

Council Meeting
April 1, 1999

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday; April 1, 1999, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Jesse Griffin, Arnold Williams and Beverly Martin; City Manager, Susan Doner; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief Woodrow W. Blue; City Attorney, Willie Linahan.

Mayor Adams welcomed all visitors, then gave the invocation and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was established.

Mayor Adams called for a motion to approve the March 1999 council meeting minutes.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 1999, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams called for a motion to approve payment the cities March 1999 bills.

Council Griffin made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Council Williams. Vote was unanimous.

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Mr. Steve Barnes from Moody Air Force Base, presented the City with a Plaque of Appreciation and expressed his thanks for The City of Hahira's support of Moody AFB. Council Harris accepted the plaque on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Freeman Rivers, 204 S. Hall St., requested that Council reconsider the agenda form and put "Citizens Wishing to be Heard" back on the agenda. Mayor Adams stated that he would not recommend this.

Ms. Karen Camion, Concerned Citizens opposition to Boys and Girls Club use of Webb-Miller Park: Ms. Camion, 405 W Stanfill St, stated that it was not fair to the children to not have access to the park. Also the park has historical value.

Councilwoman Martin stated that the park was a good idea for several reasons. (1) It would be there for children to learn sportsmanship and to form friendships. (2) The

children would always have access to the park (3) Any park has to be scheduled. (4) The park has to be completed. Ms. Martin has talked to area residents and they had no problem with the park. She stated "lets get park done and get a decent place for our children to play".

Council Griffin stated that we needed many acres in the area for recreational operations for boys and girls. He has been working to get the acreage but people do not want to sell their land. He said that he would continue to look for the land. The Boys and Girls Club are in the business to operate a program. He agreed that it was a good idea to turn it over to the Boys and Girls Club.

Agreement between City of Hahira and Boys and Girls Club for use of Webb-Miller Park:

Mayor Adams called for a motion to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club for the use of Webb-Miller Park for recreation purposes and to make improvements as needed. Council Martin made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club to manage the park on a yearly basis and make necessary improvements, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Mr. Robert Soper of the Boys and Girls Club explained the program and plans. Commissioner Mitchell Chaney spoke on the need for recreation in the Hahira area. He stated that he was perplexed as to why some people were against the program. Mayor Adams called for a vote on the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams stated that a couple of years ago the city began a program to improve Webb Miller park. The city received a recreation grant from the Department Of Community Affairs for \$10,000. The city was required to match the \$10,000 with a like amount in in-kind services. Chief Blue chairman of the recreation committee and the committee conducted a study and developed a plan for park improvements at a cost of a little over \$40,000.00. The plan was adopted by the council The city then requested and received \$20,000.00 from the Lowndes County Board Of Commissioners. To date approximately \$20,000.00 has been expended excluding the in-kind services which probably amounts to around \$10,000.00. Mayor Adams asked Council to consider allocating the remainder, of the \$40,000.00 to the Boys and Girls Club to be used for improvements to Webb miller park. Council Griffin made a motion to give the remainder of the grant money to the Boys and Girls Club, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Public Works Director, John Thursby, reported that the pump house on Tillman St. needed replacing. Bids were received from Cowart Electric and Gandy Construction for construction of a new pump house. He recommended Cowart Electric for

\$22,273.39. Council Griffin made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Council Martin. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested purchasing a tractor to use for mowing parks. Bids were received from Reliable Tractor Co, Farmers Tractor and South Georgia Tractor. He recommended Farmers Tractor bid for a TC21D for \$11,700.00. Council Harris made a motion to purchase the tractor as recommended, seconded by Council Williams. Vote was unanimous.

Financial software upgrade: Mayor Adams reported on the cost of upgrading the financial and accounting software at City Hall to be Y2K compliant - Initial cost - \$1,195.00. This will not be the final cost involved in upgrading as plans are to add customer billing, work orders and business license functions in the near future. Council Williams made a motion to proceed with upgrade, seconded by Council Griffin. Vote was unanimous.

Proposal to continue with renovation of City Hall by change order to the existing contract with John Kraholc, to include exterior painting, replacing windows, shutters and installing awnings on the police department windows. Cost would be \$17,522.00 as per bid from John Kraholc. Council Griffin made a motion to go ahead with change order, seconded by Council Williams. Vote was unanimous.

Request for City Manager to attend GMA training in Columbus on April 23-24, @ cost of \$270.00 plus lodging, meals and mileage: City Manager, Susan Doner, requested approval to attend classes in Columbus - Cost \$270.00. Council Williams made a motion to send the City Manager to the classes, seconded by Council Martin. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported the City Of Hahira will host the GMA 11th District spring meeting at the Hahira United Methodist Church Social Hall on May 4th. GMA President Bob Sosebee and his staff along with an estimated 100 delegates from GMA member cities will attend.

Mayor Adams reported that the Hahira Middle School "Hoops for Hearts" with three city teams playing, was held yesterday. This annual event has been held for the last three years. He stated that everyone had a good time with the Hahira Police Department being one of the highest scoring teams. Council Harris read the proclamation on "Hoops for Hearts".

Mayor Adams reported that April 24 would be "Clean-Up Day" in Hahira. He read a proclamation proclaiming April 18 through April 24 as "Lets Keep Hahira Clean Week".

Councils Martin and Williams had no report.

Council Griffin urged citizens to keep Hahira peachy clean.

Council Harris had no report, but thanked Commissioner Mitchell Chaney for attending tonight.

City Manager, Susan Doner, reported on reviewing job descriptions. She has been working on the Fire Chief description which will now include business licenses and permits. Each new employee will receive a personnel handbook.

Mayor Adams stated that the hospital relocation was still an issue and urged citizens to write letters to the State Health Planning Agency expressing their views and opposition to Smith Hospital relocating from Hahira. He expressed his appreciation of Commissioner Chaney's support. He stated he had read the request for proposal The EMS service and agreed who ever performs the service needs to operate under contract.

Mayor Adams and the city manager have been in contact with USDA officials in Tifton concerning the loan and grant for the waste water improvement project mandated by EPD. The city does not qualify for grant funds which means the full amount needed for the project will be a loan. It looks as if sewer rates will have to be raised dramatically to service the loan. He has been in contact with Congressman Bishop office requesting assistance.

The Mayor reported the city needs to appoint a representative to the Dangerous Dog Board. Council Harris accepted. Council Griffin made a motion to nominate Council Harris as representative to the Dangerous Dog Board, seconded by Council Williams. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported that he had received a letter from the Governor's office acknowledging receipt of an application submitted on the Mayors behalf by Senator Tim Golden for assistance from the Governor's discretionary fund for funds to renovate the Tillman Street Recreation center building and possibly build a tennis court. He stated that the city is growing, that currently five new houses are permitted for construction, that there have been approximately 100 new housing units built in the city in the last three years and estimated the population is in excess of 1800. Design work is proceeding on the water and sewer lines to the Hahira Business Park.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

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