

**CITY OF HAHIRA**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**AUGUST 23, 2016**

**9:00 A.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Special Called Meeting 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. Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Police Chief Terry Davis, PWD Donnie Warren, City Manager Jonathan Sumner and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** City Manager Jonathan Sumner

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**A. SANITATION SERVICES (MAYOR CAIN)**

Mayor Cain stated that we are here to discuss the Sanitation Services for the City. He stated last week we had a dilemma with the garbage pick-up. The service provider G-Waste had both trucks break down and the trash was not picked up. We had another Trash Service Provider come in on Saturday with three trucks and pick up the trash due to so many calls about the trash. Our current provider has purchased a 2011 Freightliner truck and it arrived at 3:00 a.m. this morning. G-Waste will have two trucks once the Volvo truck that caught on fire last week is repaired and out of the shop. We have concerns regarding the future. Does anyone have any questions? Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said that in the past we privatized the garbage pick-up, we had a cheaper rate and better service. I am not unhappy with the current service. I have people compliment them all the time. I think we need to look at what it cost, see what prices are now, what it would take now to perform the service. Councilman Warren asked where we are on the current contract. Sumner stated that the current contract was started in 2013 when we put out proposal/RFP for trash service. In 2014 we remained with the current provider for two years with automatic renewal and no changes. We have two years after this which is 2017 and 2018. There is a provision in the contract that we can give a 90 day's notice, put out RFP and make a decision by the end of the year. I will remind you that prices could go up, but under the current contract with auto renewal the price will remain the same. Any increase would have to be requested by the provider and it would have to come before the Mayor and Council. Councilman Barfield asked if we called other cities and asked if this is atypical of sanitation services. Sumner said that if the City took over the sanitation pick up that we would have to purchase two trucks, we could probably fund out of LOST for 18 months and then you would have to have an increase in fees to the customers. Councilman Davis said the real issue is

capacity, I do not think he has the capacity to service Hahira and other accounts. I have at least 10 emails showing where the trash will be picked up late and they all have a one or two day delay. He now has a new used truck but he does not have two people on the back of the truck. If he had three employees then he would have to have workers comp and this would be an enormous amount of money. My questions is does he have the capacity to take care of his current customers. I think we should at least look at an RFP, see what it would take for the City to take it over. Councilman Barfield asked what the Mayor thought.

The Mayor said I think we have three options. 1.) We can let the current provider work with one final chance, 2.)Put out RFP for new providers 3.)City can purchase two trucks and get into the garbage business.

Councilman Barfield asked what City's do their own trash service? The response was Adel, Valdosta and Remerton. Sumner said the maintenance cost would be around \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually. Councilman Barfield said if it went out for bid, would we have to accept the low bid. Sumner said no but it would be in the best interest of the City. The price is the number one factor and how long the price will remain the same. PWD Warren said and we would not want an automated truck, we want someone on the back of the truck putting the cans back and picking up the trash that falls out. The Mayor said he has given his three recommendations, I think we need to work up numbers and equipment cost and get a general idea of what it would cost. My feeling would be for the City to do it if it is feasible. Friday was hectic, it would have been easier for the City to go and handle it. I know that maintenance is a big part of the picture. Councilman Barfield asked how long new trucks generally last, PWD Warren said about 5 years. Sumner said we would need financing options if we purchase trucks, we could probably hold the current rates for the next 18 months and at the end of that it would probably need to increase. We could have enhanced services like curb side yard debris pick up, this would require additional truck and service. Over the past year the current provider has done a good job, he has gone over and beyond. There have been issues and concerns and last week was the biggest issue. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said he would like to see the numbers. Councilman Warren said so we have two choices, new contract or continue with current provider which is the cheaper of the two. You get what you pay for, Friday was a problem but it is going to happen. It was all bad timing. PWD Warren said yes Todd had a bad month, we used to be the same way when the City provided the service. I think he needs reprimanding, he needs to be sure that the contract is fulfilled. If there is a problem make things happen, get the trash picked up. Sumner said we spoke to the current provider last week, letting him know the breach of contract issue and the understanding of the major interruption. Last week he failed at his responsibility to pick up the trash and the City took action. The Mayor said that at one time he got a trailer and went around and picked up trash, he did not do that this time. Todd has stated that he is going to make personnel changes. Sumner said that this can all be in a letter to the service provider. Councilman Barfield said that nothing is guaranteed, we need to rate the cost. Barfield said we are on the edge of the cliff, we will push him off. We need for this to be done. We need to see what happens, we do have a breach of contract. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to choose option one to draft a letter to provider and let him know the position of the City and the breach of contract, what will happen if the service is more than 24 hours behind what is expected. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin seconded the motion. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**Councilman Barfield made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilman Warren. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Warren, Councilman Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted to adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**