

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 10, 2014

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting July 10, 2014 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Mason Barfield and Kenneth Davis. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, PWD Donnie Warren, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin and Police Chief Terry Davis were not present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION:

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. June 2, 2014 Work Session**
- B. June 5, 2014 Council Meeting**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections to the minutes. None noted.

Councilmember Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Clendenin all voted in favor of the motion.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

DISCUSSIONS:

A. PROPOSED PETERS STREET DEVELOPMENT (HOUSTON BROWN)

City Manager Sumner stated that this was withdrawn at the request of Houston Brown.

B. PROPOSED HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (TIM COOMBS)

Tim Coombs the President of the Historical Society stated that he would like to have a historical preservation advisory board for the City of Hahira. Mr. Coombs spoke to Emily with the City of Valdosta and she said that she would help him to get it started. He said it would be up to the

City to put guidelines in place. The Mayor said that he would like to see more information and that he would like to have Emily come and talk to Mayor and Council about this. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to table this item which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

C. (REMOVED)

D. NEW FIREARMS LEGISLATION (MAYOR CAIN)

Mayor Cain said that as discussed on Monday night we do need screening for firearms. Councilmember Clendenin said that we should see what Valdosta and Lowndes County have for ordinance. City Manager Sumner said that he would like to encourage staff to get draft together and have a Public Hearing. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to authorize the City Manager to draft a preliminary ordinance which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

E. TREE REMOVAL (5)-LIBRARY (COUNCILMAN DAVIS)

Councilmember Davis said that as previously stated that we have a line of sight obstruction on the corner of Nelson and Main Street. He said that there are five Bradford pear trees and that as you are driving to and from the school looking west that there is a great deal of blockage by the trees and that it is dangerous. He said that it has been brought up by Citizens, himself and bus drivers and from different perspectives. He said that it was previously brought up to remove the trees because they are a danger. He said that he hates to cut the trees because we are a tree city but when it comes to the safety of the children that he thinks the trees need to be cut down. He said that we can look at replacing them after discussion at the retreat. He stated that he knows some people speak passionately about saving the trees but this will improve the line of sight at this intersection. He said nothing has happened yet and that he would like to prevent anything from happening. The Mayor said we have been informed and that we need to take action. **Councilmember Davis made a motion to remove the five Bradford Pear trees which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Barfield said that he would like to see an overall tree policy for the City in the future. Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Barfield voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion. The motion was approved 2-1.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. GEORGIA'S DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE (DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR)**
- B. FIRE CODE ADOPTION (CHIEF BENNETT)**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Consent agenda. None noted. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to approve the consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Barfield voted in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **HA-2014-03 REZONING REQUEST BY FRED WETHERINGTON & LAURENCE NELSON (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**
- B. **HA-2014-04 ANNEXATION REQUEST BY FRED WETHERINGTON & LAURENCE NELSON (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**

Matt Martin Planning and Zoning administrator said the rezoning and annexation request is from the same applicant and regarding the same applicant so it can be treated as one for the Public Hearing. Matt Martin gave a brief history of the applications stated that the Planning Commission recommended it be zoned R-15 and that the Planning Commission recommended denial of the annexation. He stated that the vote on the zoning does not mean anything unless annexation is approved. He said that if annexation was voted for approval tonight that it would come into effect on August 1. Councilmember Davis confirmed the denial of annexation by the Planning Commission. Martin said that applicants indicated not intended to build for now and that it could be up to 10 years. He stated that there are no set standards for annexation. Councilmember Clendenin said that it bothers him that he is not seeing anything saying when it would be developed. Martin said the applicant agreed to R-15 zoning.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the requests.

Laurence Nelson of 508 N Church Street said that he would like to say that the planning administrator worked well with them and hoped for zoning and annexation success for the City. He then said that he was transparent and said that he would be glad to answer any questions and that he appreciated the consideration.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the requests.

Buddy Bumgardner of Hwy 122 East asked how many residents could be put in if R-15? He said if nothing know on the number of residents could be built on the R-15 zoning then why do it now if no plans on the table.

Scott Purvis of 410 N Church Street said that he would like to speak in opposition. He said that there are no plans and does not know why we would want to bring this property in the 210 feet and do things in the County to affect them. He said that for every dollar that comes in a dollar goes out.

Ray Barton of 6677 Hagenbridge Road said that he is a UPS driver and said that he looks at it from safety issue. He said he was concerned about the safety of building a lot of houses and said the dirt road part of Hagenbridge is a playground for children. He said that there have been 7 accidents on that road and he does not want to wake up in the night to find someone in the road from accident. He said that he had a petition for the Mayor and that he asked to please deny annexation.

June Cuthbertson of 218 E Park Street asked why we want to annex for no reason. There must be a plan and someone must know the plan. It is simple just tell us.

David Dillard of 201 E Main Street said that he is a property owner out there and asked where they would all go to school. He said the traffic would be bad and that we do not have water and sewer for there and no money coming from there.

Elaine Dillard of 218 E Park Street said that she had a part in putting the petition together and

Said that the City does not know what is going on and what goes on effects everyone. She said she has been a resident for 58 years and that she thinks the traffic and schools will be effected.

Rose Adams of 611 Hodges said that she had the pleasure of serving for 8 years and said that we do not have sewer capacity to serve another subdivision. She said to look at what is coming up in the sewers when it rains. She said that we are a Golf cart community and that subdivision would have no access road to be part of the Golf cart community and this is not fair. Please vote against annexation.

Robert Christy of 524 S Hagenbridge Road said that 8 years ago he bought a home here in Hahira. He said that he had always lived on farm in community and made the decision to move here because it is a small town and family community. He said that he has concerns regarding the rezoning and annexation but feels better about the R-15 zoning. He said that we need to look at the infrastructure and add more pipes to the ones that we have. He said he really likes the small hometown but knows that we cannot stop growth.

Questions from Council:

Councilmember Clendenin said that he had threes concerns. He said the City put in well system and that water is not an issue but that he has to agree with the fact that the sewer is causing a lot of problems. He does not think enough of a study has been done regarding the piping. He said that we are a Golf cart City and that area would have no access to city streets and that the subdivision would have to find a way into the City. He said that he felt the subdivision ordinances need to be updated.

City Manager Sumner said that the question was raised regarding how many residents would go into the subdivision. Matt Martin said the estimated amount would be R-10, 175 lots with size of 10,000 square foot and R-15, 115 lots with size of 15,000 square foot. He stated that there was no sense of urgency and that it was said it would be for future development of residential area.

Councilmember Davis said that he feels the issue tonight is lack of information and the real impact of what this would do to the system. He said that the issue is the sewer which probably needs to be studied and that it is not ready for annexation. He said the future of Hahira relies on growth and eventually annexation. He said the application before us tonight in incomplete and that we need to have annexation in the right way with planning and R-15 zoning.

Councilmember Barfield said that he is disappointed tonight. He said that he agrees with several things and that in the long term if done right it could happen in the future. He said that he sees this as an opportunity for Hahira if done right that Hahira would need this area to grow. Barfield said that one responsibility is to garner public support and to take information out there so there is no misinformation. He said that it is a big disappointment that the person that owns the property is not here to give his reason on how the property will develop and we are not going to have it. HE said that he does not fear development, it all has a solution. He fears the unknown and not feeling comfortable not being represented by the owner, Fred Wetherington. He said everyone must bring information to the people regarding the property.

The Mayor said that he has heard a lot tonight. I have heard a lot about not having a Public Hearing, but that's how the system works. He said that he has heard the concerns about the sewer system, but the

sewer system is in the best shape that it has been in years, we have plenty of capacity. He said that the City has been under consent order for years and last year we were taken off the consent order. He said that we do have I & I problems, and it's disturbing that this was reported back in the late 90's and nothing was done to correct the problems. In 2004 there was another section on West Main, nothing was done. He said the capacity is great now but we do have I & I problems. He said that as far as the Golf Cart Community that there is no real access on S. Church Street from Grace Street to Tillman Street on the West, they have no way to access a street. Also on N. Church Street the West and East Side from the Methodist Church to the City limits there is no real access. He said that there are a lot of things out there that are true, untruths and half-truths; because of not being informed but are misinformed and this is a big deal. He said that maybe we need to be more informed and have more information since we all want more information I'm going to ask the Council to table this until we are provided more information, then we have the answer.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to deny the rezoning request and to deny the annexation which was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor to deny

REPORTS:

Councilmember Clendenin said that is nice to see the crowd tonight. Thank you for coming and hope to see you next month.

Councilmember Davis thanked everyone for coming out and felt that it was very constructive. Thank you for handling it in the way it should be done.

Councilmember Barfield said this is all a legal process and eventually we will grow. We have to make a plan; it is not the Mayor and Council you have to convince, it is the citizens and we all need the citizens to get public support. Thank you all for being here and hope to see you in the future.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and thanked all the department heads. Thank you to Matt Martin (P & Z Administrator) and said that the staff appreciates all that he does.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He thanked John Page for coming out tonight and gave him opportunity to speak.

John Page of 5755 Coleman Road said that he is a candidate for State Senate, Tim Golden is leaving and there will be an open seat. HE said that he would like to serve as next State Senator. HE said he would like to talk to everyone about their concerns and said that it is a large district. He said he would like to lower taxes and have less regulations and he would like to represent South Georgia.

The Mayor then said that he would like to give Wilmon Stanley a chance to speak.

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S Washington said that he would like to comment the Mayor and City Manager. HE said that they are proactive at all meetings and that any time a project comes up in the City the people need to know about it. He said he would like to see this support at every meeting and understand that you are supporting Mayor and Council too.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out, he thanked the department heads and the City staff for getting things done. He thanked John Page and Bill Slaughter for stopping by.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Barfield made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Barfield, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Clendenin voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN