**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**DECEMBER 1, 2014**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work session December 1, 2014 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**Lt. Shannon Kingston presented Chief Terry Davis with a Patriotic Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the military. She said that she appreciated his being supportive of her leaving to serve.**

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES**

1. **NOVEMBER 3, 2014-Work Session**
2. **NOVEMBER 6, 2014-Council Meeting**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **FY14 BUDGET AMENDMENTS (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that as required by law the budget must be amended every December to balance on a department level. He stated that it was advertised in the Valdosta Daily Times and copies are available at City hall for review. City Manager Sumner reviewed the amendments for the General and Proprietary Funds as noted in his memo. He then asked if anyone had any questions.

1. **APPLICATION OF BANSASI PATEL, BIG FOOT TRAVEL CENTER-1311 GEORGIA HIGHWAY 122 WEST FOR PACKAGE SALE OF BEER AND WINE (CHIEF DAVIS)**

This is an application to change name only for beer and wine license at Big Foot Travel Center. Chief Davis stated that recommended the name change after review and that he would prepare a letter to Mayor and Council.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

**DISCUSSIONS:**

1. **DOWNTOWN VEGETATION (VALDOSTA CITY ARBORIST)**

Kevin Jenkins Valdosta City Arborist said that he had reviewed the downtown area and that his recommendation for vegetation in the downtown area would be single stem crepe myrtles. He stated that they stand up in the heat and that we have a variety of them to choose from such as princess oak or colander oak. He stated that they get up higher than the store fronts and can be cut to go higher than the store fronts. Councilmember Barfield asked about the roots in regards to water/sewer and sidewalks. Jenkins said that the crepe myrtles do not have an aggressive root system and that all trees will go to water. Councilmember Clendenin said that the crepe myrtles loose leaves and they take a few years to grow. Jenkins said that the crepe myrtles will take about 5 years to get to be 12-15 foot and that they shed one time a year. PW Warren stated that the single stem crepe myrtles are that best that the City has at the time. Councilmember Clendenin said that he liked the pencil cypress. Mr. Jenkins said that they have brown spots on them from the carbon monoxide from vehicles and that they are not a popular tree with other cities. Mr. Jenkins presented a picture of both trees to the Mayor and Council. City Manager Sumner thanked Mr. Jenkins for his time and all the information. Mr. Jenkins stated that he did not know the cost of the two trees but that he would check around and get back to him before the Thursday night meeting. Public Works Director Warren said that we would need about 22 plants.

1. **WATER-SEWER RATE ORDINANCE (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner said that he had sent out a copy of the proposed water/sewer ordinance discussed at previous meetings. The FY 14 Budget had a loss of $100,000 which was half of the projected amount, and stated that the tap fees and property sales should not fund the water/sewer fund. Rate schedule attachment A would show a $13.00 increase to the base rate and as suggested by Councilmember Davis we would phase this in a three month period. Attachment B is for low income/senior citizens to qualify for not rate increase. Staff recommends this and it is using the Georgia Power ceiling amounts with total income of $23,340 and 65 years of age and older which is set by the Public Service Committee. Attachment C is for perpetual increases each year with a suggested 3% increase as done by other cities in Georgia. This would be 3% January 1, 2016 and every year after. Attachment D is the capital cost which support the $13.00 increase. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. Councilmember Barfield said that we will still need to do an increase each year to cover operating costs. Councilmember Clendenin asked about SPLOST VI and stated that he thought the water sewer amount is 1.25 million. It was stated that this is projected amount over a 6 year period. Councilmember Barfield said that we need to establish fees to maintain the services that we provide. Councilmember Barfield asked what would be the base increase for no deficit position. City Manager Sumner said that it is hard to hit a moving target. Councilmember Clendenin asked what we can do to break even. City manager said to look at the 2015 budget projections. Councilmember Barfield asked what would happen if we went with $7.00 increase to break even. Councilmember Davis said that he would like to clarify that if we go from $13.00 to $7.00 we will be back in the same situation that we are in now and that he thinks we should go with the plan that we have now. Councilmember Barfield said that you are right, we need to expand and improve our current system and be in surplus as long as we can. City Manager Sumner said that we have never had more than $161,000 in reserve. Councilmember Barfield said that with the projected $13.00 increase we are well below the states average for water bills. Councilmember Clendenin said that he does not disagree but we need to come up with 2016 increase. Councilmember Barfield said that weneed to go ahead with $13.00 now and 3% increase each year. Councilmember Barfield said that he would purpose we go with attachment A which is $13.00 increase over 3 month period, attachment B which is the senior citizens discount and attachment C which is 3% increase starting January 1, 2016 and every year. He proposed that we drop attachment D. This would maintain the system for what might arise. Councilmember Clendenin said that what bothers him is the increase would cover bond referendum. It was suggested that we widen the phasing of the 3% to quarterly.

1. **VETERANS MOTORCADE – 12-05-2014 (MAYOR CAIN)**

The Mayor said that he would like to invite everyone to attend the Veterans Motorcade on December 5, 2014. He said that we have a list of items for donation and that cash donations are also accepted. We will leave for Lake City at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

1. **MOODY SUPPORT COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that we give a $1,000 donation to Moody Support every year. He stated that Mr. Parker Greene with Valdosta and Lowndes County does a great job.

1. **WINTER CONFERENCE-CITY & FINANCE CLERKS (CITY CLERK)**

City Manager Sumner stated that the Finance Clerk and City Clerk would like to attend Fall Training, February 2015 in Athens. The cost of the class will be $325.00 and the room will be $99.00 per night for 4 nights.

**SET DECEMBER COUNCIL AGENDA:**

-DOWNTOWN VEGETATION

**SET DECEMBER CONSENT AGENDA:**

-Moody Support Committee Contribution

-Winter Conference-City & Finance Clerks

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**