

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 7, 2012

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting June 7, 2012 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Bruce 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 Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: Mayor Wayne Bullard

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A.) April 30, 2012 Work Session
- B.) May 3, 2012 Council Meeting

Mayor Bullard asked if any corrections or questions concerning the minutes. The request to correct the vote on the Stanfill Building was noted and changed as per request from Councilmember Adams. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Beth Copeland Green stated she is running for Clerk of Superior Court. She stated she had worked for Sara Crow the current Clerk of Superior Court for the last 21 years and stated that Ms. Crow was in support of her. She stated she would appreciate everyone's support.

Chris Gay of Hahira stated he is running for County Coroner. HE stated he retired from the GSP about a year ago. He stated he is certified Coroner in the State of Georgia. He then stated he started his career in Hahira back in 1984 and had worked with Chief Davis. He asked for the support of everyone. He then stated he would be running against the incumbent Bill Watson.

Sandra Guess 700 W. Park Street of Hahira stated she is running for State Court Judge against the current Judge Edwards. She stated that Hahira is her hometown, she left and attended Mercer University then returned home and is currently an attorney and works as Prosecutor for

the State Court now. She stated her husband Jimmy Royals works for the Lowndes County Sherriff's Office. She stated she felt that Hahira was a great town to live in and that Hahira needs a voice in Lowndes County regarding the state court system. She stated she felt the state court system could be run more economically and that she was also the office manager for 7 years. She stated she would be available to meet and discuss any questions the citizens might have. She asked for the support of the Hahira community.

Chris of 211 E. Lawson Street stated that he was against the closing of the railroad crossing.

Jody Hall of 7288 Hall-Webb Road stated he was here to speak about the Stanfill building. He stated he is trying to save the building and avoid demolition. He stated he was working with the Historical Society and had hopes of putting apartments in the upstairs and a restaurant downstairs. He stated he did not know how it all got started but he wants to save the building.

Tina Folsom of 4246 Oakforest Drive in Stonecreek stated she is running for Probate Court Judge. She stated she is currently an attorney with Langdale Valletta and that in 2009 it was mandated that an attorney work in the Probate Court Judge position and that the current person serving as Probate Court Judge could be grandfathered in if not an attorney. She stated her opponent was not an attorney. She then asked for everyone's support.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. Councilmember Adams asked why the waste management amount went up \$1,413.00. City Manager Sumner stated he could not say without reviewing the bills/receipts. He then stated that the volume of garbage is not the same each month and that he needs to pull the bills. Councilmember Adams then stated she would like to know the mileage of garbage truck. Sumner then stated that the surcharge is based on National diesel average. He stated he would get the information for Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Adams then asked what the Powerhouse bill is for. PW Warren stated it was for weed-eater repair and service. A motion was made to pay the bills by Councilmember Benjamin which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSIONS:

RAILROAD PROPERTY AGREEMENT/LAWSON RR CROSSING CLOSURE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated this has been on the agenda several times recently and has been discussion for the last 15 years. He stated that after the temporary closure of the RR Crossing that City Hall received two complaints in the last 30 days. He stated he needed a vote by Council to present the agreement to the Lawson Heirs and then we can see where it goes from there. He then stated that the land will have to be deeded back to the Lawson heirs for one year for tax purposes and then it can be donated as a gift to the City. At that time they would then close the RR crossing and gain 5 acres of land. Councilmember Adams stated it had been at least two and a half years since they had talked to the Lawson family regarding this and in that time Dr. Lawson had passed away. City Manager Sumner stated that he spoke with one of the Lawson heirs last week and he had stated that it was Dr. Lawson desire for the property to be used for public benefit. He then indicated that he would still want to move forward with it. It was also stated that Mr. Odom indicated that he too would want to move forward with it. He then stated but in the end all signatures would be required for this to move forward. The Mayor then asked if anymore questions. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to move forward on the railroad property agreement /Lawson RR crossing closure which was seconded by**

Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Cain and Councilmember Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. The Mayor then made a motion to approve the Railroad Property Agreement/Lawson RR Crossing Closure.

The Mayor stated we have an emergency item to add to the agenda; he stated the City had two pumps struck by lightning yesterday afternoon during the storm and that we need approval to replace them. PW Warren stated that the detectors on the pumps will not work if they have a direct hit by lightening. Discussion regarding the purchase of new pumps or repair the old ones by Councilmember Clendenin. City Manager Sumner stated they could be purchased out of SPLOST VI and that if we can confirm they were hit by lightening then they would be eligible to turn to the liability insurance. PW Warren stated it would cost about \$5, 500 per new pump and that if we repair the old ones it will cost \$3,000-\$5,000. Councilmember Clendenin then asked about how many back up pumps we had; he stated it would be nice to have a spare pump. PW Warren stated that we do have a spare for the main station but not the others. He stated they had been sent to Tallahassee to see if they can be rebuilt. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to purchase two new pumps and repair the damaged one for back-up which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A.) **FY11 AUDIT**
- B.) **FITNESS STUDIO LEASE**

Councilmember Adams asked if the sentence regarding the termination of lease had been added to the lease, Sumner then stated yes it had been added. Councilmember Adams then stated that the lease would be open for public record after this time. **A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve the Consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

Councilmember Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and he wished all the candidates well on their race. HE then thanked all the citizens for coming out. He stated the Lawson crossing item had been weighing heavy on him but stated that to sit here for another 100 years and look at the property would be an injustice to the citizens of Hahira. He stated that once the property is obtained it will be a meeting place for Hahira and that we need to look into the future. He also thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Councilmember Adams thanked all the candidates for stepping forward and thanked the citizens of Hahira for the honor and pleasure of serving. She stated the RR crossing was a complex decision. She stated the 5 ½ acres would be an asset but as an elected official she stated her district was against closing the crossing. The then thanked Donnie and the PW for the outstanding job they do and also thanked the Police Department and Fire Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain thanked all the candidates for coming and nice to meet everyone. He thanked all the department heads for their hard work and for the good job they do saving money whenever they can. HE stated he thought it would be helpful to get the 5 ½ acres and that he thought all the younger couples would be happy to have a place for their families and children. He stated it would help to erase the eyesore. He thanked his fellow Councilmembers and the Mayor.

Councilmember Clendenin stated it was nice to see bodies in chairs and thanked the candidates for coming out. HE thanked Jody Hall for his efforts to save the Stanfill building; stating he knew there were issues and that the property was condemned but that he hoped the Historical

Society's could come up with a plan to save it. In regards to the railroad vote he stated the voice of District 3 was to vote against the closing of the railroad crossing but personally he thought it would be an asset for the City. HE stated he received good news today that the Board of Elections regarding the third term voting and gone to the board and they found no issues and that it could be put to bed.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve for the past 5 ½ years. Thank you for a nice place to live and work. He stated he enjoyed what he does. HE thanked everyone for accepting the 2011 budget. He thanked the department heads for their great performance and that he is grateful for their hard work every day.

Mayor Wayne Bullard stated he wished all the candidates good luck. HE thanked all the department heads for a great job and for the Councilmember's helping the department heads. He then thanked everyone for coming out.

A motion as made by Councilmember Benjamin to enter into Executive Session for personnel matters which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to exit the Executive Session where they discussed personnel matters which were seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss the meet was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn

