**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**JULY 7, 2014**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work session July 7, 214 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Mason Barfield, and Kenneth Davis. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, PWD Donnie Warren, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin and Police Chief Terry Davis were not present.

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

1. **June 2, 2014 Work Session**
2. **June 5, 2014 Council Meeting**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he spoke with City Clerk Lisa Mashburn and correction was made. No other questions or concerns noted.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. None noted.

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **Proposed Peters Street Development (Houston Brown)**

Mr. Brown was not present to speak.

1. **Proposed Historic Preservation Commission (Tim Coombs)**

Tim Coombs President of the Historical Society said that it has been brought up in year past to form a Hahira Historic Preservation Commission. He said that he knew in the past it was a concern that it would be too restrictive on businesses but he said that it can be as limited as the City would like for it to be. He said the goals is to prevent buildings from being torn down and to preserve the buildings that we do have. He said that it does not to be federally driven and that he would like to get with the citizens and give recommendation to Council. City Manager Sumner stated that he had spoken with Emily Foster with the City of Valdosta and she said that she would be happy to come and work with the Historical Society and that she would be happy to come and talk to Mayor and Council.

1. **2040 Transportation Vision Plan (Corey Hull, SGRC MPO Planner**)

Corey Hull the SGRC MPO Planner stated he was here to give the yearly update on the Transportation Plan. He stated that he would hold two Public Hearings in the near future to get ideas and projects for the next 20 years. He outlined the projects in report that gave the 2035 Transportation Plan that they have at this time. This plan is about $675 M in highway and transit projects. The project for Hahira should start in July 2015 and that they are currently working to get all the right of ways for the project. He then reviewed the plan and proposed growth and asked the Citizens and Mayor/Council to write down ideas and mark the sample map with projects that they would like to see done. He said that he will be here at a later date and you can give them to him at that time. He then asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. Councilmember Clendenin stated that this was well presented. Cory Hull thanked Mayor Cain for working on the Transportation Committee.

1. **New Firearms Legislation (Mayor Cain)**

Mayor Cain wanted to make everyone aware of the new firearms legislation that passed July 1, 2014. He said that most Cities and Counties are going to be using security in regards to bringing firearms in to the Courthouse. He said that he would like input to allow it or not and said that we must have a security system City Attorney Rob Plumb said that there is no blanket ordinance and that it does not specify what that means. He said that we could place an officer at the door but that the new law prohibits officers from asking for a permit. He said that as long as Chief Davis or officer are at the door with the metal detector then we are covered by State law. He said that local governments are prohibited from making their own ordinances.

1. **Tree Removal (5)-Library (Councilman Davis)**

Councilmember Davis said that we had talked about tree removal along Main Street at the public library a few months ago. He said that it was brought to his attention that the line of sight is obstructed by the trees along the west side of Main Street and Nelson Street. He said that it was suggested that they remove the trees before something happens. He said that intersection is very busy at 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. being the high points, kids in and out of cars and tree line. He said he has had complaints from bus drivers and residents. He said that it is a matter of time before someone is hurt. He feels that it is prudent now to take down the trees. It is summer time and the kids are out of school and school starts back before the next meeting and the retreat is not until August 25th. He said we are again at risk. Councilmember Clendenin said he spoke to two officers and citizens and that it is no more dangerous than 75% of Lowndes County and feels we can trim back the trees and not take them down. Councilmember Davis said the trees are trimmed back by the Utility Company and that if that was an option then we would not have to cut down the trees. He said that he has spoken to several officers here in Hahira and they believe it is a hazard and line of sight problem. He said unfortunately the trees need to be cut down but that it needs to be fixed before something happens. Councilmember Barfield said he believes we need to evaluate and know that the greater good is being upheld. He also thinks that we should do something before school starts back, we have been notified by bus drivers and citizens and this makes us liable. He said that he hopes we spend time at the retreat evaluating our tree policy and use other types of greenery. He said he wants trees and enhancement of downtown. The Mayor said that last time this was discussed it was said that the trees would come down and putsomething in their place.

**DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:**

1. **Georgia’s Downtown Conference (Downtown Development Coordinator)**

Brandi Dame the Downtown Development Coordinator has requested to attend the Downtown Conference in Decatur for networking and information. The conference is set for August 19-22, 2014. The cost of the conference is $325.00 and housing will be $129.00 per night for three nights.

1. **Fire Code Adoption (Chief Bennett)**

Chief Dwight Bennett said that this is just housekeeping to the current ordinance and code. He stated that we have ISO evaluation next week and that we would just like to dress up the ordinance. He said that under section 18.32 he would like to add Georgia Fire Marshall Office and Fire Commissioners office and National Fire Protection Association. He said that it will only be a two line addition. He asked if anyone had any questions.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **HA-2014-03 Rezoning Request by Fred Wetherington & Laurence Nelson (Planning & Zoning Administrator)**
2. **Ha-2014-04 Annexation Request by Fred Wetherington & Laurence Nelson (Planning & Zoning Administrator)**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Matt Martin said that the Rezoning should be done first and then the annexation. He said that he presented maps and other information to the Mayor/Council. He said that back in April we started the review process, May the Council meeting was cancelled and the item was postponed by the Planning Commission. It was recommended in June that the item is tabled. The items have been advertised and the annexation was objected to at the June meeting. He said that there is a copy of the applications and agreement for review. He said the application has been modified to 58.09 acres and that the subdivision process has been approved with no access to Hagenbridge Road. He said the request was for R-10 zoning with development of water and sewer issues. The Planning Commission voted to zone it R-15 with a 5-1 vote. The annexation was recommended for denial with a 5-1 vote. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions.

None noted.

**ADJOURN.**

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**Mayor Bruce Cain**

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**City Clerk Lisa Mashburn**