

Council Meeting

September 2, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, September 2, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

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

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

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman Nelson to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Councilman Terry Benjamin.

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF AUGUST 5, 2004 COUNCIL MEETING

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

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Text Amendment – Hahira Subdivision Regulations- Section 4-1.3 and 4-2- "Preliminary Plats and Final Plats"

Anne-Marie Wolff, Associate Planner, of the Planning Commission stated that this item was postponed at the June Planning Commission meeting to allow staff time to meet with the surveying community. There are four issues: (1) Tax Map and Parcel Numbers – When staff receives a plat for review, it is necessary for the reviewer to precisely locate the property within the GIS database. The proposed amendment will require the Tax Map and Parcel number be included in the Letter of Intent submitted with the subdivision plat. (2) Variances – Often, a variance has been granted for the property being platted, which the reviewing staff may not be aware of. Staff is requesting that if a variance has been granted for the subject property, and is applicable to the proposed subdivision, the applicant place a note describing such variance on the subdivision plat. (3) Zoning – The current zoning needs to be on the plat. Though the zoning may change at a later date, having it noted on the plat would provide the historical information as to what development standards applied to the property at the time of subdivision. (4) Parent Tract Info – While surveying the entire parent tract is unnecessary, information relating to the

size and remaining frontage of the property should be shown to prevent the parent tract from being reduced below the minimum size and frontage requirements. Ms. Wolff stated that the 5th item was Points of Reference, which staff is still working towards a compromise for this issue. An additional text amendment will be presented in the near future addressing issue 5 and the exempt plat portion of issue 1. Staff requested approval of the proposed amendment to address the above noted four issues. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

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

Council Bullard made a motion to accept the Text Amendment, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

B. City of Hahira Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance (2nd reading)

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

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the ordinance to speak. There was no response.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

C. BP Annexation

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the annexation to speak. Police Chief, Terry Davis, spoke in favor of the annexation, as there is water and sewer services and police protection already at the location.

Mayor Crowe asked for those against the annexation to speak. There was no response.

Council Bullard made a motion to annex the BP Station into the city, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

End of Public Hearing

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Mayor Crowe stated that Mr. Jeff Rumminger, of the Advisory Board, was supposed to come tonight and speak on a survey that will be put out in Lowndes County. He will come to the next meeting with the information.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval to attend Annual GA Rural Water Association Conference

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval for PWD, John Thursby and herself to attend the GRWA Conference which will be held in Helen, GA. on October 24 – 26. Cost would be \$150.00 registration per person.

B. Approval to change line item budget to program budget

City Manager, Janice Logue, asked for approval to change the line item budget to a program budget, which would be easier to read.

C. Approval to increase tap fees

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval to increase the tap fees from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 and to charge the contractor for costs that exceed \$1,000.00.

D. Approval to purchase tractors

PWD, John Thursby, asked for approval to purchase a used John Deere 2550 tractor for \$7,000.00. The money would come from surplus property sales that was done in May of this year.

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to purchase two rotary mowers to replace the old mowers. One is a 10' pull type mower and one is a 6' lift type mower. Cost for the mowers are \$1,800.00 for a Bush Hog #286 and \$5,311.00 for a Bush Hog 3210-04.

E. Approval to accept bid proposal for UV Lighting (contingent upon S & P approval)

PWD, John Thursby, requested approval to accept the bid proposal for UV Lighting. The cost for this would be \$48,900.00.

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

DEPARTMENT REQUEST

A. Approval to increase Police Officers Pay

Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that he had done a study on the area police departments and found that Hahira was the lowest paid in the area. He asked to increase the new policemen's salary \$1.00 per hour, then in 6 months increase it by .50 cents. Other officers would get the .50 cents increase.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Beer and Wine License Application

Mayor Crowe stated that this was approved last month but the advertising was not done. This is for the Stuckey/Blimpie located at 1300 GA Hwy 122 West.

B. Railroad Property Lease Agreement

Mayor Crowe reported that council had approved to pursue a maintenance lease agreement.

C. Approve inspection of Smith Hospital

Mayor Crowe asked for approval for an asbestos study on the building. Cost would be \$1,500.00.

D. Quarterly Newsletter

Mayor Crowe asked for approval for a quarterly newsletter. He stated that this would be an opportunity for the city to inform citizens as to what was going on in the city.

Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Benjamin. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Wilmon Stanley, 308 Washington Street, Hahira, GA, stated that there were three departments vital to the city, the Utilities, Fire and Police Departments. He stated that we couldn't keep good police officers without good pay. He hoped that the Mayor and Council would continue doing the best job they can do.

Police Chief, Terry Davis, reported that the Masonic Lodge, Methodist Church and Baptist Church would be open for evacuees from Florida who are needing a place to stay until hurricane "Frances" is gone.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Benjamin reported that he was glad to see everything moving along.

Councils Ogundu, Bullard and Nelson had no reports.

(B) MAYOR

Mayor Crowe reminded everyone of the Honey Bee Festival coming up.

Mayor Crowe recognized Lowndes County Commissioner Richard Lee, who won the Republican nomination for Commissioner. Mr. Lee mentioned that the North Lowndes Recreation Facility was progressing along.

B. CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that in the next few weeks the Public Works Department would be busy getting ready for the Honey Bee Festival.

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

Meeting ended at 8:15 P.M.

Myron Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk