

Council Meeting

August 5, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, August 5, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard and Temple Ogundu; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

ABSENT: Councilman Terry Benjamin and Public Works Director, John Thursby.

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

Mayor Crowe lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Councilman Wayne Bullard.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF JUNE 30TH WORK SESSION; JULY 1ST COUNCIL; JULY 19TH SPECIAL MEETING; JULY 29TH 8:30 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

(A) City of Hahira Millage Rate Increase

Mayor Crowe reported that this was the third meeting on the millage rate. Council suggested that the rate remain the same at 5.38, which it has been for the last three years.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the request? There was no response

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in opposition of the request. There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to keep the rate at 5.38, seconded by Council Nelson. Councils Bullard and Nelson voted yes. Council Ogundu voted no. Motion passed.

(B) City of Hahira Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance (1st reading)

Mayor Crowe reported that this was the first reading of two on the ordinance. This ordinance will be posted at City Hall. Persons interested can get a copy of the ordinance.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in opposition to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe stated that there would be no vote at this time.

End of Public Hearing

HONEYBEE COMMITTEE

Ms. Adeline Landrum and Carol Jacobs asked for council's approval to have a street dance after the Honey Bee Festival is over. The dance would be held at the parking lot beside the Courthouse on Saturday, October 2, 2004 beginning at 7:00 and would end at 10:30 P.M.

Council Nelson made a motion to allow them to have the street dance from 7:00 until 10:30 P.M., seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Crowe called on Courtclerk Bobbie Dumas to come forward. She was given a plaque in recognition

as Employee of the Quarter.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

- A. Approval to increase weekly bank draft from \$7,500.00 to \$8,750.00 to cover weekly payroll

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that due to an increase in salaries and employees, the weekly bank drafts are not enough to cover the amount of the payroll. The bank draft needs to be adjusted to \$8,750.00 per week.

- B. Approval to attend Local Government Financial Reporting

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval to send Ramona Robison to the class, which would be held on October 18 and 19. Registration would be \$179.00 and there would be a two night stay.

- C. Approval to purchase additional computer

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase a new computer for his office.

- D. Approval to attend Laws and Standards class in Savannah

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval for her and Ramona Robison to attend the class in Savannah on September 9 and 10.

- E. Adopt current NFPA Life Safety Codes

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, asked council to adopt the NFPA guide. Without adoption, the city cannot issue any citations for violations.

- F. Approval to spend \$2,755 FEMA Grant money to purchase lap top computer and hazardous materials software

Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, requested approval to purchase a lap top computer and software with the FEMA Grant money.

- G. Approval to proceed with options for Smith Hospital

Mayor Crowe reported that the city is in the process of accepting the donation. At this time, council has not made any plans on what to do. The city is not authorizing spending any money at this time. The official date that they will present the deed to the city will be on next Tuesday at 2:00 P.M.

- H. Approval to increase tap fees

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval to increase tap fees from \$750.00 to \$1,500.00. Council Nelson made a motion to go with \$1,000.00. No second to motion. After discussion, Mayor Crowe recommended taking item H (Approval to increase tap fees) off of the Consent Agenda.

Council Ogundu made a motion to approval items A through G, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

Council Nelson made a motion to change from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Council Nelson voted yes. Councils Bullard and Ogundu voted no. Motion declined.

Council Ogundu made a motion to wait and put it on the Agenda, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

- A. Approval to increase Police Officers pay

City Manager, Janice Logue asked for approval for an increase in Police officers pay. The city is a training ground for police officers. They are sent to the police academy for training, which costs a lot and takes a lot of time and effort out of the Police Department to have them trained. The city requires a three year contract. They can buy the contract out. Chief Davis researched salaries and found that Hahira was the lowest paid in the area. He also did a cost analysis of time and money to interview and go through the process of hiring the new officers. They studied the information and decided to bring the current police officers up \$1.50. That would start the new police officers at \$10.00 per hour. The additional cost through the end of the year would be \$3,781.00 to amend the budget on salaries. Chief Davis asked that he be taken out of the equation for the raise, but asked them to give it to the police officers and courtclerk.

Council Bullard made a motion to table it until next month, seconded by Council Nelson. Discussion followed. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted yes. Council Ogundu voted no. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Beer and Wine License Application

Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that he did a background check and recommended approval.

B. Approve LARP Listing

Mayor Crowe stated that there were six streets listed.

C. Approve Employee Handbook

Mayor Crowe stated that approval of the handbook would have to be subject to the City Attorney's approval.

D. Approval to solicit Sidewalk bids

Mayor Crowe stated they would continue with the sidewalk project on North Church Street and hopefully it would be completed before the Honey Bee Festival.

E. Approval to send Notice of Intent to Annex BP Station

Mayor Crowe stated that the BP Station located just over the overpass has never been annexed into the city.

A letter sent to the owners will have to be approved and in 30 days the city will proceed with the annexation process.

Chief Davis stated that the BP Station has a county beer and wine license. This would be an issue for Mayor and Council when they start to annex the property.

Councilman Ogundu stated that he wanted it on record that minorities could bid on the Sidewalk Project. Mayor Crowe stated that the city would advertise and whoever answers the advertisement will be considered.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Building Inspections/Permits

Mayor Crowe reported that this was discussed at last month's meeting and he wanted to clarify some of the things that were discussed. He stated that he had mentioned a name for the Building Inspector and a citizen in the audience gave an indication that we should watch out for that person. Two weeks ago he met with the Building Inspector in Valdosta and asked about the person and was informed that he was one of the finest Building Inspectors in the state. He also stated that an issue on liability came up. A citizen said that we would be liable. A builder said that we would not be liable. Mike Martin said there was no liability, other than negligence on the Building Inspector and in that case, it would not come to the city. The only way it would be a liability to the city would be for the city to persuade the Building Inspector to do something he is not supposed to do. Mayor Crowe recommended to Council that they make no decision at this time on Building Inspections but do something to help the builders out. The Building Inspections Department in Valdosta agreed to do the Pre-Aps in their office. They would need a copy of the current business licenses. They would send us a copy of the completed Pre-Aps.

Council Bullard made a motion to put the pre-applications with the City of Valdosta, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

B. Approve Georgia Power Lighting Proposal

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that 24 lights would cost \$914.00 to install. Monthly rates would increase \$211.42.

Council Nelson made a motion to table it until next meeting, seconded by Council Bullard. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted yes. Council Ogundu voted no. Motion passed.

BUDGET PLANNING SESSION

Mayor Crowe reported that the Budget Planning Session would be held on August 25th at Austin's Steakhouse in Valdosta starting at 8:30 A.M.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Crowe asked Chief Davis if there was anyone on the list. He stated there were none.

REPORTS

COUNCIL

Councilmen Ogundu and Bullard had no reports.

Council Nelson commended the Better Hometown and Honey Bee Committee for the breakfast served at the Courthouse for the tobacco buyers.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, seconded Councilman Nelson's commendation on the BHT and Honey Bee Committee for preparing and serving the breakfast to the tobacco buyers.

The five-year plan is in draft and anyone who wants to look at it can come by her office.

She received a letter on the city's re-codification project and they are releasing the information for typesetting.

MAYOR

Mayor Crowe also thanked the BHT and Honey Bee Committee.

Mayor Crowe called for a motion to enter into an executive session. **Council Nelson made a motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Meeting ended at 8:15 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Mayor

Marilyn Brady
City Clerk