

Council Meeting

November 4, 2004

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse with Mayor Crowe presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Myron Crowe; Councilmen M. C. Nelson, Wayne Bullard, Temple Ogundu and Terry Benjamin; City Manager, Janice Logue; City Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Police Chief, Terry Davis; PWD, John Thursby; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; Finance Director, Ramona Robison; BHT Director, Kimberly Hart; City Attorney, Rob Plumb.

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Mayor Crowe called on Councilman Ogundu, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation given by Councilman Bullard .

Mayor Crowe welcomed visitors.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF OCTOBER 7TH COUNCIL MEETING; OCT 29TH PUBLIC HEARING

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mayor Crowe asked Council to review the bills.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Beer, Wine & Liquor License – Relocation

Mayor Crowe stated that this was not a new license for Remi Tessier, but a relocation of his business. The present location is 1018 W Ga Hwy 122 and the new location will be 1012 W Ga Hwy 122 which is the building of the old Steakhouse Grill.

Mayor Crowe asked if there was anyone in favor of the request? No response.

He asked if there was anyone in opposition of the request? No response.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

B. HA-2004-15 Annexation/Rezoning request by City of Hahira

Jason Davenport, Associate Planner of the Planning Commission, reported that the applicant is requesting to annex and rezone 1.184 acres from Highway Commercial (C-H) County to Highway Commercial (C-H) City. The general character of the area is highway commercial. The property is the BP Station, located on the west side of I-75. The Planning Staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Crowe asked for those in favor of the annexation/rezoning request to speak. There was no response.

He asked for those in opposition of the annexation/rezoning request to speak. There was no response.

Mayor Crowe stated that this was approved at a previous council meeting, but the city wanted to have the Planning Commission's recommendation before going ahead.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the annexation/rezoning request, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

SPECIAL GUESTS

A. HONEYBEE COMMITTEE

Ms. Adeline Landrum and Honeybee Committee members thanked the city for their help during the Honey Bee Festival and presented a handmade quilt to the city in appreciation. The quilt was made by Mary Ingram and Dorothy Jordan.

B. NICK LACEY – E911 CENTER DIRECTOR

Mr. Lacey spoke on Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning. City Manager, Janice Logue, attended the first meeting. He asked council to appoint someone to be on the policy committee.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve purchase of new software application system

Mayor Crowe called on Finance Director, Ramona Robison, to report on the system. Ms. Robison stated that the system would provide information that a larger city would have. It would provide immediate access to Mayor/Council, city employees and the public, for financial information. She recommended approval to purchase the system.

Council Ogundu stated that he had talked to personnel at the City of Winder, who are using the system, and they were very impressed with the program. He also called Union City and was told that the benefit of the system would outweigh the cost to the city.

B. Approve RFP for Audit Services

Mayor Crowe stated that for the past 15 years the city has been using the same accounting firm and audit system. He recommended putting the audit services up for bid on an annual basis. The current auditors would be able to bid on the services.

C. Approve new Dec. Work Session & Council Meeting Dates

Mayor Crowe reported that the December Work Session and Council Meetings would change from Dec.6 and 9 to Nov. 29 and Dec. 2.

D. Approve Finance Training for 2005

Finance Director, Ramona Robison, asked for approval to attend finance training classes which would start in January and end in April with 16 of the required 18 credits available. Cost of the training would be \$2,500.00. One course would be left until it could be made available. This is in

the 2005 budget. They would be willing to defer the payment and allow registration before the classes are filled.

- E. Approve 3-day training class for Bobbie

Police Chief, Terry Davis, asked for approval to send Municipal Courtclerk, Bobbie Dumas, to a 3-day training class December 10 through 12.

- F. Approve bid for Fire Department

City Manager, Janice Logue, reported that three bids were received. She and Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, recommended going with Richard Hill Associates.

Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the Department Request Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Appoint and approve new Pension Committee Secretary

City Manager, Janice Logue, stated that this was usually done at the first of the year. City Clerk, Marilyn Brady, had been doing this for the past several years. She recommended appointing Finance Director, Ramona Robison as the new Pension Committee Secretary.

- B. Approve purchase of equipment for \$4,900.00

Mayor Crowe stated that this was for two generators, air compressor, pressure washer and trash pump. Cost would be \$4,900.00.

- C. Approve Christmas Tree Recycling Program

Public Works Director, John Thursby, stated that the tree recycling program was for citizens to bring their old Christmas trees to a designated area for recycling.

- D. Approve participation in Mayor's Christmas Motorcade

Police Chief, Terry Davis, reported that the Mayor's Day Christmas Motorcade would be on Wednesday, December 15th. He asked citizens to donate gifts to be given to the patients at Southwestern State Hospital.

- E. Drew brothers signs and recognition

Mayor Crowe asked for approval for four signs for each entrance into the city, which would recognize J.D., Tim and Stephen Drew. Total cost would be \$1,200.00.

- F. Purchase brick from old school

Mayor Crowe asked for approval to purchase 2500 bricks at a cost of \$725.00 from the old school.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

CITY OF HAHIRA CREDIT CARD ORDINANCE #04-10

City Manager, Janice Logue, read the Credit Card Ordinance, which would be effective November 5, 2004.

Council Nelson made a motion to approve the credit card ordinance, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE GOV. & GROWTH CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA FOR COUNCIL OGUNDU

Mayor Crowe stated that there were some questions at the Work Session on this. There are two sessions that Mayor/Council attend every year, one in Atlanta and another in Savannah. His thoughts were for Council Ogundu to substitute this session for one of the other sessions. The city would pay for the registration for the sessions.

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the conference in Atlanta, seconded by Council Ogundu. Discussion followed. Councils Benjamin and Ogundu voted yes. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted no. Mayor Crowe voted no, breaking the tie. Motion denied.

APPROVE 2005 BUDGET

Mayor Crowe read the ordinance.

Council Ogundu made a motion to approve the 2005 Budget, seconded by Council Nelson. Vote was unanimous.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Freeman Rivers, 204 S Hall Street, mentioned that in the Honey Bee Festival book, Council Ogundu was not listed as Mayor Pro Tem. This may have been an oversight. He also stated that in other cities, "Citizens to be Heard" is not at the last of the agenda list. He stated that racism is still alive. He referred to Council Ogundu's request for a training session in Atlanta, which was denied.

RECOGNITION

A. Thank you letters for Police and Fire Departments

Police Chief, Terry Davis, read a "thank-you" letter recognizing Patrolmen James Kessel and Brian Quinlan for their assistance during an emergency on I-75. He also read a letter from Ron Borders to Sgt. Shannon Kingston congratulating her on her accomplishments.

City Manager, Janice Logue, read a "thank-you" letter to the Hahira Fire Department for their help during the hurricane, in which the lady's house became flooded.

B. Fire Chief appointment as Vice-President of District 8 GA Firefighters Association

Mayor Crowe reported that Hahira Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, had been appointed Vice President of District 8 GA Firefighters Association by Chief Rice of the Valdosta Fire Department.

C. Years of Service Awards 5/10/20 years

Mayor Crowe presented a plaque to Lt. Gerald Lungler of the Police Department for 5 years of service to the City of Hahira.

Also Patrolman James Kessel was presented a plaque for 10 years of service to the City of Hahira.

Also LAS Operator, Donnie Warren and City Clerk, Marilyn Brady, were presented plaques for 20 years of service to the City of Hahira.

D. Employee of the Quarter

Mayor Crowe announced the "Employee of the Quarter" was David Thornton. He was presented a plaque and a \$50.00 certificate to a restaurant of his choice.

REPORTS

A. COUNCIL

Council Nelson reported that the sidewalks were coming along. There has been some trouble with water in Audubon Heights Subdivision.

Council Bullard had no report.

Councilman Ogundu thanked the city employees for their service. He thanked the Honey Bee Committee for a job well done. The new homes are being built and are very beautiful.

Council Benjamin thanked the city employees and those who came to support them. He thanked all of the departments for their work.

B. CITY MANAGER

City Manager, Janice Logue, thanked Mayor and Council for their support. She also thanked department heads for their support.

C. MAYOR

Mayor Crowe thanked the City Manager for her work. He also thanked city employees and the Honey Bee Committee for their work..

Council Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Ogundu. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting ended at 8:30 P.M.

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Myron Crowe
Mayor

Marilyn Brady
City Clerk

Amended November 4, 2004 minutes

APPROVE GOV. & GROWTH CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA FOR COUNCIL OGUNDU

Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the conference in Atlanta, seconded by Council Ogundu.

Benjamin said the class filled up in two hours the last time it was offered this year and it is not offered next year.

"If we're willing to spend money in other areas I think we can certainly send money to further the education of the council, especially when it comes to the city" Benjamin said.

Ogundu said with the City of Valdosta growing toward Hahira, Hahira's elected officials need to be prepared for further growth.

"My father used to tell me that there are three keys to success" Ogundu said. "These three keys are preparation, preparation, preparation".

Ogundu said that Crowe and the other councilmen have not taken this class yet, therefore one of them needs to.

"At least one of us should go and get the knowledge" Ogundu said. "The blind should not lead the blind".

Councilman Wayne Bullard said he was for the class but the city shouldn't have to pay for Ogundu's hotel room.

Ogundu then repeatedly asked Bullard if he ever had to pay for a hotel room he was staying in while he attended a conference that would benefit the City of Hahira.

Bullard said he hadn't in the nine years he had been attending conferences but he only attended two conferences a year and not three.

"I'm for the education, I'm for the class, but I feel it ought to come in the place of one of the other three day-four night conferences we have next year" Crowe said.

Crowe then said he would be in favor of the motion that would allow Ogundu to attend the conference if he swapped it with one of the next year's conferences or if he kept both of them next year and the city just paid the registration fee for the Government and Growth conference.

Mayor Crowe called for a vote.

Councils Benjamin and Ogundu voted yes. Councils Nelson and Bullard voted no. Mayor Crowe noted no, breaking the tie. Motion denied.

Myron
Crowe
Marilyn Brady
Mayor
City Clerk