

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

Mayor Pro Tem and Council met in regular session on Monday, September 18, 2006, at the Community Center with Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem, Temple Ogundu; Councils Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin and Wayne Bullard; Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett; Police Chief, Terry Davis; PWD, Donnie Warren; City Attorney, Rob Plumb; Recorder, Marilyn Brady

Mayor Pro Tem Ogundu called the meeting to order and said there was a quorum present. He called on Jeff Stalvey to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Invocation was given by Mr. Wilmon Stanley.

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review/Correction of Minutes

- A) August 10, 2006 Council Meeting
- B) August 9, 2006 Public Hearing
- C) August 15, Budget Review
- D) August 16, Final Public Hearing & Adoption of millage rate

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Review of Bills/Budget Overages

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked for a motion to approve the bills. **Council Bullard made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous**

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked Council if they had anything to add to the agenda? Council Adams said that she would like to add the Intergovernmental Agreement for Mediation of -----

Services. Council Benjamin wanted to add the Resolution regarding closing and relocation of Exit 29.

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion to add the Intergovernmental Agreement to the Agenda. **Council Adams made a motion to add the Intergovernmental Agreement to the Agenda, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion to add the Resolution regarding the proposed closing and relocation of Exit 29. **Council Benjamin made a motion to add the Resolution regarding the proposed closing and relocation of Exit 29 to the agenda. There was no second to the motion. Motion died for lack of a second.**

Council Benjamin read a letter addressed to the D.O.T. from Senator Tim Golden and State Representative, Jay Shaw, in regards to their plans for Exit 29.

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, read the Resolution. He stated that the Resolution was presented to Council, but died for lack of a second. The purpose of the Resolution was, once it is signed by the Council members, they would circulate the petition for all the citizens, property owners and

business leaders to sign. They would arrange for a Public Hearing where everyone can come and make their wishes and opinions known.

Council Adams stated that she had a difference of opinion on how to go about this. She stated that they should have a Town Hall Meeting and have the D.O.T. representatives and engineers to come and speak with the people it involves, the impact on the property owners, instead of signing a Resolution. The exit is old and outdated and needs to be modernized for transportation. She felt that this would be an opportunity for the business that would be affected to relocate and rebuild on a more modernized interchange. The proposed location would enhance adjacent property for commercial development and opportunities for growth of the downtown businesses. She said that she thought this would be good for the future of Hahira and transportation safety. She said she thought we should begin reconstruction of State Road 122 at West Webb Road instead of just West of Franks Creek. She wanted to talk and negotiate with Council members to have the engineers install curb and gutter, drainage and sidewalks adjacent to all new roadway construction for pedestrian safety. She wanted D.O.T. to cooperate with Hahira officials to install water and sewer infrastructure adjacent to all new roadway construction where needed for future development. She would like the D.O.T. to relocate Union Road nearer to the downtown area.

Council Benjamin asked to comment on Council Adams statement. He said that it was possibly good information but if the city does not have the avenue to do that, then those concerns that were raised cannot be addressed. Council Adams said that they could.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ouida Lane, 210 Randall Street, read a letter addressed to Council from Marshall Ingram, Sargent Street, requesting a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of West Grace and South Hall Streets due to the increase in traffic and for safety.

She has been riding by and checking on the property on the corner of Hall Street and W. Lawson Street and noticed that they are operating a business there. She stated that the odors from the business were very bad in the area.

She stated that the Resolution that did not pass, was not to hinder, only to enhance. She thought that Council should vote for it.

Mr. Wilmon Stanley, 308 S. Washington Street, stated that he had been coming to the meeting for a long time. He has listened and observed. The citizens of Hahira need representation. A Resolution is a power of the people speaking to the representatives who have the power asking them to step in.

Ms. Lee Isaacson, 1038 W. Stanfill St., stated that there are people on that street whose lives are going to be uprooted. She said that she has lived at her residence for 2 1/2 years. Their children are settled. She did not want to see them uprooted. She mentioned her neighbors who have just moved in and after hearing about the situation, all of a sudden their lives are in an uproar again. She said they were tired of all the secrets and asked why not come to them and tell them. She said that they were not against the project, but asked that they reroute it.

Ms. Karen Camion, 405 W. Stanfill St., stated that she didn't understand Council's actions on the Resolution. She asked Council to tell the citizens why they wouldn't vote on the Resolution.

Leaving in Retirement – Faye Wisenbaker

Council Adams stated that Ms. Wisenbaker was not present.

Water's Edge Subdivision – Avery Walden

Mr. Avery Walden presented drawings of his plans for the new subdivision. He requested approval for a Land Disturbance Permit so that he can start to work on Phase A of the subdivision. This would be for the infrastructure. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked Council to table it and make no decision until they have the facts or more information. He called for a motion. **Council Bullard made a motion to table it, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Approve the Appointment of Cathy Daniels to Housing Authority

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion to approve the appointment. Council Adams stated that Cathy Daniels was the daughter of Ora Mae Register, who is on the Housing Authority. She thought that Council could appoint someone else, as there may be questions about Mother and Daughter on the same committee. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion to approve the appointment of Cathy Daniels. **Council Benjamin made a motion to approve Cathy Daniels to the Housing Authority, seconded by Council Bullard. Councils Benjamin and Bullard voted yes. Council Adams voted no. Motion passed.**

Approval to auction Hospital Equipment (Smith)

Police Chief, Terry Davis, stated that he had several requests from area citizens on the hospital beds. He asked approval to advertise in the Valdosta Daily Times and, with help from the Fire and Public Works Departments, have the auction on Saturday following the Honey Bee Festival. Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion to approve the auction. **Council Adams made a motion to approve the auction, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Approve Service Delivery Agreement between the County and the City

City Attorney, Rob Plumb, reported that for the past several weeks, the County and cities have been meeting to negotiate Service Delivery Strategies. It is a state law for House Bill 489, which requires Counties and city governments to coordinate their efforts to minimize duplication of services so they don't have two governments providing the same services. The County and cities have identified about 54 services they provide and they have reached agreement on all but 3 or 4 of the services. Items under dispute are Parks and Recreation, funding on road maintenance in unincorporated areas in the County and funding for the Industrial Authority. This has to be submitted to DCA by the end of October. Under HB 489, governments are required to submit the Service Delivery Strategy to the Department of Community Affairs by the end of October. Penalties for not submitting by the deadline are losing state funding until those agreements are reached. The plan is submitted and approved by DCA.

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked for a motion to approve signing the agreement. **Council Adams made a motion to approve signing the agreement, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

Department Request

A. Approve the fencing for Hall Street Barn

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked Council, if they approved this, where would the money come from? He asked for a motion. **Council Benjamin made a motion to table it until next month, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

B. Approve request to purchase uniforms for Police Department

Police Chief, Terry Davis, requested approval to purchase new uniforms. This is a budgeted item. Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion. **Council Benjamin made a motion to**

approve the purchase of the uniforms, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

- C. Approval for Bobbie Dumas to attend municipal clerks training

Police Chief, Terry Davis, asked for approval to send Bobbie to Municipal Clerks Training. Starting next year, all municipal clerks have to be certified. Lodging would cost \$400.00. Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, called for a motion. **Council Benjamin made a motion to allow the Court Clerk to attend the training, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

- D. Approval to purchase Courthouse chairs

Council Adams made a motion to postpone this until next month, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

Hahira receives \$300,000 Block Grant

Council Benjamin stated that the city had been working on this about two years. The grant will help with I & I repairs in the city. They will be going to Atlanta this week to receive the check from the Governor.

Commendations for Chiefs Dwight Bennett and Terry Davis

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, asked Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett, to explain the two grants that were received. Chief Bennett stated that one grant was for extrication equipment and the other was for basic equipment.

Council Adams read a letter from Librarian, Janet Register, commending Police Chief, Terry Davis and his officers for all that they have done in helping with children at the library.

Consent Agenda

Review of J. Reeves & Company site plan
S & P Project #A59606GN

Review of Herbert T. Butler Property Final Plat
S & P Project #A59606GN

Review of Audubon Heights Subdivision – Phase V – Final Plat

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu asked for a motion to approve all three plats. **Council Adams made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.**

REPORTS

- A. Council

Council Bullard thanked Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett and Police Chief, Terry Davis on their accomplishments. He thanked the Public Works Department for doing a good job. The city is looking good.

Council Adams thanked Council Benjamin on his hard work in getting the \$300,000 grant.

Council Benjamin stated his thanks to the RDC for their work in getting the grant for the city. He also thanked Chief Davis and Chief Bennett. He commended the Public Works

Department for their work. He hoped that the Resolution was not a dead issue. He thanked Council for working with him during his recent illness.

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, recognized County Commissioner, Richard Lee, and asked him if he would like to speak. He said that he thought the County was also blind sighted by the D.O.T.'s plans. He thought that there was room for discussion.

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem, Ogundu, welcomed Council Benjamin back. He thanked the Public Works Department, also Police Chief, Terry Davis and Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett.

Council Benjamin made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous.

After the Executive Session, **Council Bullard made a motion to return to regular session, seconded by Council Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.**

Council Bullard made a motion to authorize Mayor Pro Tem to sign for the Executive Session, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous.

Council Bullard made a motion to increase Fire Chief, Dwight Bennett's salary to \$34,000.00, seconded by Council Adams. Vote was unanimous.

Council Benjamin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Temple Ogundu
Mayor Pro Tem

Marilyn Brady
Recorder