

Hahira City Council
August 4, 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, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, and City Attorney Amy Holbrook. A quorum was present. Also present were Chief Stryde Jones, Chief David Thompson, and Public Works Director Willie Jones. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation will be given at the August 6th Council Meeting.

5. Review/Correction of Minutes

- A. June 30, 2026, Work Session
- B. July 2, 2026, Council Meeting

Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the minutes, there were none.

6. Citizens to Be Heard will be held at the August 6, 2026, Council Meeting

7. Review of Bills/Budget Overages. Mayor Davis asked if there were any questions or comments, there were none.

8. Discussions

- A. Invitation by One Valdosta-Lowndes for “Lowndes Longest Table” Event was presented by Thressea Boyd of 3712 Arbor Run Drive, Valdosta. She explained what the event is and how Tallahassee has held this event for several years. This event will be held under the James Beck Overpass in Valdosta on November 15, 2026. She discussed the benefit of appointing a City of Hahira representative to be present at the event. Mayor Davis asked how the event is funded. Ms. Boyd stated it is funded by One Valdosta-Lowndes. Councilwoman White stated she felt it was a great idea. Mayor Davis asked how often the event is held, she stated it would become an annual event. There were no further questions.
- B. Request by Hometown Festivals for Gumbo Cookoff was presented by Denise Peters of 3964 Applecross Road, Valdosta. She discussed the cookoff and requested the use of the Depot for the event. City Manager Sumner explained why this needed to come before the council due to the nature of the event. Mayor Davis asked if they would be subletting booths. Ms. Peters explained in further detail how the event works. City Manager Sumner asked if there was a donation to charity. Ms. Peters stated there was and named CASA and Adaptive Golf. Liability insurance was mentioned and Attorney Holbrook stated she would look into that but does not foresee any issues. Mayor Davis stated that typically a \$1M policy would be needed. Councilwoman White asked if tickets would be sold. Ms. Peters stated the tickets would cost \$25. Mayor Davis asked if all information has been submitted. City Manager Sumner stated all information was provided in the packets to council. Councilman Lindsey stated he had no problems with the event. There were no further questions.

9. FY27 Budget Workshop I was presented by City Manager Sumner. He explained the budget in detail going page by page against the packets that were handed out. Millage rate was discussed and the desire to maintain the rate with no increases. Councilman Lindsey stated that he has spoken at length with multiple business owners about the accreditation of the Main Street Program and loss of programs with the removal of Jennifer Price. He was speaking on behalf of those business owners and asked if Mayor and council would consider keeping the position full-time. Mayor Davis spoke at great length about the budget and the need to keep it under control to prevent the city from going under. The cost of fuel and the rising costs of repairs and supplies, if things continue in this manner, could deplete the projected budget by the end of next month. He discussed the trouble the City of Quitman was in and that we didn't want to end up in that position. He stated that he has compared the budget of our Main Street program to other cities and found that our budget far exceeded those he compared it to. Mayor Davis stated this was not personal, he would love to keep the position full-time, but it must be within the budget. He further stated that he was embarrassed at the rate of pay public works employees received based on the work they do. Mayor Pro Tem Luke stated we need to keep the millage rate the same and try to keep the position full-time if possible. Mayor Davis also discussed the cut to the court clerk and travel cuts as well. Inert debris expenses were discussed which creates a loss to the city. City Manager Sumner stated administration could work on rate comparisons with other cities for the inert debris. City Manager Sumer continued going over the budget. He finished by showing comparisons of our budget with other local budgets included in the handout. There were no further questions.

10. Set May Council Meeting Agenda

8A: Removed

8B: Consent Agenda

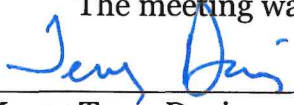
11. Reports will be held at the August 6, 2026, Council meeting.

12. **Executive Session:** Councilman Lindsey made a Motion to enter Executive Session for the purposes of personnel issues, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Luke. All were in favor. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Luke made a Motion to come out of executive session at 7:21 pm, seconded by Councilman Lindsey. All were in favor. It was reiterated that the discussion at executive session only pertained to personnel.

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Lindsey.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.



Mayor Terry Davis



City Clerk Victoria Ingram