**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**AUGUST 4, 2014**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work session August 4, 2014 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

1. **JULY 7, 2014 WORK SESSION**
2. **JULY 10, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. The Mayor said he had corrections and would get with City Clerk Lisa Mashburn to make the corrections. No other questions.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that every year we are ask to set the millage rate and it is set at 4.75 which is the lowest in 30 years. He said that no increase is anticipated. The millage rate ran in the Valdosta Daily Times and this is first public hearing. We will have another public hearing on Thursday night and submit for vote.

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S Washington asked with the County/City doing an increase, how will this affect us? City Manager Sumner said the County proposed a 1.5% increase and no increase indicated by Lowndes County School Board. He said he would get in touch with tax commissioner’s office to find out what the tax increase would be to property tax.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **PARKING BEHIND CITY HALL (SHOCK & SMITH)**

City Manager Sumner said that Shock and Smith are not here tonight. They would like to speak to Mayor and Council regarding the parking spaces behind City hall. Sumner said that it is an open area that was marked for a long time as no parking but the sign wore off and they have been parking there. We recently had the parking lot stripped and it was marked again and they would like it opened for parking again. He said that if they do park there it will be a liability for their cars if they catch fire. The Mayor stated that he has met with both parties and they still want to park their stating that they would have two more parking spots open for shoppers.

1. **PROPOSED HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (TIM COOMBS)**

Mr. Coombs said that Emily Foster from the City of Valdosta preservation is here to give general information. Mr. Coombs said that he found at the Historic Society a document from 1996 that Marilyn Brady signed but it was not an ordinance. He said that at that time the town’s people did not want a historic preservation commission. He said that he would like to protect historical building that are left. The Mayor said that there is data where they had a Historical Preservation Committee that they had no enforcement powers and they were not a legal finding instrument. The committee was used as a fact finding instrument and the committee was set up as advisory board. Matt Martin said he is not sure if an ordinance has been adopted, it can look at it again and have it updated. He said that we can appoint a commission with an appeal process and bring it to Council, fact finding first. The Mayor said that we do not need too many restrictions. Councilmember Clendenin said that it is his idea to have commission from historical group for a certain group of buildings. City Manager Sumner said that unless a building is on a list then there is nothing the local ordinance can do to protect the buildings. Emily Foster said that you can make the guidelines as loose as you want them to be and the recommendation of HPC is do not have to regulate paint color and that it all hinges on legal organ and National Standard. She suggested having two districts with different restrictions.

1. **REQUEST OF TAPS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS (MAYOR BRUCE CAIN)**

Mayor Cain said that in the packets is a request from Johnny Bailey to add tap to North and South side of his property. He said that if we approve it that the water/sewer tap would have to go through the County. He would also be charged the outside city limit rate on his water which is higher rate than inside the City rates. The Mayor said if additional line is needed he would have to pay for it along with the tap.

1. **EAST STANFILL RESURFACING-SPLOST VI/LMIG (MAYOR BRUCE CAIN)**

Mayor Cain stated the bids are in the packet.

1. Scruggs in the amount of $71,620.17
2. H & H Paving in the amount of $70,280.65
3. JWA $96,518.80

 H & H is the low bid. He stated that DOT has given us a check for $29,000 and the City will pay the difference. Councilmember Clendenin asked if we know anyone that has used them. Mayor Cain said he checked and they did work for Quitman and Brooks County. He said that they have their own asphalt but it is not approved by DOT so they will have to purchase it from Scruggs. The Mayor said he would give his recommendation on Thursday night.

1. **WEAPONS SCREENING AT WORK SESSIONS/COUNCIL MEETINGS (MAYOR CAIN)**

City Manager Sumner said that an ordinance is not necessary because state law spells out what we can do. He said that we can have a screener at the front door if the City has court or meeting in the same place. He said that this was also confirmed with GMA legal department. He said that we will have officer and the metal detector at the door but that we need a vote to set policy. Councilmember Davis confirmed that this means we restrict all weapons but need screening and officer present. Councilmember Barfield said that this would mean an officer would monitor the machine. Chief Davis said that he would like to err on side of caution and screen with the metal detector. He said this is all in process at the County. ChiefDavis said the degree of security if up to the Council.

