

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting September 6, 2012 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Cain, Ralph Clendenin, Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PW Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: Councilmember Benjamin

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A.) July 31, 2012-Work Session
- B.) August 2, 2012-Council Meeting
- C.) August 6, 2012 Budget Workshop II

Mayor Bullard asked if any corrections or questions concerning the minutes. No corrections noted. **A motion was made to accept the minutes as read made by Councilmember Clendenin which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Benjamin voted in favor of the motion.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S Washington Street stated that he had three statements. Mr. Stanley feels that we have no complaints on the garbage service and that we get good service and that he feels there is no reason to try to fix something that is not broken. He also stated that he felt in regards to the contract for garbage service that there is no law that says if the City has not complaints with the current service then we cannot renew the contract. HE then asked in regards to the website that because the service will be over \$1000.00 if consideration had been taken to put out for RFP.

Sherry Brown of 217 Randall Street stated she wondered if anyone had considered in regards to converting to statement billing that the statements would have to be addressed, it was then stated that they would print and be put in window envelopes. She also spoke on the fact that she feels an RFP should be put out for the website. She stated the current person wanting to do the website lives in Tifton and that she feels we should get someone from Hahira.

Sharon Respass owner of Sew Blessed on Main Street stated she attended the Downtown Merchants Meeting and that in regards to the billboard the downtown owners decided not to advertise via billboard. She stated they decided to put \$200.00 each to run a full page ad in the VDT one time a month on Wednesday (grocery day) and to run separate ad on downtown owner's website. This would reach more people (approximately 181,000) and would allow Stacey to put stuff in the paper free of charge to the City. She stated they are trying different things to reach out and let people know what the City has. She then stated she would like to see the City do the billboard service since the business owners are trying other avenues.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. FY13 BUDGET-PRELIMINARY ADOPTION (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated this is another step in the Budget process per ordinance. Sumner then stated that in May the departments began to work on budget, then it went to Council for review and discussion and then Council reviewed budget in Workshops. He stated there were a few changes that had been made and those sheets sent to Council with everything else largely unchanged. He stated the budget is in preliminary form and now it needs to be advertised in the Valdosta Daily Times and final adoption in October. Sumner then stated that he would like to recommend adoption of the FY budget. Councilmember Benjamin then stated he would like to thank City Manager Sumner and the department heads for turning out a good budget.

The Mayor then asked if anyone was wishing to speak in favor of the FY13 Budget; none noted. The Mayor then asked if anyone was wishing to speak against the FY13 Budget; none noted. **Councilmember Benjamin voted to accept the FY13 Budget as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Clendenin all voted in favor of the FY13 Budget-Preliminary adoption.**

B. GRASS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-FIRST READING (CHIEF DAVIS)

Chief Davis stated that after discussion at Tuesday night work session an addition to the ordinance would be a hardship exemption. HE then stated it would be taking the ordinance we currently have and adding that we would bring them to court if they do not take care of the issue if not taken care of within the allowed 10 days. City Manager Sumner stated he felt this was a good decision. He stated they would have the first reading tonight, if one or more do not vote in favor of change then would go to second and third reading. Councilmember Adams then stated that under the current ordinance if the grass is exceeding 10 inches then notice is placed on door with 10 days to cut; then if not cut another notice is given and then if not cut red tagged and certified letter sent. If not cut at this point Chief Davis then talks to City Manager and Public Works Director to have the grass cut by the City. Chief Davis stated that problem with this is that foreclosures, contractors and absentee property owners have no intent of cutting the grass. He stated he is looking for an avenue to handle. Councilmember Adams then stated that her big concern was people that live here and are good homeowners that there may come a time that they have a hardship and cannot cut the grass. She stated that she feels their needs to be a hardship exception in the ordinance and then read a sample of the hardship ordinance. City Manager Sumner then stated that he would like to comment that if it is a staff decision that there needs to be criteria. Chief Davis then stated that we could maybe have the Councilmember sit in and decide if hardship or set up by district. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he agrees with the City Manager that there needs to be criteria for example lawnmower broken verses in the hospital would make a difference in the decision. Chief Davis also stated that we need to have criteria for repeat offenders. Councilmember Adams stated that she felt we need to postpone until later date. Councilmember Clendenin stated he felt their needs to be a letter. Chief Davis made a request to add correct wordin to define hardship and to do second reading; ordinance needs a number. The Mayor asked if anyone was wishing to speak against the grass ordinance. Lawrence Nelson stated he does think we should put a lien on the property and

that he feels it should not be up to the Councilmember's but needs to go before the Judge to decide. He stated he felt that City employees should not be on private property; he felt it is a great liability and that it wears on the city machines and cost the City money in gas and repairs. He stated he felt it should be out of the City's hands and put into the proper hands. **Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to accept the ordinance with hardship exemption which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Adams voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted against the ordinance. Mayor stated it will go to second reading.**

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the bills. **Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to pay the bills which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Clendenin voted in favor to pay the bills.**

DISCUSSIONS:

DISCUSSION OF GARBAGE CONTRACT (COUNCILMEMBER CLENDENIN)

Councilmember Clendenin stated he felt we could save money on the monthly garbage contract. HE stated he had spoken with an attorney at GMA and they stated the contract would be null and void at the end of year. The Mayor asked where he was going with this. Councilmember Clendenin stated citizens should have opportunity to bid and he stated that there was a new company coming to the area. The Mayor stated that no someone had bought out Veolia. Councilmember Adams stated that we need a company that can pick up white and brown materials and that the contract says it ends on December 31, 2012. She stated that there is no provision for it to be rolled over and that we need to put out RFP. Councilmember Clendenin stated that we could possibly get the service for less. Councilmember Adams stated that it not that they are not doing a good job but that it is a matter of doing things the correct way. Mayor Pro Tem Cain asked Rob Plumb the attorney if it would be illegal to extend the contract? Attorney Plumb stated that the contract does end on December 31, 2012 but that there is no legal requirement to put it out for bid; the charter says to purchase must be under contract but not for services. Councilmember Adams stated that the garbage collection is Public works and services. Per attorney Plumb no you do not have to put out for bid but you can if you want to. Sumner stated that contracted services do not have to have RFP and that the routine maintenance or services does not have to be put out for RFP and that project specific skills such as attorney, surveyors do not have to put them out. He stated this would have to be found in the Charter. Attorney Plumb stated he would recommend that there is a written agreement and if you do nothing then you have this agreement as long as you want it. He also said you can take the current contract and change the dates and use that. Councilmember Clendenin stated you need the best service at the best price and that we represent the citizens; so narrow minded. He then stated that they (council) are not doing their jobs. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to issue an RFP as soon as possible for garbage service which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Adams voted in favor to issue an RFP. Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted against the RFP. Mayor Bullard voted against putting an RFP out for garbage pickup.**

DISCUSSION ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE BILLBOARD THAT WE DISCUSSED A FEW MONTHS BACK (COUNCILMEMBER CLENDENIN)

Councilmember Clendenin stated that it would be a one time payment of \$3200.00 for the billboard and he recommends we do the billboard. City Manager Sumner stated that we was asked by the Downtown Business owners if the money does exist and he stated that there is money but the budget will need to be amended. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to pay the \$3200.00for the billboard on the Southbound**

lane of I-75 which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted in favor of motion.

DISCUSSION OF CONVERTING FROM POSTCARD TO LETTER BILLING FOR OUR WATER BILLS I.E. INCODE SOFTWARE CHANGES AND COST (COUNCILMEMBER CLENDENIN)

Councilmember Clendenin stated he thought we should wait until next month to gather more information. City Clerk Lisa Mashburn presented quotes for machine and a list of supplies needed with pricing. City Manager Sumner stated an activity of this importance needs a machine that is in excellent operating order so we would not want to purchase a used machine. He stated he spoke with the Pitney Bowes rep and they stated the machines have about a 10 year life span. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he felt that it was too much money to start this now.

Councilmember Clendenin stated he would like for them (Pitney Bowes) to come out and do a demonstration. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to postpone converting from postcard to letter billing which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted to postpone.**

SPEED MONITORING DEVICE (COUNCILMEMBER ADAMS)

Councilmember Adams stated that Chief had provided them with three quotes. **Councilmember Adams made a motion to purchase a speed monitor device for \$8,000, no second. The item died for lack of second. Councilmember Adams voted in favor of motion. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted against the motion to purchase speed monitoring device.**

DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC PATTERN ON HWY 122 (ROSE ADAMS)

Councilmember Adams stated that at work session it was discussed and decided after meeting with DOT engineers that it would be best to paint stripping to try to prevent a wreck at the intersection. It will be free to the City and this may defer an accident. Chief Davis stated that we will have to take out one parking space but no business is there in front of it; it is in front of the Church and he stated again that the street is not wide enough for turn lane. **Councilmember Adams made a motion to approve the DOT traffic pattern on Highway 122 and Church Street and take out one parking space which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted in favor of the motion.**

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

F. DEEP WELL GEFA LOAN (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that we are need of a deep well on the west side of town to increase services. He stated that the money was awarded from GEFA in the amount of a quarter of a million at 1% for 20 years. He then stated that the purchase price of the deep well is approximately \$470,000. Sumner then stated he wanted to know if we would like to accept the loan because he needs to get back to GEFA as soon as possible. The Mayor then recommended that we pay half with GEFA loan and other half \$50,000 from proprietary fund and \$200,000 from SPLOST VI. City Manager Sumner stated that the SPLOST VI fund is getting low and that \$115,000 is already committed. City Manager Sumner stated that if we do ask for a reduced loan amount from GEFA that he wants everyone to be aware that we may have to push other projects back for 6-8 months to replenish the fund. He then stated that if we do full loan the monthly payment will be approximately \$2,200. Sumner stated that the proprietary fund is very healthy due to tap fees and stated that water rates have not been increased in the last 15 years. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he was opposed to the loan but that the 1% interest is unheard of and that we should keep

what we have in the SPLOST VI fund. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to accept the loan of \$500,000 from GEFA at 1% interest for 20 years which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Adams and Mayor Pro Tem Cain all voted in favor of the motion to accept the GEFA loan.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. BOUNCE HOUSE**
- B. CHLORINATOR**
- C. EMA RESOLUTION**

A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Benjamin which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Clendenin all voted in favor of Consent agenda.

REPORTS:

Councilmember Adams praised Sharon Hewitt from public works department for the new pictures in the Courthouse; choosing the pictures and hanging them on the wall; she is also responsible for the fall plants in front of City Hall and the around town. She also thanked Chief Davis for helping people in need. She then recognized Sherry Brown who was present at meeting for her help with the Honeybee Pageant. She then informed everyone of the upcoming ceremony on 9/11 at the fire department and tour of the new EMS building. She then thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight and the opportunity to serve. Thank you to the City Manager and department heads on the budget and the job they do.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain thanked all for coming out and thanked Chief Davis for the outstanding work. He also thanked Chief Bennett for going to Washington. He stated he felt that we have the best Fire Chief and Police Chief. He thanked PW Warren for his hard work; always has praise for him and Donnie is always working to fix something.

Councilmember Clendenin said ditto to all of the above. He then reminded everyone on the Honeybee next month from October 1-6 and that will be a very busy time. He then reminded everyone of the third Thursday on September 20th and the Motoring on Main on September 22; there will be music and a car show. He then stated it was a very interesting Council meeting and thank you to Donnie for getting the tree down on Nelson Street.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. Thank you to all the department heads, Paul a, and Lisa. He then stated it is great to be in Hahira. HE then stated that the EMS building is finished and ribbon cutting will be on 9/11 and the public is welcome.

Mayor Bullard thanked all the department heads for the good job they do and that they take care of whatever you call them to do. He then stated without the SPLOST money could not have done the Fire Department. Thank everyone for coming.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn