

CITY OF HAHIRA

MAY 30, 2023

WORK SESSION

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Work Session on May 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Louise White, Kenneth Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Tony Rosatti. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Assistant Fire Chief David Thompson, LT Todd Pitchford, PWD Willie Jones and MSD Jennifer Price. Councilman Barfield and Police Chief Davis were not present.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. MAY 2, 2023, WORK SESSION

B. MAY 4, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or correction regarding the minutes. None noted.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

DISCUSSIONS:

A. REQUEST TO CONSIDER ALCOHOL BY THE DRINK REFERENDUM (COUNCIL MEETING-ELISE PIERCE)

City Manager Sumner stated the intent for the Thursday night presentation is to request and consider a by the drink referendum. This would be scheduled for the November ballot. This is to be discussed with Council and the Attorney will be present. No formal action will be needed on Thursday night.

B. FY22 AUDIT (CITY AUDITOR-COUNCIL MEETING)

City Manager Sumner stated the audit was completed on Friday with positive results for the General fund and the Proprietary fund. Thursday night Nick Valenti will be here to present the audit and give Council a copy.

C. SOUTHERN GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION VALDOSTA AND LOWNDES REGIONAL (VALOR)GEORGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CAPITAL DATA PLATFORM AND ONGOING MAINTENCE CONTRACT- PROPRIETARY FUND (RACHEL STROM)

Rachel Strom with SGRC is here to present information regarding GIS mapping. Ms. Strom stated we gathered all the information and came up with a plan to add GIS mapping through the VALOR website and enjoy full benefits. Through this platform the staff, citizens and potential owners can assess accurate data. The cost would be \$5,000. City Manager Sumner stated this has been

ongoing discussions at the Retreat and it is at the top of the agenda. This would be a great help to the public works department and Public Safety. It is very valuable information, and we can get this at a fraction of the cost. The Regional Commission does a great job with this, and Valdosta-Lowndes has had this for a long time. The funding would come out of the Proprietary fund.

**D. ASSET INVENTORY, LED AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS-
SPLOST VIII (CARTER AND SLOOPE)**

Eric, Carter and Sloope joined us via Microsoft to discuss pending requirements coming down from EPD for asset inventory and the upcoming rules for lead and copper locations. The cost is estimated at \$25,000 and both this and the asset inventory were proposals generated in conjunction with the SGRC. This is something that every government must do and will be discussed at GRW in October. The initial inventory is the first step, and it will allow GIS for public works to track and know lead and copper service lines. GIS is a great way to do it, it will help you identify. This will cost about \$24,000 and would be paid out of SPLOST VIII. Does the Council have any questions? None noted.

**E. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT RENEWAL-
SECURITY AND OTUAGE BACKUP ENHANCED SERVICE-**

\$34,000-TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL FUND (IT FOUNDER)

Jason Bellflower with current IT provider discussed cyber security importance and that information is in your packets. He stated 58% of ransomware attacks last about 7.3 days but it can take up to 6 months to recover. We input a multifactor authentication. The average ransom is \$925,000 so it is important to put things in place to stop risk with many layers. We know what to look for and GIRMA may not pay if these layers are not in place. This is all to protect data 24-7. We also need to have a back up for all systems, we should not go down unless there is a loss of power. City Manager Sumner stated we are waiting on FEMA funded generators and this will help us not to go down, it helps with public safety. The City Manager recommended renewal of the Virtual World IT contract. Sumner also stated that part of this will be paid out of the technology fees because 80% would be out of the Police department.

F. GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SMALL CITIES CONFERENCE AUGUST 16-18 (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated this is Small Cities Conference for Cities under 5000 population. IT will be in Dublin from August 16-18. I would like to attend.

G. HONEYBEE MONUMENT LOCATION (MAYOR)

The Mayor stated he received a call from Mr. Coombs stating that the Honeybee Committee wanted to move the Honeybee to the Courthouse. They would like to see if placed where the old Veterans Memorial previously was located. Councilman Barfield stated he thought that would be a good idea, it would be more visible. It was also stated that it needed a pedestal and plants around it. PWD Price suggested putting it on the ground. No pedestal or landscaping stating that kids climb on and around it and thinks it would be safety issue. Councilman Davis said that sounds like a good solution to put it on the ground, that has been the best idea I have heard. Councilperson White stated yes, she agrees with Jennifers recommendation.

