

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 5, 2012

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting April 5, 2012 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Bruce 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 Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: Councilmember Benjamin

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- A.) February 27, 2012 Work Session
- B.) March 1, 2012 Council Meeting
- C.) March 8, 2012 Public Hearing

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions or corrections concerning the minutes. None noted. Councilmember Adams made a motion to accept the minutes as read which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. **The vote was unanimous.**

CITIZENS BE HEARD:

Bill Tucker of 2427 Westwood Drive, Valdosta stated he is currently running for District 5 Valdosta and wanted to introduce himself. He stated he has worked at South Georgia Medical Center. He then stated he had worked for Smith Hospital in 1995 for a short period. He stated he was married and from Jacksonville, Florida where he was formerly a military reserve man. He stated he is for a conservative efficient government and less regulations.

Carol Jacobs of 402 E Stanfill Street stated she would like to let everyone know we will have the third annual Hahira Cancer Day on April 28, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be at the warehouse and it is coordinated by Ms. Eula Copeland. She stated that there will be BBQ and desserts. She stated that you can purchase tickets and that all proceeds will go to the Local Cancer Society.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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

City Manager Sumner stated this is the final reading. Sumner stated that the redistricting process had been ongoing 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 second and final reading. If no questions or comments 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 has no complaints or concerns with the lines, then they would take effect for the General election in November 2013. He then asked if there were any questions or statements. 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. **Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to approve the Charter amendment for Redistricting which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. The vote was unanimous.**

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

City Manager Sumner asked if any questions regarding the bills. Councilmember Adams stated that all questions from Monday night had been answered. **A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to pay the bills, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSIONS:

RAILROAD PROPERTY AGREEMENT/LAWSON RR CROSSING CLOSURE

Attorney Rob Plumb stated he had a revised three way agreement for donation of the railroad crossing property which was revised as per the conversation at previous meeting. He stated it had been two years since the agreement had been discussed. He then stated he wanted to Mayor and Council approval of agreement and move on to the other parties. It was stated that public comment **had been received with no opposition. He stated the next step would be to have all parties sign the agreement. The Lawson family** would then hold the land for one year and after that time would then deed the land to the City. The railroad would then be closed at that time. He then stated no other approval would be necessary. Councilmember Adams asked if we have to have the Resolution notarized. Plumb then stated no, just for City records would page 14 needs to be witnessed by a notary public. She then asked when it would subject to open records. Plumb stated that once the document was signed by all parties it would be subject to disclosure and there is no harm in making this open. Councilmember Adams then asked the Mayor what his recommendation would be on the matter. He stated he would like to see it move forward with the agreement. He then stated that it would not be okay to sign the agreement until it would be ok to close the crossing. Sumner stated the public hearing was advertised on marquee, posted in the Valdosta Daily Times and posted at City Hall. He stated the railroad closure and the agreement go hand and hand.

Councilmember Clendenin stated that some of the businesses in town wants a traffic study. Clendenin then stated we should contact the businesses and see if we do study if that would be ok? It was then stated that a traffic study was done 7 years ago. Plumb then asked if the traffic study is a contingency for the signing of the resolution> He then stated that we need to agree on the closing of the railroad crossing before the document is signed. It was then decided by the Mayor that we will hold another Public Hearing one week from tonight, Monday April 16th. He would like to have it advertised in the newspaper, put on the marquee at City Hall and place notice at City Hall. Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Clendenin stated they would pass out flyers. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to postpone item which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

ODUM BUILDING 2ND FLOOR OFFICE LEASE

The Mayor stated he had no contact with Mr. Odum. He then stated we paid \$1364.00 for taxes and that it was paid because we did not have to pay for an appraisal of the building that was at the expense of Mr. Odum. **A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to postpone which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

MPO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

City Manager Sumner stated we need to fill the spot on the advisory committee. **A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to appoint Harriett Crum to the committee which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

CONSENT AGENDA

A.) Sale of Surplus Property

B.) First floor windows in City Hall

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to approve the consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.

SWEAR-IN OF TWO OFFICERS

Mayor Wayne Bullard performed the swear-in ceremony for Officer Trey Kenny and Officer Brent Barnes.

REPORTS:

Councilmember Clendenin stated he wished good luck to Candidate Bill Tucker. He stated he would like to thank public works for their hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. He also expressed good luck to Candidate Bill Tucker. HE thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and the Public Works Department for all their hard work a few weeks ago during the storms. He stated they all did a great job. He thanked the City Clerk Lisa for her good job. HE thanked his fellow Council members and the City attorney for all their hard work. He then thanked the Mayor and the City Manger Sumner for all their hard work.

Councilmember Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and also wished good luck to Candidate Bill Tucker. He thanked all the departments for their hard work. He stated he hopes everyone has a great holiday and that they remember the reason for the season. He then stated that the railroad property has been tied up for the past 120 years and that he would like to see everyone come out and discuss how they feel.

Councilmember Adams stated she would like to thank Mr. Tucker for placing himself in a good position to serve the community. She then thanked Mrs. Eula Copeland for her service past and present. She then stated that the downtown merchants have made their businesses attractive and that she feels this is drawing in business. She then stated she attended the pre-construction meetings for the EMT/Fire Department building and helped to choose the colors and is looking forward to the completion to the Fire Department. She then congratulated the new Police Officers and asked for prayer that God Bless and keep them safe.

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to thank Mayor and Council for their kind words. He then thanked the Department Heads for their good work and stated that he felt that all the City employees are doing their best. HE thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. HE then wished everyone a Happy Easter and a safe weekend.

Mayor Bullard stated he would like to thank Council for a good job and for their help to run a good city. HE thanked the Public Works Department, Fire Department and Police Department for doing a good job after the storm also. He then thanked everyone for coming out and asked that Candidate Bill Tucker not be a stranger.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Benjamin made a motion which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn

