

Council Meeting
August 10, 2000

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, August 10, 2000 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, and Sonny Copeland; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Woodrow Blue.

ABSENT Council Hunnicutt.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

Visitors were welcomed and a quorum of council was established.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2000, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Mr. Brad Arnold, Interim County Manager, reported on amending an the SPLOST IV agreement. Mayor Adams stated that the city would pass on this until a meeting could be held with other municipalities.

Mr. Arnold also reported on the Zoning Building Inspections Contracts, Lowndes County Library Board appointments, a Lease Renewal Agreement for Recycle Center and the Green Space legislation. The legislation will provide funds to cities to set aside green space for water control, bike/walking paths and other recreational uses. If Hahira wants to participate, a letter of intent must be sent.

Mayor Adams stated that the present Hahira Library Board appointee has expressed a willingness to continue to serve on the board.

(B) Business Park Joint Resolution:

Mayor Adams read the resolution on road paving in the Business Park. Council Harris made a motion to pass the resolution as read seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Naming of the new road under construction into the Business Park and North Lowndes Recreation Complex:

Mayor Adams proposed naming the road "Sonny Rogers Memorial Drive" in memory of James "Sonny Rogers a citizen who contributed much to the community. Council Bullard made a motion to name the road "Sonny Rogers Memorial Drive", seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Honeybee Committee request to close roads and use Norfolk Southern Railroad property:

Ms. Adeline Landrum, Chairman of the Honeybee Festival Committee, asked to close the streets from the railroad on Lawson Street to Marshall Street only on Saturday October 7, 2000. Mayor Adams is working on an agreement with Norfolk Southern to use the empty lot. Council Copeland made a motion to close the streets only on Saturday October 7, 2000, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Department Requests:

John Thursby, Public Utilities Director, asked for approval to purchase a chop saw for the water/sewer and street departments as the old one is beyond repair. He recommended a TS-510 for \$937.00. Council Harris made a motion to approve the purchase of the TS-510, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thursby asked for Council's approval to donate five (5) used garbage containers to the Lowndes County Band. After discussion, Council Bullard made a motion to donate five (5) containers, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thursby asked for Council's approval to purchase a touch-read system for reading water meters. Meters would be read with a hand held computer. He asked to start the program with 200 meters at a cost of around \$46,630. This would be a SPLOST funded project. The meters would be purchased from Slumber J and would be Neptune Meters. Council Harris made a motion to approve purchasing the touch-read meter system, and meters, seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to purchase a computer for his office. Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Mayor Adams reported on a nomination to the Valdosta Lowndes County Recreation Board. He recommended appointing Hubby Brooks to the Recreation Board. Council Bullard made a motion to appoint Hubby Brooks seconded by Council Copeland.

(G) Contract with DCA concerning state funds.

Mayor Adams asked Council to authorize him to execute an agreement with DCA on state funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 to replace sidewalks and street lights. Council Harris made a motion to give the Mayor authorization to execute the agreement with DCA seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Nutrition Program employee benefits problem:

Mayor Adams reported that when the city took over the nutrition program for the county, there were three part-time employees added. Part-time employees are not entitled to benefits, according to the city personnel policy. One of the part-time employees was given benefits. Mayor Adams recommended adhering to our personnel policy. Council Bullard made a motion to stick with the city employee's plan seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(I) Christmas light purchase request:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to purchase the Christmas lights for \$2,550.00. Council Bullard made a motion to purchase the Christmas lights, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(J) Monetary donation for playground equipment for Smith Park and request to purchase:

Mayor Adams reported on a citizens donation for playground equipment for Smith Park. He asked for Council's approval to purchase the equipment, which would cost \$14,497.00 installed. Council Harris made a motion to authorize Mayor Adams to go ahead and purchase the equipment, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(K) Proposal to amend water rates to cap sewerage charge at 10,000 gallons for residential customers and to keep commercial users of less than 5,000 gallons on residential rate:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to send a letter explaining the new water/sewer rates to the citizens. After discussion, Council Harris made a motion to authorize the Mayor to send the letters, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Council reports:

Council Copeland reported that there was trash spilled at the dumpsters after the garbage truck has picked up the garbage. Also, there are stacks of limbs alongside the roads.

Council Bullard reported that the city was making progress on Smith Park. The gazebo has been installed.

Mayor Adams reported that the County was donating some playground equipment to the city. This equipment will be divided and put into two locations. The equipment will need to be painted.

Council Harris thanked Brad Arnold for coming to the meeting, also Mr. David Fields. He also stated that this would be the 19 year of the Honeybee Festival.

Mayor Adams reported on a petition being circulated for support of a CDBG grant application. He stated that names were needed on the petition. This includes anyone living on the southwest side of town that is affected by high water problems.

Mayor Adams stated that the city plans to submit another CHIP grant application and applicants are needed for the one awarded in June.

Mayor Adams reported on the first business planning to locate in the Hahira Business Park. Wire Rope of America, the largest manufacturer of wire rope in the United States plans to build a small Distribution center and employ 20 to 25 employees.

Plans are being finalized to extend water and sewer mains further into the park by the Valdosta Lowndes County Industrial Authority.

Another unnamed business has shown an interest in locating in the park and will employ 10 employees.

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

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn