

## Council Meeting

March 9, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Terry Benjamin and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Works Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Pope Langdale.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman M.C. Nelson, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mr. Wilmon Stanley.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

Mayor Crowe swore in Wayne Bullard, Councilman for District 3.

### REVIEW/CORRECTION OF JANUARY 8, 2004 COUNCIL MINUTES

**Council Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

### REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGETARY OVERAGES

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills and the budget overages.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

- A. Adoption of amended Joint Ordinance for the Greater Lowndes County Planning Commission reflecting the current membership for 10 appointees and amending other sections as shown – Anne Marie Wolff

Mayor Crowe stated that this would be brought up again at a later meeting.

- B. Approval of MOU between Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Hahira for the Greater Lowndes Urban Transportation Study

Charles Durr, Planning Commission representative, reported on the MOU and asked for the city's approval to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Greater Lowndes Urban**

**Transportation Study, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

HONEYBEE COMMITTEE – Ms. Landrum

Ms. Landrum of the Honeybee Committee asked for Council's permission to use the sidewalks, the area behind the caboose, the courthouse for registering vendors, the Recreation Center for the Kick-Off breakfast and the Honeybee Queen's reception, closing Lowndes St. to Lawson Street, and the services of the city, for the upcoming festival. She also asked that the banners should be put up about the middle of August and the flags put up about a week before the festival. **Council Nelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

2004 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Crowe reported on the assignments.

Council M. C. Nelson - Water/Sewer

Council Terry Benjamin - Culture/Recreation

Council Temple Ogundu - Streets/Sidewalks

Council Wayne Bullard - Public Safety

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

A. Purchase approval of Chop Saws (2)

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase two (2) Chop saws, one to be used in Public Works Department and the other for the Fire Department. Cost of the two saws is \$1,700.00. **Council Benjamin made a motion to purchase the chop saws as requested, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

B. Adopt Fire Department SOGs

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, asked Council to adopt the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). **Council Benjamin made a motion to adopt the Standard Operating Guidelines for the Fire Department, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

C. Approval of Fire Truck Purchase

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, asked for Council's approval to purchase a new fire truck. Cost of the truck and equipment would be \$158,592.00. This would be a lease purchase for 10 annual payments with zero down for the first year. **Council Nelson made a motion to purchase the fire truck, seconded by Council Ogundu. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.**

D. Approval of Safety Grant request for 7 bullet proof vests

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase 7 bullet proof vests for the Police Department at a cost of \$4,400.00. **Council Bullard made a motion to purchase the 7 bullet proof vests, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

E. Cintas ReviveR Provider Police Grant Application

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to apply for the grant for free defibrillators. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

F. Approval of Service Truck for Fire Department

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested the approval to purchase a 1995 ambulance from Regional EMS for use as a fire service/rescue truck. Total cost of truck, with paint, lettering, brackets, etc. would be \$8,400.00. **Council Nelson made a motion to purchase the truck for \$8,400.00, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

G. Repair of truck for Water/Sewer Department

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to repair the 1990 Chevy one-ton truck. Cost for a rebuilt engine and transmission would be \$4,200.00. There would be a one-year warranty. Funds for this project would come from the sale of surplus property. **Council Nelson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.**

H. Approval to Bid for Purchase of New Truck and Asphalt Roller

Public Works Director, John Thursby, requested approval to bid for a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck and a new asphalt roller for the Public Works Department. He requested approval from Council to allow the sale of surplus equipment and use the monies to purchase new equipment. **Council Nelson made a motion to approve the bids and sale of equipment, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

I. Increase Ramona Robison's work hours

City Manager, Janice Logue, requested increasing Ramona Robison's work hours from 25 per week to 35 hours per week. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.**

J. Approval to bid employee insurance

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval to bid insurance for city employees. **Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Agreement for execution of Certificate of Ownership and Agreement for LARP

Mayor Crowe reported that the agreement for LARP includes .09 miles on Johnson Street.

B. Approve 2004 Newly Elected Officials Institute attendance

Mayor Crowe reported that this was to approve Councilman Ogundu to attend the Institute in Athens.

C. Approve \$300.00 payment for Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting Dinner

Mayor Crowe reported that this was to approve \$300.00 payment for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting Dinner.

D. Approve reimbursement checks and hotel for Mayor's Day

Mayor Crowe reported that this was to approve reimbursent checks and hotel for Mayor's Day in Atlanta.

E. Change allowing Accounting Clerk or City Manager authority to make necessary line item amendments to budget within departments with approval of Mayor

F. Approval to amend code concerning compensation of elected officials

Mayor Crowe stated that this had been advertised in the paper several times in January.

G. Approval of Beer and Wine License Application

Mayor Crowe reported that this was for approval of a Beer and Wine Application for Akins Petroleum. Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that the investigation had been done and was approved.

H. Approval of Sam's Club Credit Card

Mayor Crowe stated that the credit card would be for Public Works Director, John Thursby, City Manager, Janice Logue, Better Hometown Director, Kimberly Hart, Finance Clerk, Ramona Robison and Mayor Crowe.

I. Approval to participate in the Great American Cleanup on April 17

Mayor Crowe reported that the Great American Cleanup would be on April 17. There will be other plans on this.

J. Appointment of Hubby Brooks to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Recreation Advisory Board

Mayor Crowe reported that Mr. Brooks would like to continue on the Advisory Board.

K. Appointment of Ms. Jeanette Clanton as the Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Hahira

Mayor Crowe reported that Ms. Clanton had agreed to serve on the Housing Authority Board.

**Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Crowe stated that Item #8 "MAYOR PRO TEM" which was to be discussed, has been removed from the agenda. This afternoon he received a copy from the City Attorney stating that Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin have filed a law suit against Mayor Crowe and the City of Hahira concerning this, however, no action was taken.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

1. Charles Kent, 404 Judy Ann Drive stated that he wanted to address the misrepresentation that they are receiving in District 2. He said that in the last three months, he did not feel that he had gotten the representation that was promised in November and thereon, culminated by a law suit that Mayor Crowe just read, which does not go along with what he feels to be, and many others in the community feel to be the actual works which should be going on at the City Council. It's a place where we are supposed to work together to make our community a better place to live, not to argue out individual agendas and to try to make our own personal feelings for me. This does not represent this district. It does not represent the individuals that he knows as his neighbors and he thinks it is a travesty in that. We have more pressing things that are going on that should be addressed, things that really matter to the people in this community. We have a condemned house on the end of Judy Ann Drive. It's been there for five years. It's been a subject of police work for transients and possible drug deals made at this place, yet it stands vacant and nothing is being done with that, and it stands just

two doors from our representative. He should take heed of the position that he has taken and not try to argue out his personal agendas.

2. Shannon Kingston, 507 Frances Street, stated that she wanted to address Temple tonight. She spoke to Temple and said that he had stated in January that he promised us several times that he would not let us down in District 2 and she felt like so far he has let us down. She felt that whatever personal or health problems, if it is going to keep us from having fair representation, she would asked him to step down.
3. Carol Jacobs, 402 E. Stanfill Street, asked Council about putting in a sidewalk on Stanfill Street. There are many people who walk and there is a lot of traffic coming from 122 going to 41 north. Some areas have deep ditches and are unsafe. Some parts of the street are more narrow than other areas. She asked the Council to please inspect the area and consider putting in sidewalks.
4. Brenda Diah, 405 Claudia Drive, stated that she was a new resident of Hahira and enjoyed the calm, easy living in Hahira. She stated that she was concerned about a development going in across the street from her residence. Many of her neighbors are also concerned. She wanted to know if the property would be able to handle 140 to 150 homes. One of her major concerns is the water and sewer. She asked when did the Planning Commission see the plat for the subdivision and did they approve it and when did the city see the plat and did they approve it? Mayor Crowe stated that Mr. Minchew is in the process and it will go to the Planning Commission for their review. The County Engineer and Mr. Rockmore from the Health Department will look at it. That has not been done yet to his knowledge, but it will have to be done before any homes can be built.
5. Floyd Rose, Valdosta, Georgia, apologized as he stated that when he signed the paper, he thought it was a sign in sheet.
6. Ramona Robinson, 304 Railroad Street, District 1, stated that she had listened to others speak on their dissatisfaction in representation and she would like to add her voice to them. She has not always agreed with her district representative, but she felt as though he was making an attempt at doing an excellent job. This year, since the first of the year, she has been very disappointed and cannot understand what the goal is in refusing to represent and making a political agenda instead of doing the business of the City of Hahira. It has reached a point, as an employee of the city, her job has been affected, and her performance has been affected and she is very unhappy. She felt that it was her right to complain and express how she felt about it.
7. Ralph Clendinen, 202 S. Hagan Bridge Road, stated that he had contacted the city recently requesting a copy of an impact study on the planned development on Hagan Bridge Road. He wanted to know what impact on the water and sewer systems for this development was going to cost taxpayers and why the city hasn't annexed the property for the taxation.
8. Freeman Rivers, 204 S. Hall Street, stated that the council meeting was not held on Thursday for lack of a quorum. In reading the Valdosta Daily Times, there was not a quorum when the city elected or voted on a City Manager. In talking about District 2 Councilman about asking him to step down, he also said that the City

Manager should step down. He stated that he was disappointed. He wanted citizens to stand up.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Benjamin welcomed Wayne Bullard back as Councilman. He thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting. There are several issues, whether considered frivolous or unheard of, there are things in our charter that are conflicting and to disregard a charter that they gave an oath for, that is frivolous. They have found things in the charter that just don't add up and to get clarity and to seek understanding of it. He stated that if you can't understand that, you can't understand anything and he didn't think anyone set out to destroy the city or council. The truth is what everybody is after. Several codes of the charter are not clear.

Council Ogundu congratulated Wayne Bullard for being elected. He stated that he was here to serve the people of Hahira. He said that he would refuse to violate the oath which he solemnly swore and supported the charter and ordinances of the City of Hahira. He also stated that he refused to use the city for personal financial or political gain. He assured the citizens that his positive energy and determination will be invested in working with the Mayor and Council. He wanted every citizen to know that he and his family had received threats and harrasments of all kinds and at the appropriate time and place these individuals will be brought to justice.

Council Nelson had no report.

Council Bullard thanked the voters for their support. He also thanked his opponent, who ran a good race. He stated that he hoped to do a good job and would serve the city and citizens of Hahira to the best of his ability. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Langdale of the D.O.T. who informed him of a program that was available for installing sidewalks. He will be going to Atlanta soon and would need the paperwork to take with him.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager, Janice Logue, had no report.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Crowe reported that the charter and ordinances of the City of Hahira have been followed in every area and they will continue to be followed. He hoped that the law suits would go away. The cost to the city for the cancelled March meeting was about \$300.00, which included City Attorney fees and others. He asked Council if they are sick or can't come to the meeting to please notify them.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion to adjourn. **Council Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Meeting ended at 8:30 P.M.

Myron Crowe  
Marilyn Brady  
Mayor  
City Clerk