

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 10TH, 2025
WORK SESSION
COURTHOUSE 6:00 PM**

Mayor and Council met for Work Session on November 10th, 2025 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Council: David Lindsey, Klay Luke, Mason Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. Police Chief Jones, Fire Chief Thompson, WPD Jones.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2025 WORK SESSION**
- B. OCTOBER 2ND, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Cain asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Variance Request for I-75 Interchange Billboard Replacement (Matt Martin)

Matt Martin, City of Valdosta Planning Director, presented a variance request from Williams Investment Co. Planning Commission approved the request by a vote of 7-2. One of the two no votes was from Hahira's representative on the Planning Commission. The non-conforming billboard, grandfathered in, is oversized and was damaged by Hurricane Helene. Williams Investment Co. requests to rebuild the billboard at its original size. Mayor Pro Tem White congratulated Director Martin on his presentation and expressed her approval of the request. The City Manager reminded the Council that public input is required and the hearing will be held at the Council meeting on Thursday, Nov 13. Director Martin reviewed the three conditions of approval by the Planning Commission.

B. Request for Package Sale of Beer and Wine – Citgo Station

Police Chief Jones conducted a thorough investigation and found nothing to prevent the application. The public hearing will be held at the Council meeting on Thursday, Nov 13.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Cain asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the bills. None noted.

DISCUSSIONS:

A. Request by Graylyn HOA for Street Light - \$6,020 from General Fund

Representatives from Graylyn HOA requested the City install a streetlight on Reynolda Drive to illuminate the playground and mailbox area. The area is hazardous because parking for the centralized mailboxes is near the playground and puts children at risk at dusk. There is also a step that is difficult to see, especially in low light conditions. Two pricing options are available: \$112 per

month, unending; or a prepayment of \$6,020 plus \$24 per month, unending. This would be a general fund expenditure. This item will be presented at the Council meeting on Nov 13, but not under consent agenda. Locations of existing lights will be verified before the council meeting.

B. Nativity

Councilmember Lindsey a citizen asked about the city providing a Nativity scene at the courthouse. Public Works Director provided pricing on different sizes ranging from \$6,495 - \$15,900. Councilman Barfield suggested a banner with a photo of a Nativity Scene. Attorney Holbrook cautioned that the city providing a Christian display may prompt other groups to request similar displays. Councilwoman White suggested getting the community involvement with building a Nativity and not spend tax dollars. Councilman Lindsay was in favor and the agenda item was removed from Thursdays Meeting.

C. UTVs

Councilmember Lindsey inquired about the allowing UTVs on city streets. Lowndes County only allows them on County roads, not state maintained roads. Police Chief Jones had surveyed other small cities and found that none have an ordinance allowing UTVs. Attorney Holbrook said a 2023 law regulates the use of UTVs and to allow the golf cart ordinance would have to be amended. Talks of age requirements needed to be addressed if allowed in the future. CM Sumner and Councilman Lindsey agreed it would be a good topic discussed at the 2026 retreat. Agenda item was removed from Thursday's meeting.

D. ID Cards

Councilmember Lindsay asked about ID cards for all council members to confirm their status as an elected official. After some discussion mayor said ID cards will be made available for any council member who would like one. Agenda item was removed from Thursday's meeting.

E. Ordinance for City Street rename

Because of a private legal situation City Manager Sumner asked City Attorney Holbrook to look at our ordinance for renaming a City Street. She stated our Ordinance is unique and may need updating. The process should include the petitioner meeting with the City Engineer, the collection of signatures requested, the request being advertised and then a vote. Planning Director Martin said that Valdosta Consider revising their ordinance but there was discussion around property owners versus renters signing the petition, changes to our ordinance and proper communication of the process with the petition. Item will be postponed until December's meetings.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. GEFA Generator Grant – Low bidder recommendation

City Manager Sumner recommended approval of the low bid from Cowart Electric and reminded the council that the generator was supposed to be installed at the old public works building because it was the targeted location when the grant was submitted. Since then, arrangements

have been made to connect to the new public works building. Cowart Electric is expected to complete the installation prior to next hurricane season.

B. FEMA GRANT AWARD – Equipment (Turnout Gear, SCBA Units) - \$67,371 - \$3,369 Match SPLOST VIII

Fire Chief David Thompson reported that the city's share of purchasing turnout gear and SCBA will only be \$3,369 with the FEMA grant covering the remainder of the \$67,371 purchase.

C. Clerks spring conference @ Jekyll Island - February 1st – 3rd 2026

Full conference \$520.00ea plus room. Requesting approval for attendance.

D. WIIN Grant Documents - \$1,102,000 – Well #1 Redrill – GEFA

Requesting approval at council meeting Nov 13th

E. Christmas Street Lights - \$6,300 – General Fund

Requesting Approval at council meeting Nov 13th

F. Pest Control Services – Sorrell Pest Control Proposal - \$2,520 Annually

City Manager Sumner informed the council that our current pest control can no longer service us. He recommends Sorrell Pest Control, located in Hahira with a \$2,520 Annual contract.

G. Holiday Agenda Deadline and Packet Distribution Schedule.

City Manager Sumner noted that the deadline for the December agenda and packet distribution schedule will be moved because of the Holidays.

SET NOVEMBER 13th COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA.

Mayor Cain Announced that items 1-8 will be the same; Item 9A will be the only discussion item; 9B - 9D will be removed; Item 9E will be postponed; Item 10A - 10G will be included under the consent agenda.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:39 PM

ADJOURN.



**MAYOR
BRUCE CAIN**



**CITY CLERK
LISA MASHBURN**