1. **FY15 PAVING PRIORITY LIST (MAYOR CAIN)**

Mayor Cain said that LMIG gives us about $30,000 to spend on paving. He said that we can bank it (for larger project) or spend it and a 30% match is required. The priority list is: 1. Sargent Street (Hall-Newsome), 2. Nelson Street (E Grace-E Coleman), 3. Blakely Street (West Park to Union Road) This is not an approval for bid this is just a priority list of streets to DOT.

**DEPARTMENT REQUEST:**

1. **HUDDLE HOUSE (PWD WARREN)**

City Manager Sumner said that PW Warren was not present tonight due to family matter. He said that we have a new restaurant the Huddle House interested in coming to town. He said the location will be the property outparcel at Harvey’s. He said that the developer is in fact finding stage, working very diligently with the City staff. The developer presented drawings and pictures to the Council. Sumner said in order to have access we will have infrastructure cost and this would go from Hwy 122 to W Park Street and laying main to property itself. It would mean the water/sewer connection fee would be around $18,934. We would tie in a 6 inch water main and fire hydrant is not included, two inch sewer and pressure testing. Chief Bennett said that a fire hydrant is not needed, it is up to code there now. Sumner said that this would service other vacant properties to the east and west of properties. Councilmember Barfield said that if this is done it could open up for further development. City Manager Sumner said that if there is an amount that the City would like to pay for that it would be eligible SPLOST VI expense and how much if any of the fees would the City want to pay? Councilmember Barfield asked what the City would recoup. Mr. Robinson (developer) said the annual estimated revenue would be $800,000 which would mean possible $56,000 per year and the City proposed property taxes about 4,000 per year.

1. **BOND REFINANCE RESOLUTION (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that Jason Glass of Ameris Bank is here tonight, he is working with the City attorney in regards to the bond resolution. The Resolution approval will authorize bond documents for refinance.

1. **UNIFORMS-SPLOST VI (CHIEF DAVIS)**

Chief Davis said that every year the Police Department purchases uniforms and few bullet proof vest. The cost of the uniforms is $5,000-$6,000 and is SPLOST VI eligible.

1. **2015 INCODE CONFERENCE-ATLANTA (CITY MANAGER)**

The INCODE software system that the City uses will have the annual conference in Atlanta in May 2015. He said that he would like to send the Sr. Finance Clerk, City Clerk and PW Clerk to the training and that registration is open now. The registration and cost are in the packets for review.

1. **SALARY STUDY UPDATE/FY 14-15 COLA (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that in 2008 the City Council had a third party did a salary survey which was then updated in 2012. The Study could not be implemented. He said that he would like to update it again. He said that the cost of the survey would be $5,000. The amount that is in the FY15 budget is the 3% cost of living. He stated that this can be discussed at the retreat.

**FY15 BUDGET WORKSHOP I-CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Sumner said that every year we start working on the Budget in April and May. In June information is compiled and an administrative budget from the departments are put together for the next year. The budget will have several workshops and will be adopted from September 30, 2014 and no later than January 1, 2015. The budget will be advertised and adopted by October 30, 2014. Sumner presented Mayor and Council with fiscal year 2015 budget draft and Special Revenue fund budget draft. This is not for approval of purchases, it is just a budget. Sumner reviewed the budget draft for 2015 and said that it will be available at City Hall or email to you. Sumner said the next budget workshop will be at the September 2nd meeting.

**SET AUGUST COUNCIL AGENDA:**

-Parking behind City Hall

-East Stanfill Resurfacing

-Weapons Screening at Work Sessions/Council Meetings

-Huddle House

-FY 14-15 COLA

**SET CONSENT AGENDA:**

**-**REQUEST FOR TAPS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

-FY15 PAVING PRORITY LIST

-BOND REFINANCING RESOLUTION

-POLICE UNIFORMS-SPLOST VI

-2015 INCODE CONFERENCE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Barfield made a motion to enter into Executive session for personnel which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to exit Executive session and this was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Barfield and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to adjourn with was seconded by Councilmember Barfield. All in favor.

**ADJOURN.**

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**Mayor Bruce Cain**

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**City Clerk Lisa Mashburn**