

## **Council Meeting**

### **March 9, 2000**

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, March 9, 2000, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, and Joel Hunnicutt; City Manager, Susan Doner; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Woodrow W. Blue.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

City Attorney, Willie Linahan, swore in newly elected Councilman Wayne Bullard.

Councilman elect Robert Copeland was not present for swearing in.

Visitors were welcomed and a quorum was established.

Mayor Adams recommended electing Councilman Harris as pro tem. Council Bullard made a motion to approve Mayor Adam's recommendation, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams requested approval of the February 10, 2000 Council meeting minutes as printed; noting that there was one motion that had not been voted on. He recommended it be voted on under old business. Council Harris made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Adams called for a vote on the motion that was made at the February 10th council meeting by Council Harris and seconded by Council Hunnicutt that was not voted on. The motion was to empower the City Manager to pay the bills every two weeks. Vote was unanimous.

Councilman elect, Robert Copeland, arrived at the Council meeting and was sworn in by City Attorney, Willie Linahan.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Adams spoke briefly about former Councilman Jesse Griffin's service to the city and read a proclamation designating March 16, 2000 as "Jesse Griffin Day" in the City of Hahira.

Mayor and Council presented Mr. & Mrs. Griffin with several gifts. Councilman Harris read and presented a plaque, which was given to Mr. Griffin in recognition of four years of dedicated service to the City of Hahira.

Mr. Jesse Griffin read a letter to the citizens of Hahira expressing his appreciation in working as a Councilman for the last four years. (See attached letter)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### (A) HAHIRA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Mr. David Dunn of the Planning Commission reported that the City of Hahira has initiated amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, which would delete the Zoning Board of Appeals and transfer its present responsibilities to the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission. This was reviewed and the Planning Commission approved of the request. Mayor Adams asked Council for a motion to act on the amendments and accept. Council Bullard motioned to accept Mayor's request, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

##### (B) DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

Police Chief Woodrow W. Blue requested \$4,837.00 from Capital Outlays to update the three new vehicles that were acquired from the Sheriff's Department. This would include painting, radios and cage extenders.

Council Harris made a motion to update the three vehicles, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

##### (C) GMA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK:

Mayor Adams reported the week of April 23 - 29 has been designated City Government Week by the Georgia Municipal Association. He requested adoption of a resolution of Hahira's participation in the activities. City Manager, Susan Doner, read the resolution. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

##### (D) IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE:

Mayor Adams reported on the new water/sewer rates, which would start with the bills that are due July 10th. This would include commercial rates and out of city limits rates. Council Harris made a motion to go ahead with the water/sewer rates beginning in July. The motion died for lack of a second.

(E) GMA TELECOMUNICATIONS CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR 2000:

Mayor Adams reported the contract, was up for renewal. The annual cost is \$1,584.00. Council Hunnicutt made a motion to renew the contract, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(F) RENOVATIONS TO HAHIRA COMMUNITY CENTER:

Mayor Adams reported on two bids for renovations to the Community Center. The bids were from John Bailey for \$17,861.16 and John Kraholik for \$16,490.00. Council Bullard made a motion to wait another month and get another bid, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Vote was unanimous.

(G) CONTRACT WITH CUNNINGHAM TREE SERVICE FOR TREE REMOVAL:

Mayor Adams asked for Council's approval to remove three large pine trees on the city's right-of-way at 415 E Stanfill Street that are a possible danger to the house at that address at cost of \$600.00, and trim dead branches from three trees in front of the courthouse at a cost of \$150.00. Council Bullard made a motion to approve the mayors request, seconded by Council Harris. Vote was unanimous.

(H) COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS:

Mayor Adams appointed Council Bullard to the Culture and Recreation Departments and Council Copeland to the Street and Sidewalk Departments.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Copeland had no report.

Council Hunnicutt had no report but mentioned that Mr. Sonny Rogers had passed away. He asked that Council consider naming a recreation field in his honor, as he had been a coach to area children for many years.

Council Bullard had no report.

Council Harris welcomed new Councilmen Sonny Copeland and Wayne Bullard. He also mentioned the importance of the new water/sewer rates again and asked, if it was

lawful, he would like to reintroduce the motion to approve the new water/sewer rates. City Attorney, Linahan, stated that he did not know the answer to it, but there are limits. Council Harris stated his appreciation for City Attorney's comments, and hoped the city could survive for another month.

Mayor Adams stated that if the three Council members did not understand the importance of the water/sewer rates, they need to be informed by the next council meeting.

Mayor Adams stated that he wanted Council members to submit nominees for appointment to Committees at the next council meeting. He further stated he wanted to reduce the number of members on committees to five and eliminate the Library Advisory committee.

Mayor Adams reported that the County Commissioners had recently purchased playground equipment and it had been installed in City Park, which is in District 1. He was of the opinion that one should be placed in Districts 2 and 3. The cost is \$25,000.00 for each.

Mayor Adams reported that several city workers and some local citizens went to Camilla on Friday and Saturday March 3rd & 4th to aid in clean up from the Valentines Day tornado. Rountree Construction Company and Cowart Electrical and Industrial Contractors provided trucks to transport city equipment to Camilla. He requested the public express their thanks to these individuals and businesses for their aid to our sister city and its citizens.

Mayor Adams reported on the message from Nick Lacey, Director of the Emergency Management of Lowndes County, concerning the smoke problem in the area caused by the Mud Swamp fire.

City Manager, Susan Doner, reported that the city has already passed a resolution on a rate increase. A date for the increase will have to be made. This is a very serious matter and she stated that she understood Council Harris' and Mayor Adams concerns and asked that the new councilmen take the time to learn about the situation.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor  
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn