

CITY OF HAHIRA

MARCH 5, 2024

WORK SESSION

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on March 5, 2024, with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Klayton Luke, Davis Lindsey, Mason Barfield, and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, PWD Willie Jones, MSD Jennifer Price, Fire Chief David Thompson, and Interim Police Chief Yolanda Hall. City Attorney Rob Plumb was present.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. JANUARY 30, 2024, WORK SESSION

B. FEBRUARY 1, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone had any corrections or questions. Mayor Pro Tem White stated she had corrections and would get with City Clerk after the meeting.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted.

DISCUSSIONS:

A. 2024 RETREAT-FINANCIAL (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated we had postponed the Retreat and we need to reschedule. Everyone agreed on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse. City Manager Sumner stated he had a financial presentation for tonight that is about an hour if the Council would like to review or we can wait until the Retreat. I can review specific points regarding items on agenda tonight. Councilman Barfield stated he would not rush through the financials; I think it would be better to wait until the Retreat. City Manager Sumner stated the Council wants to move quickly on some items but we need to review the financials; we have a lot to review. Councilman Lindsey and Councilman Luke agree with Councilman Barfield regarding waiting until the Retreat.

B. HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated it is time for health insurance renewal and we are fortunate to have Partners Benefit Group to get us the best price. Ronnie Blanton shops around and gets us the best rate. We are a small pool of thirty-five people and we are forced to pay higher rates. We figure a 15% increase in the budget each year but Mr. Blanton recommends staying with Anthem with an increase of 6% which is most cost effective for the City.

C. ROADS (COUNCILMAN LINDSEY, COUNCILMAN LUKE)

Councilman Lindsey said I have had complaints about many streets. Blakely and E Park are looking good now after the paving and I hope we can do more in the upcoming months. Mayor Cain stated we have sent list of streets to DOT and LMIG which include Randall Street, Coleman Street and West Grace Street. We prefer to do these after June 1 when school is out due to heavy traffic. We have Coleman Street that has tree roots impacting that area. The trees and the roots on the right of way will need to be removed before paving.

D. WOODBRIDGE DRAINAGE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated I have had many long-detailed conversations regarding the drainage. When we put this out for bid it came back over 1 .2 million and this is not feasible. We thought we could rebid but the prices are not coming down. We are working with the engineers to come up with alternatives that are more cost effective. We will discuss all of this at the Retreat.

E. TAP FEES (COUNCILMAN LUKE, COUNCILMAN LINDSEY)

Councilman Luke said he would like to know when the last time tap fees were raised. City Manager Sumner said in 2006 the tap fees were \$1,000 and then when Mayor Bullard was in office it raised to \$3,000. We then raised it to 5,000 but there was not much building at the time and it was then reduced back to \$3,000 and has been this price for about 13 years. City Manager said this is not an impact fee, it is used for

Proprietary fund. We will discuss this more at the Retreat. Councilman Barfield said if you raise the tap fees then it will slow building and this will affect the property taxes which will then affect the millage rate. City Manager Sumner said we have the lowest millage rate in the County besides Dasher. I would suggest you all talk to builders about this also. PWD Jones discussed tap fees and what they do. Sumner stated tap fees should not be included in the tap fees they should be in Capital funds. In the proprietary fund expenditures should meet revenue. If you raise tap fees too high then it will discourage building.

**F. APPOINTMENT TO DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY- (MAYOR CAIN)**

Mayor Cain said this is tabled until Thursday night.

**G. GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ANNUAL CONVENTION-
JUNES 20-25, 2024 (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated it is time for GMA Convention in Savannah. The registration will open mid-March and we are waiting for classes to be posted. I just need to know who would like to attend. Mayor Pro Tem White, Councilman Luke, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Lindsey and City Clerk Mashburn would all like to attend. City Manager Sumner stated he will get class listing out as soon as it is posted.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. GEORGIA RURAL WATER AUTHORITY SPRING CONFERENCE (PWD JONES)

PWD Jones said he and a co-worker would like to attend Georgia Rural Water Spring Conference May 6-9 at Jekyll Island. This is Conference that they have two times per year where you can get credit hours and learn about the latest new things. We have a good relationship with GRW and they always support local communities. Councilman Luke said he would like to thank PWD Jones for coming out at 2:30 a.m. to help him with water leak issue, you did a great job. PWD Jones stated he thinks it was vandalism and that we need to do Police report and file on the insurance.

B. TEACHERS LUNCHEON-MAY 23 & 24, 2024 DEPOT (MSD PRICE)

MSD Price stated this is the Teachers Luncheon that we do every year. The teachers really appreciate it and have a good time. We will have it for two days, one for elementary school teachers and one for Middle School teachers. The dates are May 23rd and 24th and the cost for meals is \$2004.88 for both days. We also get sponsorship and door prizes that help with the cost. City Manager Sumner stated we have been doing this for 25 years and the teachers love it.

C. APRIL AGENDA DEADLINE & PACKET DISTRIBUTION-MONDAY, MARCH 25TH-85 P.M. AND THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated just a reminder that we will be off on Good Friday, March 29, 2024 so we will push the deadlines back a day.

D. FY24 RETREAT DATE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner said as discussed we will have the Retreat on April 2, 2024 starting at 8:30 a.m. We do have a Work Session that night so we will have the retreat at the Courthouse.

E. FILING CABINET AND COMPUTER-SPLOST VIII (INTERIM CHIEF HALL)

Interim Chief Hall stated that the police department will be opening the third part of the building and it needs to be set up with filing cabinets and we will need additional computer for the part-time Assistant Clerk. The estimated cost for filing cabinets is \$1,295 and the Computer with set up from Virtual World is \$1,820 and this would be paid out of SPLOST VIII.

City Manager Sumner stated we will have an Executive Session on Thursday night to discuss applications for Police Chief Position.

SET MARCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA :

-Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority

SET MARCH CONSENT AGENDA:

-Georgia Rural Water Authority Spring Conference

-Teachers Luncheon-Oneal Catering-\$2500

-April Agenda Deadline and Packet Distribution-Monday March 25th at 5 p.m. and Thursday March 28th.

-FY24 Retreat date-April 2, Courthouse

-Filing Cabinet and Computer-Staples \$1,295 and Virtual World \$1,820-SPLOST VIII

-Health Insurance Renewal-Anthem

-Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention-June 20-25, 2024

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:45 P.M.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN