

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 1, 2012

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting March 1, 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. City Clerk Lisa Mashburn not present for meeting due to illness.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bullard

INVOCATION: Councilmember Benjamin

REVIEW/ CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A. January 30, 2012 Work Session
- B. February 2, 2012 Council Meeting

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions or corrections concerning the minutes. **Mayor Pro Cain made a motion to accept the minutes as read which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S. Washington Street stated he wanted to give thanks to the Public Works Department. He stated that he recently had a large limb and the department came and removed it for him.

Marge Stewart of 205 Thrasher Way stated that she was present to speak to Mayor and Council regarding the huge storage container on the corner of Stanfill Street and Sparrow Way going into Audubon Heights that had been in the yard for over a year. The Mayor stated that he would have Chief Davis to check into it. Councilmember Adams stated that she had reported it before and that she had several complaints about this item. Chief Davis stated that he had heard that the owner was very sick so he decided to wait about the complaint but stated that he saw her in town the other day and he would try to get in contact with her about it.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Charter Amendment-Redistricting (First Reading-City Manager)

City Manager Sumner stated that the redistricting process had been ongoing on since the 2010 census numbers came out. He then stated that the City's districts were unbalanced, and that according to state and federal law, the districts must be balanced. In order to

be in compliance he worked with the Reapportionment office in Atlanta to get the districts balanced. He stated that a map was on display at the Courthouse and at the City Hall for the public to view. The district lines were written into the Charter, and in accordance with charter amendments, the changes have been advertised in the Valdosta Daily Times for three consecutive weeks; two readings will be done with the current reading being the first. The second reading would be done at the April meeting, and if no comments are received, then there would be a notice sent to the Secretary of State stating that the Charter has been amended and a copy of the approved lines sent to the U.S. Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice had no complaints or concerns with the lines, then they would take effect for the General election in November of 2013. He then asked if there were any questions or statements. Councilmember Adams then stated that she thought it was unanimous at the meeting last month that everyone was in agreement with the new lines. The Mayor then asked if anyone wished to speak against the Charter amendment. There were no comments. The Mayor then asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the Charter amendment. There were no comments. He then stated the second reading would take place at next month's meeting.

B. APPLICATION TO SELL BEER AND WINE BY-THE DRINK-HECTOR J. NUNEZ, 303 W MAIN STREET

Chief Davis stated that Mr. Nunez had a clean background check and was in good standing with the State in regards to other business/liquor licenses that he held for the City of Lakeland and the City of Adel. City Manager Sumner stated responded to a question from the Work session regarding the regulations for a business to sale beer and wine; it was in the ordinance that no more than 50% of the gross sales can come from alcohol sales. He then stated that it would be named El Cazzador Mexican Restaurant and that the renovations would be done after the approval of the license. The Mayor then asked if anyone wished to speak against the application. He then asked if anyone was wishing to speak in favor of application. No comments. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve. **Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to approve the application to sell beer and wine at 303 W. Main Street, Hector J. Nunez which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Councilmember Clendenin voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Adams opposed the motion. Motion carried.**

REVIEW OF BILLS/OVERAGES:

City Manager Sumner stated that there were several questions from the Work Session on Monday night regarding a bill for the Fire Department and that it was stated that Paula Stone the Finance Clerk had sent an email out to Mayor and Council explaining the charges. Sumner then asked if anyone had any questions. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to pay the bills, which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSIONS:

INFRASTRUCTURE/LIGHTS IN WOODBRIDGE-LAWSON FARMS SUBDIVISIONS

City Manager Sumner stated that he had received a request from Gary Minchew regarding the infrastructure in regards to the Woodbridge-Lawson Farms Subdivisions; this would be road and curbing in addition the lighting for Lawson Farms Subdivision and these items would be addressed separately. He stated one request was the infrastructure in Woodbridge and it was inspected by the engineer who did not return any objections. The infrastructure in the Lawson Farm Subdivision was considered deficient in the judgement of the engineer, in the areas of curbing around storm drains. Sumner recommended sending a notification and pictures to Mr. Minchew stating the deficiencies that needed to be corrected in Lawson Farms. A recommendation was presented regarding lighting in Lawson Farms Subdivision. He stated the Lawson Farm subdivision had several houses being constructed in that area. The request was also for the City to take over the light payments in that subdivision and it was recommended by Sumner. He then asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Clendenin then asked if the Lawson

Farm infrastructure was postponed. Sumner stated that his recommendation would be to accept infrastructure in Woodbridge, accept assumption of light payments in Lawson Farms, and postpone acceptance of the Lawson Farms infrastructure pending notification to the owner. Councilmember Adams then asked about the holding pond at Woodbridge. Sumner stated it was his understanding that with the infrastructure approval this would go along with it. He then stated it would for the City to maintain the ditches, curbing and drainage. The Mayor asked if there were any more questions. **Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to accept the infrastructure at Woodbridge Subdivision and take over the lighting/payments at Lawson Farms Subdivision, which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

STANFILL BUILDING

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he had a report from Crews Engineering which the City Manager emailed to everyone on Tuesday. Per the report from the structural engineer, the building itself did not face any damages from the City water line break. There was no settlement from the water line leak by the structural engineer. Mayor Pro Tem Cain then stated that the City needed to get a list together for Mr. Wetherington along with a list of what the City was going to do. Sumner stated that in the paperwork that he sent to the attorney the City would replace the sidewalk at the western wall of the Stanfill building and Wetherington would then do the cosmetic improvements. This would include finding and replacing plywood, removal of growth/vegetation in the building, and the replacement of mortar and re-pointing of bricks as discussed on Monday night. Sumner then stated that he would send this out to Mayor and Council and if there were no changes and that he would submit it to Mr. Wetherington. After discussion, Sumner asked the Council to send him the wording they would like to have in the document and he would send that out. **Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to send in the agreement for the findings to Mr. Wetherington and attach the Crews Engineering findings which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion. Councilmember Adams voted in favor. Motion carried.**

LAWSON CROSSING CLOSURE PUBLIC HEARING-MARCH 8TH

City Manager Sumner stated that this was a culmination of many years of work. The next step would be to have a Public Hearing. He explained that the discussion during the hearing would be to close only the un-signalized crossing on Lawson Street. This would allow the railroad to give approximately 5 acres back to the Lawson family, which in a year could be given to the City for use for a public park and Municipal Complex. The City Manager stated that the City needed to solicit public input and gain the approval of Mayor and Council to move forward. The public hearing would be held on March 8, 2012 at the Courthouse at 6 p.m. Councilmember Adams questioned the agreement of all the land going back to the Lawsons after the closing of the crossing and also the agreement regarding it going to the City after that. Councilmember Adams stated that she did not want to risk the closing the crossing and then nothing else being done. Sumner stated that the City had quit claim deeds from the Lawson family, but that the agreement was not signed yet. It was initially agreed upon with Dr. Lawson who had passed away, but the documents need to be signed at one time. He stated that the City needed to have the public hearing to gather public input. After this, the Mayor and Council would then vote on it and then the agreement would be sent to the heirs and the railroad. The formal agreement has not yet been signed.

ODUM BUILDING

City Manager Sumner stated what was discussed on Monday night was in regards to Mr. Odum wanting the City to pay for the 2011 property taxes in the amount of \$1800.00. The City obtained ownership of the building in December of 2011, and the property taxes needed to be dealt with before the City put out an RFP for a fitness center at the building. The advice of the City Attorney was that the property taxes be paid to avoid a lien being put on the building. The Mayor then stated that the building was appraised at \$400,000, and that Mr. Odum paid for the appraisal, which was around \$2500. He then stated that the City appraised the hospital at a cost of around \$2500. The Mayor then stated that he wanted to know what Council would like to do about it. Councilmember Clendenin asked if anyone had walked around inside the building. The

Mayor stated yes. Councilmember Clendenin then asked if anything had been taken down in the building and the Mayor responded no. The Mayor then stated that the City should have paid for the appraisal of the building, but that he called Mr. Odum and he agreed to pay for the appraisal of the building. Councilmember Clendenin then stated that the City only had the building for one month and had to pay \$1800. The Mayor then stated that the City would be able to rent the building and make that money back in short time. Sumner then stated it was the only three story building in the City and that it was a wonderful historic building. Clendenin then stated that he was told that someone had gone into the building and removed the paneling. The reply from the Mayor was no; maybe he was talking about the other building. Councilmember Clendenin then stated that Mr. Odum received a tremendous write off for the property and that he felt the City should not be responsible for the taxes. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion that the City pay the taxes for the month of December for the Odum Building. Motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion that the City pay the \$1800.00 for the property taxes for 2011, which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Adams voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion. Motion carried.**

MANGLED MAGNOLIAS ON MAIN

Councilmember Adams spoke in regard the magnolias that were purchased in 2006. She stated that over the years they have been very well cared for. She then stated that the first of the month she came through town and saw the trees had been cut with a chain saw and stated that magnolias are not to be pruned in the winter time. She then stated that the trees would probably die. She stated that she had received numerous complaints about the trees and that she would like to have them pulled up and replaced. The Mayor then asked what the cost of replacing the trees would be. She stated in 2006 they were about \$100 and that we had about 20 trees. The Mayor then asked Councilmember Adams if she thought the trees would grow back and Councilmember Adams said she did not. The Mayor then asked if Councilmember Adams wanted to replant them all and she stated yes. Councilmember Benjamin stated that he would like to see if they would grow back; he stated that he could see where they were budding. Councilmember Clendenin stated he had looked it up and that the trees would grow out but not up. They would not look like a magnolia tree. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he thought the City needed to look at what the actual cost would be and Councilmember Adams stated she thought the City should postpone the item. Sumner then stated he could probably get the City Arborist to come in and look at them. **Councilmember Adams made a motion to post pone the Mangled Magnolias of Main, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

TERMITE/PEST CONTROL

City Manager Sumner stated that the City discussed this on Monday night and that there were two bids to consider. One was from Valdosta Pest Control and the other one was from Astro Exterminating Services. The prices were included in the packets. This would provide termite bonding and pest control for city buildings. He recommended that the City award the services to one agency to have all under the expertise of one agency. The Mayor then asked if they were both licensed and bonded; Sumner stated yes. He then stated that Valdosta Pest Control was the lowest bid. Councilmember Adams stated that she did not see the price for the moisture barrier included. Sumner stated it was included in the price. He stated that he spoke with both companies regarding this; he then stated that both companies asked all the right questions and crawled under the building to inspect. **Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to use Valdosta Pest Control for the termite and pest control for \$1100.00 per year, which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A.) FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS TO BE RENOVATED-LOW BID KELLERMAN CONSTRUCTION-SPLOST IV, V, VI
- B.) 2012 CDGB RESOLUTION AND "NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST" DECLARATION
- C.) GMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- D.) GMA SPRING TRAINING
- E.) MAYOR PRO TEM CAIN-KNOW LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE-VALDOSTA
- F.) LARGE METER TRAINING SCHOOL
- G.) MOWER PURCHASE-SPLOST VI
- H.) FIRE DEPARTMENT-SPLOST VI
- I.) FIRE CHIEFS' SPRING CONFERENCE
- J.) STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
- K.) DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY-REPLACED METERS
- L.) GEFA DEEP WELL GRANT APPLICATION
- M.) POLICE CHIEF'S SUMMER CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to approve the consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

Councilmember Clendenin stated he was happy to new faces. He stated that he thought the City had a good month with not many complaints. He stated that he wanted to thank the Downtown Coordinator Stacy for her hard work and that he hoped the Mayor and Council would support her in all that she had planned.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he wanted to thank all the Department heads for their hard work. He also thanked his fellow Councilmembers for all their hard work and support. He thanked the City Manager, the Mayor and the City Clerk.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he wanted to thank everyone for coming out tonight, and thanked all the departments for all the hard work. He thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager and City Clerk for their hard work. He then encouraged everyone to spread the word about the activities and to please come out and participate.

Councilmember Adams stated that she would like to thank the reporter for the article in the Sunday paper regarding the business section on how to save money. She thanked Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority for installing the playground equipment adjacent to the Skate Park. She thanked the City Manager for all of his work on the Main Street railroad crossing. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

City Manager Sumner stated that he would like the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve and their kind words. He stated that he thought everyone that worked for the City was doing a tremendous job and that there was a good start to FY 2012. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for the renovations to City Hall and invited everyone to come by and see the renovations.

The Mayor stated that he would like to thank Mayor Pro Tem Cain for filling in for him on Monday night. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight, and asked everyone to please return and give input. He thanked the Council for the wonderful job they did on a daily basis and the

department heads. He stated that he has heard good things about the Downtown Development Coordinator, Stacy, and that she was a real go-getter.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn