

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 5, 2012**

**7:40 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting January 5, 2012 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Ralph Clendenin, Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PW Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bullard

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bullard

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bullard

**INVOCATION:** City Manager Sumner

**OATHS OF OFFICE:** Councilmember Cain of District 2 and Councilmember Clendenin of District 3 took oath of office.

**COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Councilmember Adams made a motion to obtain Lisa Mashburn as City Clerk for the City of Hahira which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to obtain Bruce Cain as the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Hahira which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.

**COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS: The Mayor stated the following:**

Councilmember Adams-Water, Sewer and Sanitation

Councilmember Benjamin-Police Department

Councilmember Clendenin-Parks and Recreation, Streets and Nutrition

Mayor Pro Tem Cain-Fire Department and Planning

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

**A: November 28, 2011 Work Session**

**B: December 1, 2011 Council Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions or corrections concerning the minutes.

Councilmember Adams stated that she thought everything was in order. **Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. GMEBS INFORMATION UPDATE, ORDINANCE AND AGREEMENT**

City Manager Sumner stated it is time for the annual update of information regarding the City pension benefits and Insurance. He then stated that approximately 500 cities in Georgia use GMA for these services. He then stated that the City Attorney Rob Plumb had reviewed the forms and it was in order and ready for adoption. The Mayor then asked if anyone had any questions. He asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance, and if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor. There were not comments.

**A motion was made to accept the ordinance by Councilmember Benjamin which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Vote was unanimous.**

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

**None.**

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the bills. Councilmember Adams then asked about the \$1200.00 bill from Adel Ice Company. City Manager Sumner stated that the bill was paid 100% by two local businesses; The Station and Astro Exterminating. He then stated he would have a meeting with Stacy Dershimer the Downtown Coordinator and request an update for Mayor and Council regarding the last quarter of events. Councilmember Clendenin stated he would like to recognize Astro Exterminating and the Station for their generous contribution. Councilmember then pointed out that the Police Department had been very frugal with their travel/meals budget. **A motion was made to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Vote was unanimous.**

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**A. TRAFFICE ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

Chief Davis stated that he had nothing else to add. Councilmember Adams stated she was not in favor of the Traffic Enforcement Unit. She stated she felt the function of the Police

Department was to protect and Serve and not to patrol two miles on I-75 to increase revenues. She stated that patrolling I-75 can give the City of Hahira a bad name and adversely affect the tourism of Valdosta. She then stated the initial cost would be \$168,532 and that then the City will need to purchase more stuff and this will take more money. She stated she objected to this in 2009 budget and did not want it put back on agenda.

Councilmember Clendenin stated he agrees with Councilmember Adams. He stated that he had talked with the City of Valdosta regarding this matter and he stated they did not patrol Exits 16 to 18 because they felt that their job was to serve and protect and that he does not want Valdosta to be known as a speed trap. He stated he spoke to people in his district and this was the outcome: 22 people said “no”, 6 people said “yes” and 4 were undecided. He recommends we not vote on this item for the next 30 days to give him more time to discuss with citizens.

Councilmember Benjamin stated this has been discussed for the last 10 years. He stated that our Fire Department, Police Department and EMS Services respond to incidents on I-75 as back up now. This is paid for by the Citizens of Hahira now. He stated we do not have criminal activity outside the City now. He stated it was discussed 10 years ago and he is glad it was brought forward. HE stated it would help to have extra help in the area. He stated the City of Hahira does not depend on Lowndes County and thinks that this Traffic Enforcement Unit is long overdue.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he concurs with Councilmember Benjamin. He thinks trained officers on I-75 would provide extra help in the event of any unusual activity. He stated Valdosta has a known speed trap on North Valdosta Road. He again stated he concurs with Councilmember Benjamin and states that about 2 years ago the State Patrol and the County wrote about 1600 citations in a ten mile radius of Exit 18. He stated he felt this was a serious safety issue and felt it was much needed feature that the City needed. He then questioned whether we postpone or not. Mayor Pro Tem Cain then stated he had discussed this with many citizens and they do not want Police Department at all. He stated they do not want Hahira to patrol and that they do not like getting tickets in the City.

Councilmember Adams then stated she had talked to citizens and that they are against patrolling I-75 about 10-1.

Councilmember Clendenin then stated he felt this needed to be discussed further with the citizens and that he thinks we need another month to discuss it.

**Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to approve the Traffic Enforcement Unit which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Clendenin opposed the motion. The Mayor then made a motion to postpone the issue for another month.**

#### **D. CDBG ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATION**

City Manager Sumner stated the application would be re-submitted in an effort to improve waste water containment on West Stanfill Street, Main Street, Seargent Street and to create a slip line. He then stated we unsuccessfully tried to get it approved the last two years but would like to try again. He then stated that Councilmember Benjamin, Mayor Pro Tem Cain

and himself had a meeting and scored and ranked the Engineers for the project. He stated they recommended using Stevenson and Palmer for the project. **A motion was made to accept the recommendation of Stevenson and Palmer Engineering firm for the project by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin, vote was unanimous.**

The Mayor then stated he had an Emergency item that was put before him. He stated the excavator was broken and needed repair. Public Works Supervisor Donnie Warren stated it would take approximately \$5,500.00 to repair the machine. It was then stated that the invoice could be emailed to Mayor and Council as soon as it was received by the City Manager. It was then stated it could be paid out of SPLOST VI funds. **Councilmember Adams made a motion to approve the repair of excavator which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. CLERK'S CONFERENCE**
- B. LEASE RFP FOR ODUM BUILDING FITNESS SPACE**
- C. SALARY STUDY UPDATE**
- D. PURCHASE OF TICKETS FOR BIRD SUPPER**
- E. TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATION**
- F. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT STWP**

Councilmember Adams asked City Manager Sumner to please explain what the STWP Resolution was all about. City Manager Sumner explained that Matt Martin the Planning and Zoning Administrator explained it all at previous meeting. He stated it is basically an update that is done each year regarding planning and zoning and gives QLG status. He stated it must be updated each year to help the City obtain grants and that it states the goals and objectives for the City to achieve in the next five years. He stated it is available at City Hall for public examination. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to accept the Consent Agenda which was then seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.**

#### **RECOGNITION OF LT. DUMAS**

Chief Davis spoke of the performance of Lt. Dumas. He stated he received a letter on December 9, 2011 from the GBI in regards to the GCIC audit. The letter stated the City of Hahira was in full compliance with GCIC and he credits the hard work of Lt. Dumas for this. He then stated that less than 5 agencies receive this honor of full compliance out of 900 agencies. Chief Davis stated this is the third year that Hahira was in full compliance. The Mayor then stated job well done. A plaque was then presented to Lt. Dumas.

## REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he would like to congratulate Lt. Dumas and thanked her for all her hard work. He then thanked Donnie and his crew, the Police Department and Fire Department for all their hard work. He stated he knew the Fire Department worked hard in December and he thanked them for their great life saving mission. He then said thank you to City Clerk and congratulated Councilmember Clendenin and stated he felt he had a good working relationship with Mayor and Council. Thank you to Rob Plumb the City attorney and to the City Manager Sumner. He stated he felt we had the best City Manager around. He then said thank you to the Mayor and Council and the citizens of Hahira.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out and hopes everyone had Happy Holidays. He stated he is looking forward to a new year. Thank you to all the departments for a job well done. He stated he is proud to call our town Mayberry. Thanks again for everyone coming out.

Councilmember Adams stated she would like to thank everyone for coming and that she would like to congratulate Council members for another 4 years. She then stated she would like to thank the Ethics committee; Dye, Stanley and Warren for their service. She stated she wanted to thank the Downtown Coordinator Stacy Dershimer for her very good job over the Christmas holidays. She also thanked the Station and Astro Exterminating for their contribution in making Hahira the greatest City. She then pointed out the new Georgia law for golf carts. She thanked everyone again for coming out.

Councilmember Clendenin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out and participating in the activities for the City over the Christmas Holiday. He thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and Downtown Coordinator for their great work. Congratulations to Bruce Cain, the Mayor and Council members.

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve for the last 5 years. He then thanked everyone for another great year. He then stated that he hopes the audit comes back another year under budget and that he credits the best staff for this. He then thanked the citizens for coming out and asked them to come by City Hall and chat anytime.

Mayor Bullard stated he wanted to thank everyone for coming. HE stated it was an interesting night. HE stated he knows he cannot make everyone happy but it happy that he has served the City of Hahira for the last 17 years. He stated that the departments do an excellent job and that City Manager Sumner does an excellent job. HE stated that the City of Hahira has everything that they need. He then stated he hopes we have another great year and says thank you to everyone.

**Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Clendenin made a motion which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin, vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

