner's expense with written notification and needed to be taken care of within thirty days of notice. Sumner stated the owner of the sign was legally bound to pay the fine of the abandoned sign. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if this amendment was pertaining to the existing signs within the City. Sumner responded the amendment did include the existing signs within the City limits.

#### **Submission of a FY2009 CDBG Grant (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council he would like to try a different approach this year applying for the CDBG Grant. Sumner stated there was a need for a Senior Citizen Center in Hahira and would like Council's opinion on the matter. Councilman Cain stated he was concerned about the location of the center. Sumner responded the center would have to be within the City limits of Hahira. Sumner stated he thought the City of Hahira had a large enough senior citizen population to apply for the grant. Council agreed to commission the South Georgia RDC to work on the project.

#### **DEPARTMENT REQUEST:**

#### **Christmas Bonuses and Excess Sick Leave (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the City's Finance Clerk prepared the Christmas Bonuses and Excess Sick leave. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned if the checks would need to be printed to hand out at the Employee Christmas Party. Sumner responded the checks would be given to employees at the party.

**Mayor's Day Motorcade (Chief Davis)**

Chief Davis stated to Mayor and Council the Mayor's Motorcade would be on December 11, 2008. Davis stated everyone was invited to attend the Motorcade with the City of Hahira and the City would be taking donations that were collected throughout the City over to Southwestern State Hospital for their consumers.

**Volunteer Firefighter Training Reimbursement (Chief Bennett)**

Chief Bennett stated to Mayor and Council this was a budgeted item to reimburse the volunteer firefighters for their out of pocket training costs they pay for throughout the year for training classes required.

**CONTRACT RENEWALS:**

**Helen Petitjean (City Manager)**

**Jessica Freeman (Chief Davis)**

**Robert Mellott Tech Service Contract (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council it was time to renew all the contracts for services to Hahira. Sumner stated Mrs. Petitjean handled all the special events throughout the City of Hahira and continued to do a great job with the events.

Chief Davis stated to Mayor and Council that Ms. Freeman handled the probation services for the City of Hahira and continued to bring in revenue to the City for these services and it was time for renewal of her contract.

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the City's tech service was handled by Robert Mellott, and it was time for the renewal of his contract for these services.

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

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Mayor, Wayne Bullard

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City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

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**CITY OF HAHIRA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2008  
7:30 P.M.  
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council Meeting December 4, 2008 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wayne Bullard, Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Adams, Terry Benjamin, Bruce Cain, Ralph Clendenin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren, Director Chris Stevens, Attorney Rob Plumb, City Clerk Belinda Chappell.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Wayne Bullard

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Wayne Bullard

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Wayne Bullard

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Terry Benjamin

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**November 3, 2008 Work Session**

**November 6, 2008 Council Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes. There were no questions concerning the minutes. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin,**

**vote was unanimous.**

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the bills. There were no questions concerning the bills. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the bills. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **Amendments to the FY2008 Budget (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the FY2008 budget would be closed on December 31, 2008. Sumner stated he had researched questions concerning the healthcare budgeting for solid waste pickup staff in the FY2009 budget and found it to be sufficient. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated after the numerous budget meetings Council had in the past, she believed the budget was in order. Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the FY2008 amendments. There was no one wishing to speak in favor or against. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the FY2008 amendments. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Adams, vote was unanimous.**

### **Telephone Franchise Ordinance (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this was an Ordinance that was placed upon the City by Georgia Municipal Association regarding the telephone franchise fees paid to the City. Sumner stated the Ordinance protects the City from any questions that may arise in the future concerning the telephone franchise fees. Sumner stated the Telephone Franchise Ordinance stated the City would continue receiving the franchise fees from the telephone company. Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the Telephone Franchise Ordinance. Mr. Wilmon Stanley residing at 308 Washington Street Hahira 31632 addressed Mayor and Council and stated he was concerned with how much the City of Hahira received from the telephone company from the franchise fees. Sumner responded the City of Hahira received around \$15,000 dollars a year from the telephone franchise fees. Stanley also stated he was concerned if the Ordinance was a guarantee the telephone company would not be raising the telephone rates for the City of Hahira. City Manager Sumner responded the telephone company was allowed to re-examine the rates within reason, but the residents of Hahira would always have input in the initial idea of the rate increase to determine if the increase was an excessive increase compared to their current telephone rate. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the Telephone Franchise Ordinance. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

### **Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council the City's Downtown Development Coordinator Emily Grace Newkirk provided a presentation regarding the Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance at the Work Session on Monday night. City Attorney Rob Plumb stated to Mayor and Council the City had the option of adopting the Ordinance to keep the revenue within the City of Hahira. Plumb stated the revenue could be used to promote the downtown tourism of Hahira. Sumner stated the hotel-motel tax was currently being sent to the Conference Center to promote Valdosta's tourism due to the fact that Hahira does not have a Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance in place. Mayor Bullard asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or against the Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance. There was no one wishing to speak in favor or against. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous**

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

**REMOVED**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**Selection of EIP Grant Engineer (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this was regarding the Hahira Gateway Project. Sumner stated the first step to the project was for the City to pick an engineering firm and get them moving in the right direction. Sumner stated he received four proposals, those being Stevenson & Palmer Engineering, Lovell Engineering and Associates, Palmer and Hilliard Engineering, and Ben Turnipseed Engineering Firm. Sumner stated the purpose was to select an engineer so the City could move forward with submitting the grant application to get the Gateway Project started. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned with who the City Manager recommended for the engineering position. Sumner responded that he recommended Stevenson & Palmer, due to they were familiar with the City's engineering projects in the past. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to select an EIP Grant Engineer and authorize the City Manager to fill out the RFP scoring sheet. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**REMOVED**

**MOVED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**Proposals for Solid Waste Pickup (City Manager)**

City Manager Sumner stated to Mayor and Council this item was discussed by Council on Monday night at the Work Session. Sumner stated Viola declined to turn in a proposal at the current time. Sumner stated the City had received proposals from Griffin Waste and Milo Sanitation. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned with the difference in the two proposals from Griffin Waste and Milo Sanitation. Sumner responded each company had different aspects in their proposal that were attractive to the City. Sumner stated each company had different options and rebates they were offering to the City, and that both proposals were very competitive. Councilman Clendenin stated he was concerned if a fuel surcharge was added into the proposal from Griffin Waste. Kevin Griffin with Griffin Waste responded there was not a fuel surcharge added into the proposal but a stipulation was put in the proposal if gas prices increased and went over \$3.50 per gallon then he would have to raise the proposed price given. Griffin stated the proposal given to the City was guaranteed for three years. Mayor Pro Tem Adams stated she was concerned with the other cities that Griffin waste serves. Mr. Griffin responded his company serves the City of Nashville and the City of Alapaha. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to enter into agreement with Griffin for Solid Waste Pickup. **Councilman Cain made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**SUBMITTED TO PLANNING COMMISSION**



**REMOVED**

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor's Day Motorcade (Chief Davis)**

Chief Davis stated to Mayor and Council the Mayor's Motorcade was December 11, 2008 and the City participated in this event each year. Davis requested the City donate \$100 dollars for this event. Davis stated donations and gifts are taken up through the year and the City takes the donations and gifts over to Southwestern State Hospital each year for their consumers to enjoy for Christmas. Chief Davis invited all citizens to attend the Mayor's Day Motorcade on December 11, 2008.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion for the City to donate to the Mayor's Motorcade. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**CONTRACT RENEWALS:**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Northeast Quadrant Manhole Rehabilitation Project-Bid Authorization**

**Proposed DOT 2008 State Aid Grant Requests**

**Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application**

**2009 Meeting and Holiday Schedule**

**Letter of Intent with Frogtown Winery**

**Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner**

**Contribution to Moody Support Committee**

**Enzyme Purchase for Sludge Blanket**

**Christmas Bonuses and Excess Sick Leave**

**Volunteer Firefighter Training Reimbursement**

**Contract Renewals-Helen Petitjean, Jessica Freeman, Robert Mellott**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. **Councilman Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Adams thanked City Clerk Belinda Chappell for the Thanksgiving decorations for the employee dinner, thanked Public Works for the City Christmas decorations, and thanked Chief Davis for the help with the Mayor's Motorcade.

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, thanked all departments for a job well done, and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Cain thanked all departments for doing a great job for the City, thanked all Council members and City Clerk for all the help given throughout the year and wished everyone a safe and Happy Holidays.

Councilman Clendenin thanked all City employees and department heads for working hard throughout the year, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

City Manager Sumner thanked all department heads for staying within the budget and doing a great job through the year, thanked the Mayor and Council for letting him serve with them this year and wished everyone to have a Happy Holiday Season.

Mayor Bullard thanked the Council for doing an excellent job this year and thanked them for doing a good job supporting him as Mayor, thanked all the department heads for working hard throughout the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to come out of the regular meeting and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to come out of executive session and enter back into the regular meeting saying the only thing discussed was personnel and legal matters. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion, seconded by Councilman Clendenin, vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. **Mayor Pro Tem Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cain, vote was unanimous.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

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Mayor, Wayne Bullard

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City Clerk, Belinda Chappell

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