H. TYLER TECHNOLOGY-INCODE UPGRADES-\$26,500- TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL FUND (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that this upgrade is needed because it is cloud based. We need an upgrade so that we have space for a 5-year period. We currently pull stuff for the auditors but with this upgrade we would not have to. We would put scanners at each computer and this would eliminate paperwork. We would also have My Civic app for phones and you could pay and access all your information. IT would cover Main Street events, rental of the facilities and reporting of complaints. I would recommend approval. This would be paid out of the Propriety fund and Technology fund.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST:

A. POLICE CARS-\$110,000-FOLSOM DOUGLAS-SPLOST VIII (CHIEF DAVIS)

Lt Pitchford stated we need 2 new Police cars due to repairs and maintenance on the old cars. It would be prohibitive to purchase 2 new cars. We found 2 at Woody Folsom Cars. It would take about 2 weeks and they will be fully equipped.

B. WELL #1 TESTING (PWD JONES)

City Manager Sumner said PWD Jones and I had positive meetings at the Georgia EPD this week. We received a recommendation approval of the engineers revised freshwater correction Action plan which will include the redrilling and reactivation of Well # 1 as well as the potential capping and relocation to a point north of the City for Well #3. EPD appears receptive to the strategy to redrill well #1 as soon as possible then taking Well #3 offline to ensure adequate flow and thus hopefully get our HAA5 violation back into compliance. We need to sample the water in Well #1 and these quotes are included in your packet. The low quote appears to be Everett's at \$2,950 to test first. I think it all depends on the place that you drill and we should drill immediately next to Well #1.

Councilman Davis said I think we should go ahead and drill around Well # 1, I think we must do this. Does anyone have any questions?

C. BILLBOARDS (MSD PRICE)

MSD Price is recommending the re-creation and renewal of three billboards (two locations for a total price of \$16,000. After Covid the costs for billboard rentals have increased. We should keep the billboards as they are just moving them closer to Hahira. This would come out of the General fund.

D. TSPLOST II PORTAL-PROJECT SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATIONS-TRANSPORT STUDIO-\$9,000-SPLOST VII (CITY MANAGER)

Transport Studios proposal is included in your packets. With the permission of the Council the proposals that we will submit to the regional roundtable will be 1) realignment and resurfacing of West Stanfill from the Railroad tracks to Union Road 2) a new entrance from North Morven Road to the North Lowndes Recreation Park 3) R-cuts along top of the off ramps for South and North bounds on the interchange including roundabouts at Union and Morven Roads and US 122 for traffic to come back in the opposite direction and 4) local match funding for sidewalks extending the streetscape along 122 from Union Road west to Morven Road, North to W Stanfill Street and South to West Main Extension and back along West Main

Extension to Branch. This is all based on the traffic study information. We would let Transport Studios make a request for us.

E. PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION-ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DEPARTMENT-\$14,000-GENERAL AND PROPRIETARY FUNDS (CITY MANAGER)

This is a request for a part-time person to work at City Hall for the Administration and Finance department. It would be for 20 hours per week. This will help with the workload in these departments.

F. SALARY ADJUSTMENT-DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CITY MANAGER (MAYOR CAIN)

City Manager Sumner stepped out for discussion regarding salaries. The Mayor stated I have researched this and have looked at the DCA wage and salary report online. I have also done some investigating on my own and I think we should make increases for the City Manager and Department heads. We cannot make increases like DCA but I think this would be a start in the right direction. I think we should do \$15,000 across the board. This has been needed for a long time and I believe you all agree with me. I thank you all for what you do.

SET JUNE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

- Request to Consider Alcohol By the drink Referendum
- FY22 Audit

SET JUNE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Police cars-\$110,000-Folsom Douglas-SPLOST VIII
- Well #1 Testing-Everett's Well Drilling-\$2,950-SPLOST VIII
- Billboards-Trailhead Media-\$16,300
- TSPLOST II Portal-project submission and presentations-Transport Studio-\$9,000-SPLOST VIII
- Part time Administrative Position-\$14,000-GF and PF
- Salary Adjustment-Department heads and City Manager
- Southern Georgia Regional Commission Valdosta and Lowndes Regional Geographic Information Systems VALOR-Contract-\$5,000-Proprietary fund
- Carter and Sloope asset inventory-\$25,000-SPLOST VIII
- Information Technology Contract Renewal-Virtual World \$36,000; security and outage backup \$34,000 Technology and Proprietary and General funds.
- Honeybee Monument location-Courthouse
- Tyler Technologies-Incode upgrades-\$26,500-Technology and Proprietary and General funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN