

**Council Meeting
December 7, 2000**

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

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt and Sonny Copeland; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, J. C. Clair.

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 Copeland made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9 regular meeting and called meetings on, September 29, and October 12, 2000, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported on the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) Adoption of 2001 Budget:

Council Harris made a motion to approve the budget as presented at the November 9th Budget Public Hearing. Seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Rezoning request by Paula Sue Webb Cross P.C. File #HA-2000-5. Mayor Adams reported that applicants Attorney withdrew the request by letter dated December 5, 2000

Old Business:

(A) Repairs to Courthouse floor:

Council Bullard reported that he had found a supplier for flooring that would match the termite damaged floor in the courthouse. Council Bullard made a motion to accept the bid proposal for repairs from John Kraholik. Seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

New Business:

(A) Department request:

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase Kustom Signal radar for \$3,110.00, an intoximeter (Alco-Sencor) for \$522.00 and a tint meter for \$210.00. Funding would come from a Governors Highway Safety Grant, awarded to the Police Department. Council Harris made a motion to authorize the equipment purchase and close the grant. Vote was unanimous.

(B) Increase in water and sewer tap fees and commercial sanitation rates:

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, presented a request to increase water/sewer tap fees. Council Bullard made a motion to increase the water/sewer tap fees as requested, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous. (New fee rates attached)

Thursday also requested an increase in commercial garbage collection fees to be effective with the January billing cycle. Council Harris made a motion to accept the proposal to increase commercial sanitation pickup rates seconded by Council Copeland. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous. (New fees attached)

Mr. Thursday also requested approval to purchase three additional trailers for collection of cardboard. Council Harris made a motion to authorize the purchase, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Discussion of Personnel Handbook, Section 6; Vacation Leave:

Mayor Adams reported seven employees are currently in violation of the city annual leave policy as stated in SECTION 6: VACATION LEAVE of the personnel handbook which reads as follows;

All vacation leave must be earned before being taken. Leave may be taken or accumulated up to a maximum of 20 days after which leave must be used or lost. Special situations due to work emergencies will be decided on an individual basis by Council.

Paragraph 8 states, after one year of employment, employees leaving the service of the government will be paid for unused vacation leave to their credit, but not more than the maximum accumulation of twenty days specified above.

Mayor's recommendation for correction of violations of annual leave policy.

Each employee is issued a City of Hahira Personnel Handbook when employed and it is their responsibility to become familiar with the above policy, therefore the city is not obligated to grant or pay employees for this accumulated leave.

Therefore I recommend, all employees be notified that effective immediately the leave policy will be enforced as stated in the personnel manual.

That, the city will allow the seven employees to take the excess accumulated leave above 20 days during their employment with the city at the convenience of the city.

That, should these employees terminate or be terminated for any reason, all leave in excess of the 20 days allowed by the leave policy will be forfeited. In the event of an extended illness and all accumulated sick leave is used up, the Council will consider the use of the accumulated annual leave be used as sick leave.

That, the following sentence be added to SECTION 7: SICK LEAVE, Paragraph 2. *Sick leave must be earned before being taken.*

Council Copeland made a motion to adopt Mayor's recommendation, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Public Utilities Director: Proposal to clean and paint caboose:

John Thursby, Public Utilities Director, stated that he would clean and paint the caboose for \$1,800.00 labor expenses with the city furnishing the supplies. Council Harris made a motion to give John Thursby the O.K., seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Approval of payment of employee Christmas bonus, sick leave in excess of 160 hours, voluntary firefighters training sessions and Christmas decoration incentive: The Christmas incentive will be funded by a grant from The National Center For Small Communities awarded to the Mayor along with The American Hometown Leadership Award.

Mayor Adams recommended paying the Christmas bonuses on with the December 15th payday. The total amount will be \$5,034.44. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams recommended paying employees for sick leave excess in excess or 160 hours on the December 22nd payday. The total amount will be \$2,101.93. Council Bullard made a motion to pay excess leave. Seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams recommended paying volunteer firefighters for attending training sessions on the December 22nd payday. The total amount will be \$1,890.00. Council Bullard made a motion to pay the volunteer Fire Fighters. Seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Payment of Geosciences invoice with SPLOST funds:

Mayor Adams recommended paying Geosciences invoice #12000 for installing monitoring wells in the city hall parking lot at a cost of \$6,746.55 with SPLOST funds. Council Harris made a motion to authorize payment using SPLOST funds seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Date for Luminary:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to set December 16th as the date for this years Luminary. Council Copeland made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(G) Set date and time to amend 2001 budget:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to set December 28, 7:30 P.M. as the date and time to amend the 2001 budget. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(H) GMA Mayor's day registration:

Mayor Adams asked the Council to turn in their registration forms by the 15th for GMA Mayor's day in Atlanta to avoid late registration charges.

Council reports:

Council Copeland commended Charles McCann on the work he had done in cleaning the streets.

Council Hunnicutt had no report but stated that the city looked festive with the Christmas lights and decorations.

Council Bullard stated that the parks were looking good. Some ditches needed work.

Council Harris commended the city employees on the work they had done and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also mentioned the Hahira Web site.

Mayor Adams concurred with the comments made concerning the city. He commented on the cash awards to be given to the winners of the Christmas decoration contest. The Christmas Parade and Open House is scheduled for Saturday December 9th.

On the December 14th the Mayor's Motorcade will be held in Thomasville. The city is still collecting gifts to take to patients at Southwestern State Hospital. The Mayor, Police and Fire Chiefs are planning to deliver the gifts and participate in the motorcade.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn