**CITY OF HAHIRA**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 P.M.**

**HAHIRA DEPOT**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council Meeting at the Hahira Depot with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding**.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Kenneth Davis, Terry Benjamin and Council-elect Tony Rosatti. Mayor Pro Tem Mason Barfield, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Police Chief Terry Davis and PWD Brandon Rice. City Attorney Rob Plumb and Planning & Zoning Administrator Matt Martin.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INOCATION:** Pastor Mike Davis

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

**COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 3**

Mayor Bruce Cain administered the Oath of Office for Tony Rosatti of District 3.

**REVIEW / CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

1. **JANUARY 5, 2021 WORK SESSION**
2. **JANUARY 7, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections. None noted.

**Mayor Pro Tem Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilman Benjamin. Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Davis, Councilman Rosatti and Mayor Pro Tem Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **HA-2020-09 REZONING REQUEST BY JERRY STOKER: PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AT INTERSECTION OF SOUTH HAGAN BRIDGE AND EAST COLEMAN DRIVE (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**

Mr. Martin stated we have talked about this and I gave you a composite package at the Work session on Tuesday night. This is the 3rd time this has been discussed and it has been advertised again. This is rezoning and annexation. To recap this is 28.3 acres that is requested to be annexed into the City with a total of 37.5 acres for zoning and R-6 zoning requested. The Planning Commission recommended to approve R-10 North of Coleman Road and R-15 South of Coleman Road. You can be more restrictive if you would like to. Does anyone have any questions? None noted. The Mayor stated we will open for Public comment, each person will have 3 minutes to speak. Does anyone wish to speak in favor?

Zach Cowart, attorney for Jerry Stoker stated I think all R-10 would complement Hahira. After request from the Planning Commission and citizens he would do small lots with R-10 and R-6. The neighborhood would have pedestrian access across Coleman Road and parking for school to address the traffic on Hagenbridge Road. It will be a nice subdivision and will be great for the City of Hahira for continued development.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against.

Kathy Blanton of 628 Coleman said she lives on corner of Coleman Road and Hagenbridge. I have talked to most of the neighbors and the residents of Lawson Farms and they would like to see if remain like it is. If you must develop the request is for R-10 and R-15 to stay in line with current zoning of R-15.

Davis Thomas of 619 Horseshoe Bend said he moved here 1 year ago and we love it here. The traffic to the school is heavy now, you have capacity for additional 180 homes with 2 additional cars each. I am not in favor of all the traffic but hope if have to do it that it will be R-15 and high end.

Steve Downey of 771 Fry Road said he is a developer for trained educators and he sees the impact it will have on the schools. We already have McNeal Estates and 4 developments on Val del Road and they will all come to Hahira and impact staffing and meals. The tax revenue will be not cover it. I think you should approve only R-15 and I have already signed the petition that you have in front of you.

Todd Pitchford of 5800 Coleman Road NW, I live 1.1 miles down the Coleman Road and we already have a flooding issue on our road with the slightest rain. I think the County should come in and fix drains and pave the road. From a traffic situation, it cannot be handled, something needs to hold off. I know growth will happen but I think you should follow the planning commission’s recommendations and also fix the water drainage problems.

Mr. Jones of 5670 Coleman Road says he knows there will be growth. I live on a farm on Coleman Road and I know things are changing but I feel the fewer the houses the better it will be. I think they should be larger homes. I also think there is a lot of traffic on Coleman Road now but I think it should be on the paving list. It is a speed road, it is dirt and I think there are a lot of safety issues.

Mr. Van Nus of 6258 Chancy Drive said that he purchased his land decades ago and I am in the County and I have restrictive nature. I have a grave concern for wild life and my property backs up to all of this. There is a lot of water run off now and you want to replace all this land with concrete and asphalt. I am concerned about the noise factor and the new river on side of property. I would like to ask you to reconsider and only approve minimum of R-15.

Robert Christy of 524 S Hagenbridge said I moved here 15 years ago. It was like I was living in the Country then. I know we will have growth but we need to manage it in good ways. We need to uplift the City. I think you should go with R-10 and R-15 option and also add traffic light at Hagenbridge and Coleman Road.

The Mayor asked if Council had questions or comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Barfield said he is pleased to see everyone here tonight. I credit the staff that does a good job and take care of things, we do not have a lot of complaints. I wish Hahira could stay the way it is. It is a great place to live and I enjoy being a part of it. We must try to manager growth because it is coming. We need to have a logical growth pattern. We can’t wait to have the road paved or the schools ready, government responds to a need. I am in favor of the R-10 and R-15 to maintain the integrity of what we have. We just have to manage it.

Councilman Davis stated when I look at the project there is a lot to look at. We have a lot of concern regarding property values, traffic and schools. It is a matter of perspective. We are ask to approve or deny only about annexation and zoning. The property if private property and they can build as they zoned and can build without permission. They could put 15-20 driveways on Hagenbridge and Coleman and they do not have to wait for paving. We need to consider the right plan and I agree with R-10 and R-15. This will keep a lot of traffic off of Hagenbridge and Coleman.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out and giving your input. Thank you to the citizens of the City and the County. I have talked to a lot of people via email and via phone about this and there is a lot of concern. The request was for no R-6 or all R-10 and many wanted nothing at all there. I understand it all and know the developer did a good job with the design.

**Mayor Pro Tem Barfield made a motion to approve HA-2020-09 with Planning Commission recommendation of R-10 North of Coleman and R-15 South of Coleman with no access to Coleman or Hagenbridge which was seconded by Councilman Rosatti. Councilman Rosatti, Councilman Davis, Councilman Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

1. **HA-2020-10 ANNEXATION REQUEST BY JERRY STOKER: PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AT INTERSECTION OF SOUTH HAGAN BRIDGE AND EAST COLEMAN DRIVE (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**

Martin stated this is 28.3 acres in Lowndes County to be annexed into the City of Hahira. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor.

Zach Cowart, attorney for Jerry Stoker stated this will be annexed in and the City of Hahira will provide water and sewer and I think that will be a benefit.

Kathy Blanton of 628 Coleman stated after hearing all the explanations there is no opposition. We trust you and appreciate it.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against HA-2020-10.

None noted.

**Councilman Davis made a motion approve HA-2020-10 Annexation which was seconded by Councilman Benjamin. Councilman Davis, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Rosatti and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None noted.**

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted. **Councilman Benjamin made a motion to pay the bills as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barfield. Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Davis, Councilman Rosatti and Mayor Pro Tem Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **WATER QUALITY (JULIE GUIMOND, SENSIBLE WATER SOLUTIONS)**

Julie Guimond of Sensible Water Solutions came to speak about the HAA5 levels in the water. She stated that she works with 15 Counties in Florida, 17 Cities in Georgia and has been the owner for 15 years. She stated she attended FSU and received chemistry/biology degrees. HA-5 violations are common across all 50 states so you are not alone. I began working on a solution to fix it 27 years ago. I propose to fix the carbon footprint and come back with EPA certified test results. I will be testing tomorrow and come back and see what we can find to fix the problem. This is free of charge and it will be done to see where we might be able to help. City Manager Sumner stated that we will discuss this more tomorrow at the Retreat at the Depot. The levels are not very high so it should be easy fix. The Mayor stated we have well 3 off at this time to address this issue. We are committed to finding a solution.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

1. **REAPPOINTMENT OF MORGAN DAVIS AND LEANNE GRIFFIN TO MAIN STREET BOARD (CITY MANAGER)**

The Board recommends reappointment of Morgan Davis and Leanne Griffin to the Main Street Board. Does anyone have any questions? None noted**. Councilman Benjamin made a motion to approve the reappointment which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Barfield, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Davis and Councilman Rosatti all voted in favor of the motion.**

**REPORTS:**

Councilman Davis congratulated new Councilman Rosatti and thanked everyone for coming out tonight. I would like to thank Kathy Blanton for all that she does. Thank you for the process and this is testament to the process.

Councilman Rosatti stated this is an honor and privilege. I am not a big social media guy. I have lived here for 16 years and I am committed to serving the Citizens. You can reach out to me anytime, your participation and concerns are all valid and we all work for the best interest of the entire community.

Mayor Pro Tem Barfield said ditto to all that has been said, I am proud of what we got done here tonight. It took some time but we all hashed it out. We had a lot of concerns we worked out but we can’t stop growth. I am proud to be a part of this City. Thank you to all the directors and welcome to Brandon Rice.

Councilman Benjamin said ditto to everything said and he thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve District 1. We lost Wyetta McKinney yesterday and her services will be tomorrow. She will be missed, she loved Hahira. Welcome to Councilman Rosatti, if you have any questions or need help I am ready to help. Welcome to our new Public Work Director, we are so glad to have you. I would like to say thank you to Donnie if I called him he was there. You have big shoes to fill. Thank you to the department heads and each department. Be safe and do something kind.

City Manager Sumner thank everyone for the opportunity to serve, I enjoy working with staff and the department heads. Welcome to Brandon and we appreciate Donnie. Congratulation to Councilman Rosatti and our condolences to the family of Wyetta McKinney. If anyone has any questions please feel free to come by City Hall and talk.

Mayor Cain stated condolences for the family of Wyetta McKinney, she was more than a citizens she was a friend. She will be missed. To the Department heads it is always a pleasure to work with you. Brandon came in at a bad time and he took the reins and is trying to find a solution. Welcome to Councilman Rosatti, we have a good Council and hope to continue moving forward. Councilman Benjamin is back and it is good to see him. Thank you to all the Citizens for coming out and thank you to Kathy Blanton for all that you do. It has been a pleasure to talk to you all about your concerns. We can try to control growth. Thank you to Matt Martin for all his hard work.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**