

COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 1999

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, August 5, 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; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Fire Chief, J. C. Plair; Police Chief, Woodrow Blue.

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

Council Williams gave the invocation.

Mayor Adams welcomed visitors and a quorum was established.

Mayor Adams asked for a motion to approve the July 1999 Council meeting minutes.

Council Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 1999, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams asked for a motion to approve payment of the July 1999 bills.

Council Harris made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Griffin. Vote was unanimous.

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

(A) Ms. Hollie Bullard - Hahira Community Technology Center:

Ms. Bullard briefed Council on the new business which will be in the Parrott Company building on South Church Street. Computer classes are scheduled to begin in September.

(B) Utility Encroachment Ordinance:

Mayor Adams asked Council to adopt an ordinance, which would require companies doing work on the city's right-of-ways to pay a franchise fee. This was a recommendation from the GMA. Council Williams made a motion to adopt the

ordinance as recommended by GMA, seconded by Council Griffin. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Recreation:

Mayor Adams reported on estimates for three recreation projects: (1) Bathrooms at Webb-Miller Park at a cost of \$24,844; (2) Repairs and improvements to the Recreation Center for \$16,490.00; (3) Construction of a gazebo at Smith Park. He said that the City could only handle one project at this time, and asked for Council's approval to complete the gazebo in Smith Park. The city has received a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources for state for this project. Council Griffin made a motion to proceed with Smith Park and to delay the other two projects until a later date, seconded by Council Williams. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported that the County was donating playground equipment to the city and recommended that it be placed in City Park on South Church Street. Council Griffin made a motion to place it in City Park, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Resolutions:

At the July Council meeting, Mayor Adams recommended giving a donation of \$750.00 to the Georgia Cities Foundation for downtown development. The resolution for this donation was not presented at that meeting. City Manager read the resolution. Council Williams made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

The City Manager read a resolution for a 90 day loan for \$55,000 from the Citizens Community Bank to cover initial expenses related to the wastewater treatment facility. Council Griffin made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported on the Lowndes County Fire Marshall to do inspections at the school.

Council Martin made a motion to adopt the resolution which would authorize the County Fire Marshal to inspect the school additions, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

City Manager read a resolution that would authorize the Christmas Committee to purchase Christmas decorations on behalf of the City of Hahira, in the amount of

\$5,000.00. Council Griffin made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Williams. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Proposal for Geosciences:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to pay Geosciences \$1,450.00 for completion work of the old fuel tank site in the parking lot at City Hall. Council Harris made a motion to approve the additional funds to pay for the work, seconded by Council Griffin. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Computer purchase:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to purchase a computer from Systems Development for \$1,095.00. This has been budgeted. Council Harris made a motion to purchase the computer, seconded by Council Williams. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(G) House Bill 489 Agreements:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to sign the agreement or to table it. Council Griffin made a motion to approve the Mayor's signing the agreement, seconded by Council Williams. Discussion followed. Motion was withdrawn. Council Martin made a motion to table the agreement until such time as it has been written, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(H) Contract with Municipal Tax Consulting and Management:

Contract would allow Municipal Tax Consulting and Management to attempt to recover excise and other miscellaneous taxes for the City of Hahira. City Manager, Susan Doner, recommended using the contract. Council Griffin made a motion to enter into the contract, seconded by Council Williams. Vote was unanimous.

(I) Amendment to City of Hahira Meeting Procedures:

Mayor Adams reported on changes to the Sunshine Law that require a meeting agenda to be posted two weeks before the meeting. He recommended that the deadline for Citizens wishing to be heard be changed from noon on the Monday before the Council meeting to the end of the fifteenth day of the month preceding the meeting. Council Williams made a motion to change the meeting procedures, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

(J) Water and sewer rate increase:

Mayor Adams reported that the new water and sewer rates would have to be approved. This will have to be voted on when the new budget is approved. Council Griffin made a motion to raise the rates, seconded by Council Martin. Vote was unanimous.

(K) Department requests:

Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, asked for Council's approval to purchase a Dodge truck from Cass Burch Dodge in Quitman, GA, at a cost of \$17,809.00. The truck had already been approved at a previous Council meeting. Council Williams made a motion to proceed with the purchase, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thursby also requested purchasing sanitation containers from Mayo Company at a cost of \$7,761.00 and 55 curbside containers at a cost of \$2,722.00 from The Heil Company. Council Williams was asked to investigate this.

Council Martin had no report.

Council Williams suggested looking into contracting with GeoWaste, or another company, to pick up garbage in the city.

Council Griffin suggested looking into contracting with the Lowndes County Sheriffs Department to police the city, and the County Fire Department to serve the City of Hahira.

Council Harris suggested looking into contracting with the Lowndes County Public Works Department to maintain the streets.

City Manager had no report.

Mayor Adams reported that the city had received a notification letter from the Governor that he was awarding the city a \$15,000.00 grant from his discretionary fund for improvements to the Recreation Center.

Mayor Adams reported he had negotiated an agreement with Geo-Waste to lower sanitation fees tipping from \$29.00 per ton to \$27.00 per ton effective today..

Council Griffin and Mayor Adams complimented Public Utilities Director, John Thursby, on the hand rails he installed at the Courthouse.

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

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn