

Hahira City Council
May 5, 2026
Work Session
6:00 PM – Hahira Courthouse

Mayor Terry Davis called the Work Session of the Hahira City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Terry Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Klay Luke, Council Members Cindy Becton, Louise White, David Lindsey, and City Manager Jonathan Sumner. A quorum was present. Also present were Chief Stryde Jones, Chief David Thompson, and Main Street Director Jennifer Price. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation will be given at the May 7th Council Meeting.

5. **Review/Correction of Minutes:** Mayor Davis asked if there were any comments on the February 6, 2026, Retreat minutes, March 3, 2026, Work Session minutes, or the March 5, 2026, Council Meeting minutes. There were none.

6. **Citizens to Be Heard** will be at the May 7, 2026, Council Meeting.

7. **Review of Bills/Budget Overages:** Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the bills/budget overages, there were none.

8. **Discussions**

- A. *Preview of Variance Request for Zaxby's* was presented by Clayton Milligan of Lovell Engineering who is representing Williams Investments. Zaxby's is interested in developing tract 6 of the property and is requesting a variance of a 50' road rather than the 60' road to have sufficient frontage. Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions, there were none from the Council. Mayor Davis asked if there would be enough room for the fire truck to turn around. Chief Thompson stated there was. Mr. Milligan stated a truck turning analysis was performed with vehicles up to a semi tractor trailer which proved successful. City Manager Sumner stated the planning staff has requested a pre-application meeting on Thursday, May 7th, at 2:00 pm. There were no additional questions.
- B. *Williams Property – Request for Surplus Advertisement* was presented by City Manager Sumner. It was stated that the southeast corner is a city owned parcel that includes the road to our lift station. There is a need to clip off a triangle portion at the end of Union Road. The City Attorney has indicated that a formal procedure is necessary for a formal surplus of city assets. Council must authorize an advertisement of that asset. City Manager Sumner will draft that advertisement and place in the newspaper. There would be a 2-week time to receive sealed bids. Voting would be at the June meeting. The track in question is .103 acres. Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions, there were none. Mike Williams of Williams Investment Company who resides at 4611 Ridgeview Circle Valdosta, spoke and stated that Williams Investment will take care of the stormwater and drainage at no cost to the City.
- C. *Appointment of Ethics Committee* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated that these are terms of 2 years with a 1-year residency requirement per the ordinance. The ethics committee is independent of city staff. City Manager Sumner explained the process of a complaint. Mayor Davis stated he spoke with Marshall Ingram who indicated he would accept a nomination. Councilman Lindsey stated he spoke with Dick Campbell who indicated he would accept a nomination. Mayor Pro Tem Luke suggests a nomination for Doug Robinson. There was no further discussion.

- D. *4th of July Fireworks* was presented by Mayor Davis. He stated that with no April council meeting, time was of the essence regarding retaining the contract for the fireworks display and he made the executive decision to sign the contract since this is America's 250th Anniversary. The price of \$15,000 was retained. There were no further questions.
- E. *Depot Repair* was presented by Councilwoman Becton. She stated that the building needs painting, and it is important that we keep the building looking nice. City Clerk Ingram is in the process of obtaining 3 quotes for the painting. There were no further questions.

9. **Department Requests**

- A. *Demolition of 410 East Main Street Masonic Lodge* was presented by Chief Jones. Before beginning, Chief Jones gave an update on other properties on Park Street that have been tagged. He stated owners are aware and are either in the process of repair or need help in the process. As for the Masonic Lodge, he was told that the equipment to will arrive Thursday, May 7th, for demo to begin. Mayor Davis stated that Brigman and Brigman has already removed the unsightly buildings on his property. There were no additional questions.
- B. *Replacement Vehicle – General Fund & SPLOST VIII* was presented by Chief Jones. This request is to replace the vehicle where Officer Abney tragically lost his life. There were 3 bids received. Chief Jones recommended we approve the bid from William Folsom Dodge who can deliver the vehicle this week. It was stated that insurance covered roughly \$45,000 and Chief Jones would be sending a letter requesting reimbursement for the remaining cost from the insurance company. City Manager Sumner stated this includes McLaggan Communications for the equipment and outfitting of the vehicle which is \$19,429. There were no additional questions.
- C. *Power DMS/Three Laptops – SPLOST VIII* was presented by Chief Jones. He stated that the current computers are very old and outdated. DMS is the software used for the department. City Manager Sumner stated that the initial capital cost is \$7,275 payable through SPLOST VIII. There is an annual cost of approximately \$5,930. They provided a year two total of \$6,264 which is a General Fund expense. The laptop expense is \$6,925 payable out of SPLOST VIII. There were no additional questions.
- D. *Chief's Spring Conference* was presented by Chief Jones. Chief Jones received all necessary hours and has submitted a partial reimbursement request to the Chief's Association. Mayor Pro Tem stated that Chief Jones did an outstanding job representing Hahira at the Georgia Sheriff's Association Advanced Chaplains Training. Chief Jones stated it was an extremely hard job but had a feeling it helped him as well. There were no additional questions.
- E. *Clerk's Spring Training* was presented by City Manager Sumner. Due to time constraints, an executive decision was made to approve the training by Mayor Davis for the City Clerk to achieve the mandatory hours of training. There were no additional questions.
- F. *Web Site* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated that we have 3 quotes for a new website because our current website is no longer supported and in need of updating. Civic Plus is recommended for our new website. There are other modules available which were discussed but not recommended at this time. Director Price asked if Civic Plus was the app the city is currently using and asked if Civic Plus could provide an app that mirrored the website. City Manager Sumner stated it was not linked to Civic Plus but would inquire about a new app through Civic Plus. There were no additional questions.

- G. *Surplus Bucket Truck* was presented by City Manager Sumner. The Public Works Department no longer needs the bucket truck after receiving the new one and recommends we surplus the old vehicle so that we can stop insurance. Chief Jones would be able to place the vehicle on Gov Deals. There were no additional questions.
- H. *Federal Cost Allowability Policy* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated we retain Carter & Sloope for grant administration. They made a request that council adopt a Federal Cost Allowability Policy. City Manager Sumer explained what this includes and the process. There were no additional questions.
- I. *Depot Rental Agreement & Policy Revisions* was presented by City Manager Sumner. Mayor Davis stated that this has been a pain in the behind with various problems arising from the rental and discussed those issues. City Manager Sumner explained parts of the current contract and the proposed revisions and actions that are proposed for future rentals. There were no additional questions.
- J. *Travel Policy Revisions* was presented by Mayor Davis. He discussed the current travel policy and the need for accountability of how we spend taxpayer dollars. He discussed how a spouse being part of the conference would benefit the city and doesn't like that language was left in. Mayor Pro Tem Luke discussed how the state handled those expenses and how there is a per diem site that breaks down the expenses for different locations due to cost for that area. Mayor Davis discussed how other individuals have been prosecuted in other cities due to mismanagement of funds and we don't want that issue to arise for Hahira. Councilman Lindsey asked how the policy will pertain when both attendees are employed with the city. Mayor Davis stated the council must approve the expenses for the additional person attending. City Manager Sumner stated that the original policy was adopted in 2006 and has always been the policy that travel be approved by Mayor and council. There were no additional questions.
- K. *Renewal of Geographic Information Systems Agreement with Southern Georgia Regional Commission* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated this falls below the spending threshold but wanted to bring this to council to show how public works is saving us money. This was originally around \$30,000 to \$35,000. The SGRC is now doing this contract for \$2000. There were no additional questions.
- L. *City Signs Repair/Replacement* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated we have no costs available yet due to health issues with the provider. We will attempt to have that information at the Thursday Council meeting.
- M. *Carter & Sloope Contracts for Service: Sales Tax Recapture, Mechanical Plant Operation & Maintenance Estimations* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated staff is recommending Sales Tax Recapture only and discussed this in further detail. This can be added to our current contract. We expect to recapture \$90,000 as outlined in the contract. \$10,000 is the amount we would have to pay. The cost is \$13,500 for the Mechanical Plant Operation & Maintenance Estimations and does not recommend we move forward with this as much can be done in-house. There were no additional questions.
- N. *Georgia Municipal Association Ethics Recertification* was presented by City Manager Sumner. He stated the city has been a Certified City of Ethics for 25 years and it is time to renew. Certification is good for 4 years. There were no additional questions.

10. **Set May Council Meeting Agenda**

- 8. Discussions
 - A. Removed
 - B. Consent

- C. Discussion
- D. Consent
- E. Discussion


9. Department Requests

- A. Removed
- B. Consent
- C. Consent
- D. Consent
- E. Consent
- F. Consent
- G. Consent
- H. Consent
- I. Consent
- J. Consent
- K. Consent
- L. Discussion
- M. Consent
- N. Consent


11. **Reports** will be held at the May 7, 2026, Council meeting.

12. **Executive Session**, if any, will be held at the May 7, 2026, Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.



Mayor Terry Davis



City Clerk Victoria Ingram