

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 3, 2012

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting May 3, 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: Mayor Wayne Bullard

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

April 2, 2012 Work Session

April 5, 2012 Council Meeting

April 16, 2012 Public Hearing

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Jeanette Watson of 305 Lee Street spoke on the ordinance regarding Exotic animals. She stated she had 2 pythons at her house and that they are docile and easy to handle. She stated she had not been able to get insurance to comply with the ordinance. She would like to have the ordinance suspended or re-written and she stated she had pictures to pass around for Mayor and Council to review. She stated they are 4 ½ foot to 5 foot in length and they do not come out of their cage. She stated she spoke with City Manager Sumner on several occasions. Sumner stated the ordinance has been in effect for three years and that the City Manager and or the Chief of Police can waive any part of it. She stated she had documentation from the insurance company that she cannot obtain liability insurance. It was then discussed that Sumner would get with the City Attorney and research to get insurance for the pythons or take some other avenue.

John Page of Coleman Road outside the City limits stated he wanted to announce that he is running for Super District 5. He stated he is available to talk to anyone about any needs.

Carol Jacobs of 402 E. Stanfill spoke regarding the Bee statue purchased from Village Metal Works by the Honeybee Committee. She stated that Councilmember Adams called her and told her she could not give her permission to put the sign on railroad property. She stated she would have to get permission for the public works department to put the sign up. Ms. Carol stated the bee is seven foot tall and that the committee would supply the concrete to put the sign up. Councilmember Adams stated that the sign is beautiful and that it needs to be decided where to put the sign. Councilmember Clendenin then asked if we could put the sign up in front of the fire truck. Sumner did indicate that we lease that land from the railroad and stated that Council can decide where to put the sign. Ms. Jacobs stated she had contacted the railroad before and never gotten a response back. It was stated that PW Donnie Warren would meet with M.s Jacobs on Monday (10 a.m.) and decide where to put the sign.

Jody Hall of 7288 Hall-Webb Road announced that he is a candidate for district five. He stated he was born and raised in Hahira/Lowndes County and that his family was one of the first settlers here. He stated you can contact him with any questions and that his number is in the book.

Judge John Kent Edwards of 7 Charles Way stated that he had been the state Court Judge for the last 6 years, City Judge for Valdosta for 10 years and fourth generation attorney. He stated he was a candidate for re-election as State Court Judge. He also wanted to inform everyone that the last 16 years he has seen a rise in cases while on the bench. He stated he is concerned with the number of domestic violence and drug cases. He stated his concern for the amount of young people, 17 and older that come before him. He stated we need good jurors and encouraged people to serve. He asked for your prayers while performing this difficult and demanding job. He stated he had over 21,000 criminal cases last year, with several thousand civil cases. He stated he wanted everyone to have their day in court and asked for your support.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

City Manager Sumner stated he had answered the questions from Monday night meeting via email. Councilmember Adams stated she would like to have the mileage for the garbage truck. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.**

DISCUSSIONS:

RICOH BUSINESS SOLUTIONS (CHRIS BROKERD/FRED BUESCHER)

The Mayor stated that Fred Buescher was here to answer any questions. The questions regarding a pro-rated contract were answered. Buescher stated he can do no short term contract and that all contracts are for one year. He then stated that if we pay in full at beginning that the price is less. Councilmember Clendenin stated he thought we might wait until the first of the year; not dive right in now. Mayor Pro Tem Cain asked if we have a current contract. Sumner stated we have a verbal agreement with current provider. He stated that Ricoh meet with staff, Mayor and Council members and spent more time with us than other provider last year. Sumner recommended we engage in the Silver package level of service for one year and that this be paid out of SPLOST VI funds. Councilmember Adams stated she would

like to have the City Manager review the contract at end of first year and re-evaluate. The Mayor asked what the price would be for the firewall. It would be \$9407.39. There would be IT service for Police department, Public Works, Fire department and City Hall for the cost of \$7200.00 for the first year. Sumner stated we could probably go to the Bronze package at the end of May 2013. He also stated we would get reduction for paying in full. **A motion was made by Council member Clendenin to enter into contract and pay \$9407.39 and \$7200.00 for Silver package which was seconded by Council member Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.**

FITNESS STUDIO PROPOSAL (APRIL BACCIGALOI)

April Baccigaloi stated she would like to thank everyone for reviewing the proposal. She stated her goal was not to make a huge profit but to perform a service for the City. She then stated she did not want to over extend herself. She stated she would like to propose to pay \$500.00 per month to the City and she would provide her on Insurance and utilities. She stated she would like to be in business for a long time and does not want to close. City Manager Sumner stated staff would recommend accepting this offer. He stated he would ask the Attorney to draft a lease and would present to Council for their review at the June meeting which would make the contract effective July 1, 2012. April then asked if any questions. Councilmember Adams then asked what the estimated utilities would be. April stated the water/sewer/sanitation would be \$55.00 and the power bill was estimated at \$300.00 per month. The Mayor then asked about her personnel liability and April stated she has that currently. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to approve the lease for \$500.00 per month with April paying the utilities which were seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN (CITY ENGINEER)

City Manager Sumner stated that the questions from Monday night will be answered by the City Engineer and that he will get back to us. He stated it is a requirement of the EPD and that all communities have to deal with this due to the water runoff. He stated he would like to have approval of the plan with the cost of monitoring. Council member Clendenin asked if there was any grant money. Sumner stated grants are available and we can look to the Regional Commission for their assistance but from his research no funds are available at this time. **A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve the plan and cost of monitoring which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

RAILROAD PROPERTY AGREEMENT/LAWSON RR CROSSING CLOSURE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager stated he would like to bring to a close this long road that we have been on. He stated we have the opportunity to acquire 5 and one half acres that are vacant land owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad. He stated the property is not being used and those concept drawings in respect to a gathering place with fountain and possible New Municipal Complex with the SPLOST VII. HE stated we would have to close the railroad crossing on Lawson Road to acquire the property. Councilmember Adams confirmed the deed would have to be in the City's hand before the railroad crossing would be closed and that the property would have to be owned by the Lawson family for one year before it could be donated to the City. Councilmember Adams asked the Mayor where he stands on this issue. The Mayor stated we have the opportunity to acquire 5 and one half acres in the center of town that are currently an eyesore. He stated it is a chance to beautify the area and all use the property. He then stated he knows we will have to close the railroad but he feels we have to for progress. Councilmember Benjamin stated he feels the same and that he thinks more people are for closing the crossing than against it. He stated he would like to hear more from people. He then stated he felt we should close the crossing for a few weeks temporarily to see how much of a problem we have. Councilmember

Clendenin said he felt there was not enough notification and he feels we will get more public impute if we temporarily close the crossing. Councilmember Adams and Clendenin think the temporary closing would be a good thing. The Mayor stated he felt we should close the crossing for one month and see what happens. Chief Davis stated he felt we should contact DOT and find out what their recommendation is and the proper way to close the crossing; close until next Council meeting. **A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to close the crossing for one month depending on the DOT which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. The vote was unanimous.**

ODOM BUILDING OFFICE LEASE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated we will have a lease agreement for Zumba and Mr. Odum would like to use the building until December 31, 2012 for storage/office space. He stated he recommends lease to give Mr. Odum temporary use of building for \$1.00. Council member Clendenin asked why he gave the City the building if he wants s to use it. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to enter into lease for \$1.00 which was seconded by Council member Benjamin. Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion. Council member Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain voted in favor of motion. The Mayor then made a motion to approve the lease.**

APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR BULLARD OF A HAHIRA COUNCILMEMBER TO SERVE ON COASTAL PLAIN AREA ECONOMIC AUTHORITY, Inc (ROSE ADAMS)

Councilmember Adams stated she would like to nominate Councilmember Benjamin to serve. **A motion was made to nominate Council member Benjamin which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A.) LIFT STATION GENERATORS-SPLOST VI

Public Works Director Warren stated the generators are needed to complete the sewer stations.

A motion was made to purchase two generators for lift station by Councilmember Clendenin which was seconded by Council member Benjamin. The vote was unanimous.

B.) SWEEPER PURCHASE-SPLOST VI

Public Works Director Warren stated a sweeper is needed for the City. He stated that Avery has a used one for \$12,500.00 that needs a broom which would cost around \$1000.00 with no warranty. He stated he priced another one at United Rental for \$10,900.00 with a 6 months warranty. PW Director Warren stated he recommends the little one from United Rental that has a warranty on the broom. Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he went to look at the sweeper and it does need a broom and tires. He also stated it is hard to crank and must be hot-wired. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to purchase the little sweeper from United Rental in the amount of \$10,900.00 which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. The vote was unanimous.**

REPORTS:

Councilmember Benjamin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and thank you for continuing the discussion regarding the railroad crossing. Thank you to each department for a job well done.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain thanked everyone for coming out tonight and for all the people for the National Day of Prayer and hopes it will help everyone to see things in a better light. Thank all the department heads and Chief Davis for getting surplus items sold.

Thank you to Donnie, Fire Department and thank you to all the Councilmember's. He then thanked the City Manager for the good job on the presentation at the meeting yesterday. Thank you to the Mayor for a great job.

Councilmember Clendenin thanked everyone in the crowd for coming out. Thank you to Chief Davis and PW Warren for the sale of the surplus items that put about \$27,169.00 into the General fund for the City.

Councilmember Adams thanked all the candidates for coming out and thanked them for putting yourself out there. Thank you to Chief Davis for surplus sales. Thank you to Marilyn Dye for her volunteer work and for promoting the City of Hahira. She stated Ms. Dye does tax returns for senior citizens and that she also has beautiful chairs to donate and that she has delivered them to the Public Works Department. Thank you to Chairman Carol Jacobs and that the new sign is a work of art that will be donated to the City. She then thanked all the citizens for coming out. She also stated that they will have open house at Gateway Pines Apartments on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The apartment complex is located off of N. Union Road and West Stanfill Street.

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve and for all their kind words. He thanked the City for hosting the City/County Managers meeting and that they had a great turn out. HE thanked PW Donnie Warren, the public works department and Stacey for all their hard work. Thank you to the Fire Department and the Police Department for all their hard work.

Mayor Wayne Bullard thanked everyone for coming out. Thank you to the candidates for coming out and visiting and he hope they will come back again. Thank you to all departments for their hard work. Thank you to the State for paving part of Stanfill Road and hopefully the other half will be finished at a later time. Thank you to Council and to City Manager Sumner for good work and excellent presentation; he stated Sumner was an excellent speaker and teacher.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. The vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn