

**CITY OF HAHIRA**  
**JULY 13, 2023**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting on July 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Kenneth Davis, Mason Barfield, Louise White, and Mayor Pro Tem Tony Rosatti present. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, PWD Willie Jones, Police Chief Terry Davis, Lt Todd Pitchford, Assistant Fire Chief David Thompson, MSD Jennifer Price, and City Attorney Rob Plumb. Fire Chief Dwight Bennett was not present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Josh Owens

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A. MAY 30, 2023, WORK SESSION**

**B. JUNE 1, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the minutes. None noted. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilmember White. Councilman Davis, Councilman Barfield, Councilmember White and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **A. APPLICATION OF RAJENDRA KUMAR PATEL-DISCOUNT CORNER, 100 E MAIN STREET FOR PACKAGE SALE OF BEER AND WINE (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis stated this is simply a change of ownership. The previous owner passed away and his wife is selling the business to family. We found a clear background and approved the application.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the application. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the application. None noted. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to approve the application which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilmember White and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

### **B. APPLICATION BY MAYURKUMAR PATEL-HOMETOWN LIQUORS, 203 S CHURCH STREET FOR PACKAGE SALE OF BEER, WINE AND DISTILLED BERAGES (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis stated again this is simply a change of ownership. The previous owner passed away and his wife is selling the business to family. We found a clear background and approved the application.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the application. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the application. None noted. **Councilmember White made a motion to approve the application which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilman Davis, Councilmember White,**

**Councilman Barfield, and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

**C. AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK ORDINANCE-DISTILLED BEVERAGES (FIRST READING-CITY ATTORNEY)**

**City Attorney Rob Plumb stated this is in section 6 and is to add** distilled spirits by the drink at restaurants only. City Manager Sumner stated about 15 years ago the Council voted to serve beer and wine by the drink but not distilled beverages. We now have a new business coming to town that the owner is interested in the sell of liquor by the drink. It will require 50 % food for a 6-day period per week. If this is passed it will require a letter stating 50 % food and 50% liquor from the accountant annually. The staff recommends three full readings for public hearing purposes. Somone will need to vote against for three readings in September. The council also needs to decide license fee for liquor by the drink at the August/September meeting. Does anyone have any questions? None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor? None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against it? None noted. Chief Davis said that he was not for or against but I would like to view all establishments for future safety. Several cities have this already and I think it would be a valuable tool for the City. **Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti made a motion to approve the Amendment which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti, Councilman Davis, Councilmember White all voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Barfield voted against the motion.**

**CITIZENTS TO BE HEARD:**

Ted Raker of 724 Edgewater said he was part owner of Woodbridge subdivision lots that he purchased from Gary Minchew. They thought the lots were less desirable and never thought the City would fill in the

ditches, it was not part of the contract. The City cleans and mows the ditches and keeps it up. I think we would have to create a special tax district to help the homeowners to get the ditches fixed.

#### **REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the bills. None noted. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember White. Councilmember White, Councilman Davis, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **DISCUSSIONS:**

##### **A. SUNDAY ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CITYWIDE REFERENDUM (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Plumb said this is done on state and local levels to serve beer, wine and distilled by the drink on Sunday. There is also a brunch bill that is different time on Sunday and is a different referendum. This would be voted to allow it to be placed on the ballot in November and let the residents make the decision, nothing would be decided until the residents' vote.

**Councilmember White made a motion to put item on the ballot for November election which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilmember White and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

##### **B. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AGAINST HAHIRA AD VALORUM TAX LEVY RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CITYWIDE REFERENDUM (CITY ATTORNEY)**

City Attorney Plumb said he found out more information after the Tuesday night meeting, this would have to be adopted by local act by legislature and after that approved by voters with 50 % in favor it could not be on the ballot for November. The City would need to Contact Goodman and Lahood for next year Resolution to start the process and then it could be on the November ballot for 2025. We would just need permission from Council to start the process and then come back to Council at a later date. Councilman Davis said to verify this is to move forward with starting the process and take no action at this time, this is correct.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. 3 LASERS-MCLAGGAN-\$6,300-SPLOST VIII**
- B. MAIN STREET GRANTWRITING TRAINING-VSU OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**
- C. GEORGIA CITY-COUNTY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE**
- D. PUMP REPAIRS-AAG-\$9,271-PROPRIETARY FUND**
- E. 2 MOWERS-POWERHOUSE-\$21,900-SPLOST VIII**

**Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented which was seconded by Councilmember White.**

**Councilmember White, Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Davis said great job to all departments. Thank you for all the fantastic events and thank you to Main Street you appreciated by all.

Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti said ditto to all that has been said. Thank you, Public Safety, Public works, Admin and Main Street, for all that you do.

Councilman Barfield said ditto and thanks to everyone.

Councilmember White said ditto, Councilman Davis said it all.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and thank you to the staff for all that you do. School is about to start and we will begin the budget process. We have so many things to be thankful for. We also have the new Slice open along with the Café Sucre.

Mayor Cain said ditto to all that has been said and thank you to the department heads. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July event was good with no problems, and all went well.

Councilman Barfield made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilmember White and Mayor Pro Tem Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:35 P.M.**

**ADJOURN.**

---

**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

---

**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**