

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2012
7:30 P.M.
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting February 2, 2012 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Ralph Clendenin, Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PW Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bullard

INVOCATION: City Manager Sumner

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A. **January 3, 2012 Work Session**
- B. **January 5, 2012 Council Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any question or corrections concerning the minutes. Councilmember Adams stated that she thought everything was in order that the date change had been made. **Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to accept minutes as read which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S. Washington Street stated he would like to speak regarding the alcohol sales at events. He was worried that it may be getting too fast and loose for the City of Hahira.

Freeman Rivers of 204 S. Hall Street stated that he had a grievance that was not handled in a timely manner; he then stated that it has not been addressed and no action taken, so he will state it again. He stated that February is Black History Month to honor African Americans. He stated that events are planned for churches, but the City does not do anything. He stated that he felt that something should be done on the City level to honor those living and not living. He then gave two names; Otis McCann and Ms. Copeland that should be honored.

Saul Comancho of Harvey's Supermarket stated that they had exceeded their budgeted revenues for the year. He stated that he appreciated the welcome that was given to them by the City. The Mayor thanked Harvey's for the donations that they had given to the City.

Sandra Warren wife of Public Works Supervisor Donnie Warren stated that she wanted to speak in regards to the wine tasting. She stated that she does not think the wine tasting should be done with the City's support. She stated that citizens will say the law enforcement will get people for DUIs and will say it is entrapment, and she does not want to see people getting in trouble.

REVIEW OF BILLS/OVERAGES

City Manager Sumner stated that a copy of the Veolia bill was received and given to Ms. Adams as requested at the Work Session. **A motion was made to pay the bills by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSIONS:

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Bullard stepped down and let Mayor Pro Tem Cain take over. Mr. Patrick Warren gave a final copy of report to Council and the signed copy to City Attorney Plumb. He stated that the decision of the Ethics Committee was based on testimony and that he would answer any questions. Councilmember Adams asked for a copy of the complaint, and a notarized copy of the response. Mr. Warren stated that there was a copy for review. Councilmember Adams stated that the Mayor's response was not available. Mr. Warren replied that it was. Councilmember Benjamin thanked the committee for their service to the City and that he felt they had applied the rules to make their decision. Mr. Warren stated that it was a thankless job.

HONEYBEE FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 1-6, 2012

Carol Jacobs came before Mayor and Council to thank them for the 2011 Honeybee Festival and asked Mayor and Council to consider having the 2012 Honeybee Festival from October 1 to October 6, 2012. She asked that they close the streets from the railroad crossing on Main Street to B.J. Miley's and Lowndes Street from railroad crossing to Marshall. She stated that they would like to again set out barricades for the 6th. She also requested to use the Courthouse every third Tuesday of every month for the meeting. She then stated that she already had calls from Illinois and Philadelphia of vendors wanting to attend the Honeybee Festival. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to approve the dates and road closing, which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Vote was unanimous.** The Mayor then thanked the committee for their hard work.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Councilmember Benjamin stated that this was requested on the previous month's agenda. He stated that other Council members stated that they needed more time to talk with their constituents. He then stated that Chief Davis had a lot of time and effort into this from the Public Safety Department in this matter. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he had polled people regarding running radar for the two mile section of I-75. He stated that the poll was 33 "yes"; 95 "no" and 21 "no opinion" and that this was a 3-1 margin. He then stated that he felt like Valdosta does; not to be known as a speed trap and that the duties of the Police Department were to serve and protect the citizens. Councilmember Adams then

stated she wanted to repeat that she believed it was not the function of the Police Department to bring in revenue by writing tickets. She then stated that the function of the Hahira Police Department was to protect and serve those in the City. She then stated that she felt it would affect the tourism in Valdosta if Hahira was known as a speed trap. She stated that they would not stop in Adel because of this. Mayor Pro Tem Cain then stated that he had many phone calls asking why they do not want Hahira to patrol I-75. He then stated that many said they know that the Fire Department and Police Department are first responders along with EMS for I-75 and that the City of Hahira is paying for it. He then stated that it was approximately \$400.00 to \$500.00 per event, and that no money was given back to the City and they cannot recoup any of those funds. He then stated that if people were going up and down I-75 doing 88 miles per hour, then they needed to be stopped. Councilmember Benjamin stated that he concurred and that the Council was missing the public safety factor. He stated that Harvey's was a quarter of a mile from I-75. He asked what would happen if they were robbed. He stated that it was part of the job of the Hahira Police Department to protect the citizens. Councilmember Clendenin suggested that they put it on the ballot for March election. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to approve the Traffic Enforcement Unit, seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Adams opposed. The Mayor then made a motion to approve the Traffic Enforcement Unit.**

STANFILL BUILDING

City Manager Sumner stated that he had talked with the City Attorney, Rob Plumb and asked his thoughts on getting with Wetherington Farms. He then stated that in conversation with the owner of the building, they felt the damage was due to City water lines. He then stated that he would like to have the structural engineer look at it. Mayor Pro Tem Cain mentioned using Crews Engineering. Sumner stated he would like permission to contract with Crews. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that it was needed quickly, as the Court date was February 17, 2012. The City Attorney then stated that if both parties are working to improve, then the court would work with them. He stated that the City should approach the court and let them know what everyone was working for. **A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to retain Crews Engineering as soon as possible, seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.** Councilmember Clendenin then stated that the City needed specifics, and Council decided that Mayor Pro Tem Cain would work with staff and Mr. Crews on this item.

REDISTRICTING

City Manager Sumner stated that he wanted to emphasize that the proposed redistricting does not have to remain unchanged, but that it gives them opportunity to start the process. He then stated that it has to be advertised three times and that the City must have two Public Hearings. It was then stated that this would have to then go to the Department of Justice for approval along with any concerns and public input. He then stated that the minority population, rather than being concentrated in District One, is now disbursed throughout the community. Sumner stated that the districts were not drawn by the Reapportionment to disperse the minority population, but that the lack of concentrated areas made it difficult to maintain percentage makeup. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to accept**

and advertise for Public Hearing regarding the redistricting which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FY11

City Manager Sumner stated he was very pleased with FY11 financial report. He recommended waiting for the next 12 months and to put excess funds in CDs at a later time. He then reported on the check from 2006 in the amount of \$30,000 that the City is paying back to Valdosta because of an accounting error on their part. He again stated that he was very pleased with the all funds.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

It was discussed at the Work Session in regards to changing the ordinance to allow alcohol consumption in and around downtown area. Rob Plumb City Attorney stated that the current ordinance was pretty bare-boned. He stated that the City should look at something like a different class of license maybe get a copy of the Valdosta ordinance for the downtown area and use that to work from. Discussion regarding rewrite of the ordinance or maybe a Special Event Ordinance was suggested. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to permit legal council to work on alcohol ordinance in the City of Hahira. The motion was not carried for lack of a second.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. CITY HALL RENOVATIONS-SPLOST V**
- B. SPRAYFIELD CONTRACT**
- C. GCCMA CONFERENCE**

Councilmember Adams then asked for the quote amounts on the City Hall renovations. The three amounts were \$18,609, \$14,832 and \$8,760. **A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to accept the Consent Agenda which was then seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

REPORTS:

Councilmember Benjamin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out to the meeting. He then stated he would like to thank all employees for another great year and for their dedication to the City. He then stated that his hat was off to the City Manager for coming out of the financial hole that the City was in. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to work with them.

Councilmember Adams stated that on February 19, 2012 that scout troops in this area would meet at Hahira United Methodist Church for a flag ceremony and would she would like to invite everyone to attend. She then stated that she would like to thank the Hahira Honeybee committee for their donation of chairs and tables to the Historical Museum. She then congratulated Dwight Bennett Fire Chief for being named the State Mutual Aide Director. She said thank you to the City and that Hahira was a great place to live. She thanked the Ethics Committee and Clay Tillman for all their hard work and rapid completion of the ethics complaint.

Councilmember Clendenin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out and to thank the employees for a good job. He stated that he had received very few complaints.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he would like to thank everyone for coming out and that it was nice to see a crowd. He thanked the Department heads for their great job and congratulated Fire Chief Dwight Bennett. He stated he did attend the Bird Supper and talked to legislative representatives. He stated he had made good contacts. He then thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to congratulate Fire Chief Bennett and stated that the City was fortunate to have almost 70 years of experience in the City's three department heads.

Mayor Wayne Bullard thanked everyone for coming out and then thanked the Honeybee committee for their great job on the Honeybee Festival and for their many hours of volunteered time. He then thanked the Ethics Committee for their hard work and congratulated Chief Bennett. He then thanked Chief Davis for a job well done and Donnie Warren for the past year.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Benjamin made a motion which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain, vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard _____

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn _____