

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**AUGUST 4, 2016**

**7:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting August 4, 2016 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils Kenneth Davis, Patrick Warren, Mason Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Police Chief Terry Davis, PWD Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Mike Wells

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- A. JULY 5, 2016 WORK SESSION**
- B. JULY 7, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the meeting minutes. None noted. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. MILLAGE RATE (CITY MANAGER)**

**City Manager Sumner stated the advertisement ran in the paper last week for the Public Hearing on the Millage Rate. The rate was advertised at 4.75% as discussed at previous work session and this makes up a small percent of the General Fund budget. It is the recommendation of the staff to set the millage at 4.75%. He then asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against setting the millage rate at 4.75%. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of setting the millage rate at 4.75%. None noted. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to set the millage at 4.75% which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis and Councilman Warren all voted in favor of the motion.**

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

None noted.

#### **REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilman Warren. Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **DISCUSSIONS:**

##### **A. SOLID WASTE SERVICES (SOLID WASTE PROVIDER)**

City Manager Sumner said that we have Todd Griffin of G-Waste Sanitation here tonight as per our discussion at the Work Session on Monday night. He stated that Mr. Griffin is here to answer any questions that the Mayor and Council may have. Mr. Sumner said that he ask Mr. Griffin here to give a general update including any issues or any improvements. Mr. Griffin stated that he purchased a new truck but that the motor blew up in the new truck. We are getting a new motor in the truck. I have purchased more cans and we have plenty of new cans. We had two people on the back of the truck, we now have one. Henry the worker on the back of the truck would rather work by himself, he does not get along with others. We will start to spray Lysol in the cans next week. We have an issue after it rains with water but when you get 7 inches there is nothing you can do to prevent it. When we dump the cans they are full of water and we have plugs in the cans. Councilman Barfield asked where you are with the motor on the new truck, the one the engine blew up. Griffin stated that he is getting a complete new engine at the cost of \$32,000. This is what we are picking up with now and we have the blue truck for back up. We do Commercial pick up on Monday and Tuesday and then Residential pick up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Thursday is our big load because we do have some Commercial on that day also. We may have to make three trips to the land fill a day. The Mayor said I think we have only had two days this year that we did not get picked up on time, I think this has cut down on delays having the new truck. He then asked if the new account are hindering us and Mr. Griffin stated no they are not. Councilman Davis said you have had a number of delays due to the malfunctions of the truck. I thinks since the time you had the truck fixed you are still having delays and you have two employees on the truck, one driver and one person on the back of the truck. Do you have the capacity to take on new accounts? We would have to hire more people and another truck. Councilman Davis said if you get more accounts will you have the capacity and will you have more delays? This is a breach of contract. Councilman Davis continued to discuss the situation with Mr. Griffin. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that the point is made. The Mayor ended the discussion. Councilman Warren said so you now have two trucks, the Volvo and the blue Truck but the blue truck needs work. He then stated that he know the problems are not planned. Mr. Griffin stated that Hahira has been good to me, they will always come first. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin stated that all delays should be covered with the new truck. Mr. Griffin said yes and we have split a two day residential pick up into three days.

##### **B. CITY MANAGER/DEPARTMENT HEADS FUNDING REQUEST (MAYOR CAIN)**

City Manager Sumner recused himself. The Mayor said as stated at the Work Session, the salaries for the department heads (PD, FD, PW, CM) are below average on the salary study. I reviewed the study list of all salaries and they are below starting salary. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that he reviewed it also and if we had to replace any of the department heads we would have to have substantial increase to get someone with the experience of the current department heads. I think this is a step in the right direction. **Councilman Warren made a motion to approve the funding request for Department head increases which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilman Warren, Councilman Davis, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

## **REPORTS:**

Councilman Warren said the he is proud to be part of Hahira. I am happy to give back to the people giving to us over the years. I am excited about the City Center.

Councilman Davis said he would like to say thank you to the City Manager and staff for the amount of work that they do. I think the salaries are getting closer to where they need to be, this has been a long time coming and I am honored to be a part of it. The Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works do a fantastic job. They are always staffed well and they make sure things go smoothly.

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said he would like to ditto what has already been said here tonight. Thank to District One for the opportunity to serve and thank you to Mayor and Council. We have had a lot of projects come to fruition, we are starting to see things happen and it is gratifying. I thank you for your debate and diligence and for the fact that we can all come to terms. To the department heads and employees this increase is a long time coming after all the salary studies. All employees do a great job but we do not do anything for them. Good job with the budget, we have the money and the service and we put money back and it is commendable. We all need to keep moving forward and stay positive.

Councilman Barfield said he would like to thank everyone for what they do, we are still not where we need to be, and we do what we can when we can. We need to continue to pray for the City and this country, we are so blessed with the system from the bottom to the top and this is what holds our Country together. God is in control. Thank you to everyone and let's get this park going, start building and take care of it.

City Manager Sumner said on behalf of the department heads we thank you for your leadership. This is a long time coming on the increases, the money is important but we are all here because we want to be here. We all believe in what we are doing. Thank you to the office staff and department heads, keep moving onward and upward.

Mayor Cain said he knows he is beating a dead horse but thank you to the department heads. The department heads pick out the best employees for the money. Go meet them, talk to them, they all do the best that they can. This is the third and final raises, thank you to Paula, Lisa and the City Manager. Thank you to Council for a great job, I enjoy being the Mayor and it is a privilege to work with you all, great bunch of people.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**