

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2017

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting January 5, 2017 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, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett and PWD Donnie Warren.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Mike Wells

COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MAYOR PRO TEM)

Mayor Cain stated it is the start of the New Year and we will open with nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. **Councilman Barfield said that he would like to nominate Terry Benjamin as Mayor Pro Tem which was seconded by Councilman Warren. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Warren and Councilman Davis all voted in favor of the motion.** Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin thanked everyone for the vote of confidence.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS (MAYOR CAIN)

Mayor Cain stated that it is time to assign Council members to oversee the departments of the City.

1. Councilman Warren is over the Fire department and Planning and Zoning.
2. Councilman Davis is over the Police department.
3. Councilman Barfield is over the Water/Sewer/Sanitation department.
4. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin is over the Parks and Rec department, Streets and Nutrition.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. NOVEMBER 28, 2016 WORK SESSION**
- B. DECEMBER 1, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. FY 2016 BUDGET AMENDMENTS (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that the end of the FY16 year budget amendments are in your packet. He then reviewed the funds that are amended. Sumner then ask if anyone had any questions. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wish to speak against the budget amendments. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the budget amendments. None noted. City Manager Sumner stated that we will have a follow up of the FY16 budget at the Retreat on February 3, 2017 at A & B ETC from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to approve the budget amendments to the FY 2016 budget as presented which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Warren and Councilman Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

B. APPLICATION FO RAJESH CHAVADA, HOLIDAY MARKET, 203 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, FOR THE PACKAGE SALE OF BEER, WINE AND DISTILLED BEVERAGES. (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)

Chief Davis stated that we have an application from the current owner of the Holiday Market, Rajesh Chavada to turn it into a package store. The owner currently has beer and wine sales at both stores and would like to turn the 203 S. Church Street store into a package store. We have no problems with the store owner, good background check and the set backs are sufficient. I have checked with the City Attorney and he agreed no problems with the distance from the Church or the park. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the package store application. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the package store application. None noted. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to approve the Package store application which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor to approve the application.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

None.

REIVEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

DISCUSSIONS:

A. RESOLUTION FOR PETITION OF JUDICIAL ACTION FOR SDS (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Manager Sumner stated we have been updating you via email with Area City's the last several months. This is an item that is updated every 10 years. It covers every service that a city governs, it is an agreement between the Cities and the County to avoid double taking. There is a difference of opinion and it has been discussed in length with the County with no agreement.

This SDS Contract expired in October of 2016. There is no contract in place at this time. We have no choice but to petition the Courts. This is a necessary action. The City of Valdosta will bear most of the cost of the legal fees, the consultation with out attorney will be the only cost. We need to move forward. Councilman Barfield asked if there was any time table for settlement. City Manager Sumner said that he cannot answer that question, there is no good answer. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin asked how it will benefit the City. Sumner said roads are at the top of the list, we have roads that the County should maintain within the City, there is a countywide levy, and this constitutes double taxation. No resolution has been achieved. The City of Valdosta, City of Remerton and all the small cities have this Resolution on their agenda. It is our understanding that all discussion is done. We have no resolution and are moving forward with a petition. Sumner said that there are no guarantee regarding federal programs and we could have a delay of funds from GEFA. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said this is the same thing that happened 10 years ago. If you did not sign you only hurt yourself. We have valid points. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin to sign the Resolution which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Warren and Councilman Davis all voted in favor of the motion.**

B. MOVEMENT OF WORK SESSION/COUNCIL MEETING TIMES (COUNCILMAN BARFIELD)

Councilman Barfield said that he would like to discuss the idea of changing meeting times, 7:30 p.m. is rather late to start a meeting, especially when the meeting is several hours long. We have regular attendance and no enhancement for more attendance having the meeting at this time. Chief Davis said that it will benefit the department heads to have an earlier meeting time. Councilman Barfield said there needs to be no discussion tonight but I would like for everyone to think about it. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said he thought it would be beneficial to change the work session to Tuesday night instead of Monday night. Monday is a rough day for everyone, changing days might help. **Councilman Barfield made a motion to postpone the item until the February agenda 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.**

C. REPORT ON RECOMMENDED ZONING ORDINANCE MODIFICATIONS (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)

Matt Martin Planning and Zoning Administrator is here to answer questions regarding the zoning ordinance modifications. There is a copy in your packet, no decision tonight. We will advertise in January and put on the agenda for February. This is a draft, we will need to finalize the draft next month. Councilman Davis asked if there is any word changes or any additions. No changes, this is what was reviewed at the Public Hearing. The Mayor went through it all and stated that Matt Martin has done an excellent job. City Manager Sumner said that it has all been uploaded to the P drive. January 30th the Planning Commission will meet and we will discuss it at the February 2nd Council meeting. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. We will vote next month.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. POLICE CHIEFS' WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE (CHIEF DAVIS)

Chief Davis would like to attend the Police Chiefs' Winter Conference in Athens, Georgia from February 5 to February 8. This is for 20 hours of credit and it is a budgeted item. The cost of the training will be \$295.00 for conference and 3 nights at \$141.00. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the motion which was seconded by Councilman Warren. Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren, Councilman Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

B. PURCHASE OF FEMA GRANT EQUIPMENT WITH MATCH-SPLOST VII (CHIEF BENNETT)

Fire Chief Davis stated that we were awarded the 2016 FEMA grant for equipment. This will be to purchase 5 sets of Firefighter gear. The equipment will cost the City around \$1100.00. The Mayor congratulated the Chief on the FEMA Grant and asked if anyone had any questions. None noted. **Councilman Warren made a motion to approve the \$1100.00 to be paid by the City 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 Barfield said Happy New Year to everyone, we have a fresh start and will continue our direction. I appreciate you all and we have a lot to be thankful for. Pray for the SDS deal. I thank my peers on a daily basis and I am looking forward to the retreat.

Councilman Davis said that he is looking forward to the new role with the Police department, I am now in my 3rd year, it is a new year and I am looking forward to it.

Councilman Warren congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. I have had a great first year and looking forward to the New Year. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve District I. Thank you all for your vote of confidence and thank you to all departments on the job they do each day. I look forward to more things getting done this year, I like the direction the City is going in, we need to keep going forward. Please remember Councilman James Wright with the City of Valdosta, he passed away and he will be missed.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and thank you to all departments and staff. I hear many praises and good things. We have a safe and clean City and great response to an emergency. I am looking forward to discussing the City Center and the relocation of the Police department at the retreat.

Mayor Bruce Cain thanked everyone for coming out, nice to see friendly faces. I appreciate all the department heads and we have the best crew under the department heads. They are all professional and they work hard. The Police department, Fire department and the Public Works all respond quick, great bunch of guys. I would like to thank Jonathan, Lisa and Paula for their help. We now have Councilman Warren with one year, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Davis and myself with three years and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin with 16 years. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve, I cannot do it without you all, Council, Department heads and Staff.

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

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

ADJOURN.

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN