

Hahira City Council
February 5, 2026
Council Meeting
6:00 PM – Hahira Courthouse

Mayor Terry Davis called the Council Meeting of the City of Hahira to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Klay Luke, Council Members Louise White, Cindy Becton, David Lindsey, and City Manager Jonathan Sumner. A quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Luke.

5. REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

- A. January 6, 2026, Work Session
- B. January 8, 2026, Council Meeting

Councilwoman White made a Motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Luke. No discussion, all were in favor.

6. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Chief Stryde Jones read the names of the two citizens wishing to be heard.

Erica Castilla with Taylor Insurance Services spoke regarding health insurance for the City and asked that she be added to the Agenda for the Council Retreat February 6, 2026, to present additional information. She stated they have provided health insurance for many communities and that they have been able to offer extensive savings for Lanier County. She has been an Agent with Taylor Insurance Services for 9 years; this is her career. Mayor Davis asked when the renewal date was. City Manager Sumner stated it was April 1, 2026, and suggested that we also invite Ronnie Blanton, our current provider, to be able to speak at the Council Retreat. Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to remove from the Consent Agenda and allow each company to present at the Council Retreat. This was seconded by Councilwoman White. No discussion, all were in favor.

Rose Adams, a resident of Hahira, spoke. She wanted to publicly thank the City for the work we are doing. Thank you for clearing the debris around the City and thank you to Director Jones and Councilwoman Becton.

7. REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

Councilwoman Becton made a Motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Lindsey. There was no discussion, all were in favor.

8/9. DISCUSSION/DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

Councilwoman White made a Motion to remove the movement of the 4th of July Celebration date from the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Lindsey. Councilman Lindsey asked why we did not know before today about the problems that arose from the

potential movement. Councilwoman White stated we would discuss this at the Retreat. No further discussion, all were in favor.

Mayor Davis stated that this is not usual for meetings and that he is still learning and only his second meeting, thanking everyone for their patience.

8D. Honeybee Festival – September 28 – October 3, 2026

Councilwoman Becton recused herself as she is on the Honeybee Committee. Tim Coombs presented the 45th Honeybee Festival Event, requesting permission from the City to have the festival downtown. He stated that this year they would be honoring the Salvation Army. Converse Bright has approximately 60 years with the Salvation Army and would be the Honored Citizen. Mayor Davis asked if there were any changes to the event from previous years. Mr. Coombs stated none he was aware of. There were no additional questions. Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to approve the Honeybee Festival, seconded by Councilwoman White. There was no additional discussion, all were in favor.

Councilwoman Becton rejoined the meeting.

9L. TAP '19 Authorization for \$291,000 Match – TSPLOST 1, SPLOST VIII & LIMG

City Manager Sumner presented the TAP '19 details. Further discussion will be held with Fancy Girl Farms as they are the largest area affected by the project. Mayor Davis expressed concerns regarding consent from the 15 parcel owners. He believed 13 of 15 had agreed but learned that 13 of the 15 had not responded or had not signed off on the project. He is not for taking property and wanted that to be on the record. City Manager Sumner stated Fancy Girl Farms is the only one that has reached out to the City as they have the most significant impact from the project. Mayor Pro Tem Luke requested information on who and what the status of the property owners was affected, and stated he, also, was not for taking property. Director Willie Jones referenced Jerry Jones in Valdosta. They went door-to-door talking with property owners and found most did not understand. He stated it is normal for property owners not to respond. After meeting with the property owners, all signed eventually. Mayor Davis reminded that when the City claimed eminent domain over the property for the spray field years ago, it was tough on the City at that time and doesn't want a repeat. City Manager Sumner stated the State of Georgia would be following through with the process, that it is DOT dirt in front of the Courthouse and the City really has no say – DOT has final say. Councilman Lindsey stated he really wants to see the addition of the sidewalks, the City must put forward money so it was on the City to finalize it. Councilwoman White wants to make sure the property owners are met with before the cost goes up. All citizens won't be happy. GDOT will do what they want, but she wants to talk to citizens. Director Jones stated that it was mostly commercial property and they are affected minimally with the exception of Fancy Girl Farms. City Manager Sumner stated the State is offering \$26 million and won't wait forever. Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to table discussion for the Retreat, seconded by Councilwoman White. No further discussion, all were in favor.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Mayor's Toughbook – Virtual World - \$1,905 – SPLOST VIII
- B. GMA Annual Convention – Savannah, GA – June 25-30, 2026
- C. REMOVED
- D. Mayor/City Manager Spending Threshold - \$5,000
- E. Surplus Property – 2 Vehicles, 2 Portable Generators
- F. Two Police Vehicles & Equipment – Cass Burch Automotive Group & McLaggan Communications - \$125,000 – SPLOST VIII
- G. Camera System for Police Department – Audio, Video & Security, Inc. - \$11,850 – SPLOST VIII
- H. Georgia Rural Water Association Spring Conference – Jekyll Island, GA – May 5-7, 2026
- I. Sidewalk Forms – Scruggs Concrete - \$3,500 – SPLOST VIII
- J. 2016 Chevrolet Truck Transmission Repair – Matthews Automotive - \$4,002 – Proprietary Fund
- K. Courthouse Sound – Steve Allen - \$2,600 – SPLOST VIII
- L. Repaving of East Coleman – SPLOST VIII & LMIG – Authorization for Bid Advertisement
- M. REMOVED
- N. Appointment of Victoria Ingram as City Clerk, effective March 1, 2026
- O. Appointment of Lt. Bobbie Dumas as Assistant Court Clerk, Part Time, with Compensation for Health Insurance

Councilman Lindsey made a Motion to approve all listed items above, seconded by Councilwoman White. No further discussion, all were in favor.

11. REPORTS

A. Council

Councilwoman Becton stated there were some streets with potholes that needed attention, Hodges Circle and Hagan Bridge exiting Hodges Circle. She also appreciated the removal of shrubs. Director Jones asked if the potholes were actually holes or if they were sunken roadway. She stated that asphalt was missing.

Councilwoman White reminded everyone of the Black History event on the 4th Sunday in February at 3 pm at the Depot. Hot dogs will be free. She sees positive things in her neighborhood, she also stated she goes around her neighborhood to be sure that trash cans are being picked up. She notes a positive vibe for the City. She sees Public Works, she sees Chief Thompson and the fire crew, and Chief Jones and police officers around neighborhoods. Keep up the great work, she loves Hahira!

Mayor Pro Tem Luke thanked everyone for being here and the citizens for being involved. He thanked Mrs. Rose Adams and Erica for being here. He thanked Department heads, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Public Works, Director Price, Victoria, Carol and everyone in the office. He is excited about the new direction the City is going. Excited to be

working the Mayor Davis. He prays for God's blessings on Hahira. And he's very excited that Coleman is about to be paved.

Councilman Lindsey stated he is excited for the change and honored to serve with Mayor Davis.

City Manager Sumner thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve. He thanked the department heads for the great job that they Do. This was evident in the house fire earlier this morning, all the departments worked together to get the fire out in a matter of minutes. He appreciates the professional manner that all had in the situation. He would like to commend all the staff, Main Street, Victoria, and all the tremendous additions with Teresa Smith coming on board. He wished everyone a wonderful, happy and safe Valentine's Day, hopefully the ending of cold weather and the start of a beautiful spring.

Mayor Davis thanked all for being here. It is his goal to fill up all the seats here, and that this group at this table is awesome. He congratulated Victoria on her new role, stating that she had stepped up in Lisa's absence and never missed a beat. Mrs. Carol, Mrs. Jennifer, have all stepped in and helped out. The ladies at City Hall are unsung heroes at the City and he appreciates all of them. He is excited about Teresa Smith joining us. Director Jones has been so gracious and kind. He's having things posted on Facebook regarding the City, if you get tired of it just scroll on past. The Forestry Commission is going to burn some areas and cut fire breaks; and a drone will be flying over in a couple of weeks spraying vegetation in the spray field. He thanked Mrs. Rose Adams for being here, mentioning her years of service to the City. He would love to have a town hall meeting at the Depot in the coming future and have citizens participate.

Councilwoman Becton asked if she could make a final statement that Councilwoman White made here aware of. This is the first time that 2 women have served on Council at the same time which is historical.

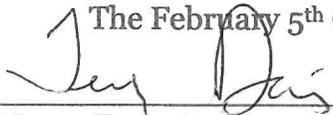
12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

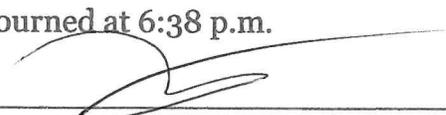
13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Becton.

The February 5th Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Mayor Terry Davis



Interim City Clerk Victoria Ingram