**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**JANUARY 7, 2013**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

**Mayor Wayne Bullard and Council met for a Work session January 7, 2013 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.**

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

**REVIEW/CORRETIONS OF MINUTES:**

1. December 3, 2012 Work Session
2. December 6, 2012 Council Meeting

No corrections noted at this time.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

Councilmember Adams stated that she had spoken to Ms. Paula that day regarding the inert debris bill. She stated that it added an additional $700.00 to the total. City Manager Sumner stated that the bill was paid after the reports had been printed and that with the change over in company that the billing cycle had been changed and comes in later. Sumner stated that he can draft a letter to see if he can get it on cycle for the third or fourth week of the month instead of the 10th of each month. He also stated that the landfill bill was paid after the report was pulled on the second of the month. Councilmember Adams then asked about the K & V carving and the Dustin Cothran payment. It was stated that the Dustin Cothran payment was for him to play Santa Claus. She then asked about the Advanced Portable restroom bill. Public Works Director Warren stated that it was for the recycle center. She then asked about the portable restrooms for downtown events and City Manager Sumner stated he would get with Stacey regarding this.

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**PRESENTATION FROM HANNAH SOLAR (BILL ELLIOT, TRIANGLE ENERGY CONCEPTS)**

Mr. Bill Elliott of Moultrie stated he was with Triangle Energy out of Atlanta. He stated that he was here to talk about the fastest growing energy source. He stated that his home in Moultrie is 100% solar and that he is a retired banker. He stated he got interested in this type of solar power through the Rotary and that Southwest Georgia has the best solar production. He stated that the solar energy idea came from the space program. He presented the Mayor and Council with paperwork showing the different places he had solar energy panels and went over the different businesses that now have solar power. He stated that this is a program by the Public Services Commission with the State of Georgia and that he would like to pay the City of Hahira for five acres of land at the water/sewer plant to put in solar panels. He stated the cost of the panels would be $2.3 million. He then stated that in return the city would get $15,000.00 per year for the rental of the land. He stated that Georgia Power would pay him for the energy. City Manager Sumner stated he would like to set the record straight and confirm that Mr. Elliott would like to put solar panels adjacent to waste water facility on city property. Mr. Elliott stated yes. He then stated that the City would rent the space to Hannah Solar in which Mr. Elliott stated yes. Sumner then stated that the new stated law requires rental agreement to be advertised in the paper and that it would be open for private competition. Councilmember Adams then said why you want to come to Hahira and lease 5 acres of land for twenty years. Mr. Elliott stated that Georgia power is within the City and that they want one address and that it has to be where GA Power is. He stated that the investors feel municipalities are not going anywhere and that they would want long term lease. Councilmember Clendenin then asked how the City of Hahira would profit from this. Mr. Elliott stated that they would rent 5 acres of city property to Hannah Solar for $15,000.00 per year. He then stated that no there would not be anything off the GA Power bill and that the Public Service Commission states you must have one megawatt users and that the City would qualify. He stated that it is a federal tax credit for the investors. Councilmember Clendenin then asked that if the population increases can we expand. Sumner then asked if we can put the solar panels over wetlands and Mr. Elliott stated that he thinks that we can. Councilmember Adams asked what other small cities has he worked with. He stated he has not done installation at any of the locations but that the City of Mr. Vernon, Homerville and Lakeland are all interested. Sumner then asked if we are ready for agreement, something in writing and talk to the attorney. Mr. Elliott stated that Georgia Power wants to go to places where no expenses would be involved for them. It was again stated that this just came about in the last 30 days and that he has 15 cities interested. Councilmember Adams stated that she would like a site plan and a representative from Georgia Power to attend meeting. Mr. Elliott stated that after everything is agreed on then Georgia Power would have their team come in to ok everything. It was then decided that there would need to be more discussion on the matter regarding location of land and details. The Mayor thanked Mr. Elliott for the presentation.

**RICHOH TABLET PRESENTATION**

Mr. Brookard from Ricoh came to talk to Mayor and Council about the tablets so that we can go paperless at the meetings. City Manager Sumner stated that it would save us approximately $800.00 per month in supplies and staff time. Mr. Brookard stated that he has the Samsung Galaxy Note here to show the Mayor and Council. HE stated that it is easy to use, has multi-screen which is good for taking notes. Sumner then asked if we could get a demo to use and see how it works. He stated that they do not loan on small scale must be 100 users or more. He stated that it would cost about $600.00 each and that the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works tablets could be purchased with SPLOST funds. It was then decided that we would need to figure out how many we would need. It was stated that if we get keypad and cover the price would be approximately $700.00 each tablet.

**DRAFT TEXT AMENDMENT OF SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE FOR LOW POWER CONSUMPTION LIGHTING**

Matt Martin the Planning and Zoning administrator stated small changes made to ordinance in regards to light requirements for new construction. He stated for now we can make simple changes to the policy and expand on the ordinance after research. He recommended that we create policy document and amend ordinance for new subdivisions only. Sumner stated that he values Mr. Martins input and that he recommends more time for council to digest it and that he thinks we need update at February meeting.

**LAWSON STREET IMROVEMENTS**

City Manager Sumner stated that he had cost estimate and would like to put the project out for bid. He stated that SPLOST VI funds are available and that the cost estimate is $167,000. He stated it would be to pave from Lawson Street at Church Street to Stanfill and that it could start once the bids are all in. He stated that if we want to put out for bids he could advertise in January and allow 4 weeks; possible to decide next month at meeting. Councilmember Clendenin asked when SPLOST VI ends and it was stated the end of this year. He stated that if it is not voted on then we may need the money. He then asked if there was anything cheaper that we can do.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

**HOME DEMOLITION**

City Manager Sumner stated that the estimate to demolish the condemned house at 411 W. Park Street is $5,800. Councilmember Adams asked why the City is doing the demolition of the house. Chief Davis stated that the owner of the house went to court and was given an order to take it down. The owner has no money and the court order says the City must take it down and put a lien on the property. City Manager Sumner asked if the house could be burned. Then it was discussed that maybe the City could hire few extra workers to remove the blocks from the house. Public Works Director Warren and Fire Chief Bennett stated that they would have to get together and look at house. It was then stated that they would postpone until February meeting.

**SURPLUS VEHICLES**

Chief Davis stated that the City has a few cars that he would like to surplus. He stated that we have a couple of old police cars, the meals on wheels station wagon and a one ton pickup that he would like to surplus. He stated that it was discussed to transfer one of the crown Victorian cars to the meals on wheels car and surplus the station wagon.

**GCCMA SPRING CONFERENCE**

City Manager Sumner stated that he would like to attend the City-County Managers Spring Conference in Douglasville. He stated the dates and prices are included in the packet.

**SET JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

-Home Demolition

**SET JANUARY CONSENT AGENDA**

**-**Lawson Street Improvements

-Surplus Vehicles

-GCCMA Spring Conference

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.**

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**Mayor Wayne Bullard**

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**Lisa Mashburn City Clerk**