

Council Meeting

March 8, 2001

The City Council of the City of Hahira met in regular session on Thursday, March 8, 2001 at 7:30 P.M. at the Courthouse.

PRESENT: Mayor John Adams; Councils Bob Harris, Wayne Bullard, Joel Hunnicutt and Sonny Copeland; Clerk, Marilyn Brady; Public Utilities Director, John Thursby; Police Chief, Terry Davis; Fire Chief, J. C. Clair; City Attorney, Willie Linahan and Student Council Christopher Bullard.

Mayor Adams called the meeting to order, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

Visitors were welcomed and a quorum of council was established.

Council Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2001, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Adams reported on the bills and asked Council if they had any questions regarding the bills. There were none.

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Appointment of Christopher Bullard as student council member:

Mayor Adams read a letter of recommendation from Principal Sanchez of Hahira Middle School. City Attorney, Willie Linahan, swore in Mr. Bullard as student council member. Mayor Adams asked Chris to report on school news and other events of importance in the area.

(B) Department request:

Police Chief Davis requested authorization to purchase new uniforms for the Police Department and to change the style. This is a budgeted item. Council Bullard made a motion to authorize Chief Davis to purchase the uniforms and change the style, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

Chief Davis asked for approval from Council to lease a Harley Davidson motorcycle which will be used in the Police Department. This is a non-budgeted item. The cost to lease the motorcycle would be \$195.00 per month for a 12-month lease. The motorcycle will be available by the end of July or August. Council Copeland made a motion to lease the motorcycle, seconded by Council Harris. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(C) Reappointment of Housing Authority Commissioners:

Mayor Adams recommended approval to reappoint Mr. John Hensley and Mr. Hoyt Coppage to the Housing Authority. Council Bullard made a motion to reappoint Mr. John Hensley and Mr. Hoyt Coppage to the Housing Authority, seconded by Council Copeland. Vote was unanimous.

(D) Acceptance of proposal and award of contract to re-roof courthouse:

Mayor Adams recommended accepting the low bid from Valdosta Roofing and Supply. Council Bullard made a motion to go with the low bid from Valdosta Roofing and Supply, with a 30- year guarantee, seconded by Council Hunnicutt. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(E) Approval for mayor to execute contract with Municipal Tax Consulting:

Mayor Adams recommended entering new agreement with Municipal Tax Consulting. Council Harris made a motion to enter new agreement with Municipal Tax Consulting, seconded by Council Bullard. Vote was unanimous.

(F) Consideration of Lowndes County Board of Education request to install school zone signals on South Hagan Bridge Road and South Nelson Street:

Mayor Adams recommended installing the signals. Estimated cost would be \$10,800.00. Council Harris made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Bullard. Discussion followed. Vote was unanimous.

(G) Proclamation of March 10, 2001 (Saturday) as "Drug Free Day in Hahira":

Mayor Adams called on Ms. Sheila Warren to report on the event. Ms. Warren stated that there would be a rally and a basketball game at the Middle School and invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Adams stated his appreciation to Ms. Warren on her work.

Council Reports:

Student Council member, Christopher Bullard had no report.

Council Copeland reported on progress in his district. The streets were clean and the city workers were doing a good job.

Council Hunnicutt had no report.

Council Bullard also stated that the city looked good and he thanked John Thursby and his department for their work.

Council Harris reported the same and thanked the leadership and employees for their work. He also recognized Ms. Sheila Warren and the work that she has done. He also recognized the Boy Scouts that were in the audience.

Mayor Adams reported on the following.

- Design work to loop the business park water main to the main on Union Road is almost complete. The plans must be sent to EPD for approval. A directional bore will be made under I-75 to install the main.
- The contractor for Wire Rope of America is doing site preparation on their site in the business park.
- A joint Local Development Grant application for funds to assist in construction of a pedestrian bridge through a wetlands area in the North Lowndes Recreational facility will be submitted by Hahira and Lowndes County to the Department of Community affairs.
- A CDBG workshop will be held in Savannah next week.
- The new car wash on West Main Street is expected to open within a couple of weeks.
- The Engineering and Inspections department has approved the Dollar General store site plan.
- Work is continuing on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and is approximately 80% complete.
- Hahira was designated a "Tree City USA" for the eleventh year at Arbor Day activities at the Hahira Elementary School in February.

Mayor Adams announced at 8:06 P.M. that the council would now meet in executive session to discuss a personal matter.

After the courthouse was cleared of all persons except the mayor, council and city attorney, the mayor locked the courthouse doors and stated the purpose of meeting in executive session was to discuss the appointment of a city manager. He gave a short history of the process of advertising and review of the 16 resumes received over the past eight months. He stated after review of the resumes, the council had selected two candidates to be voted upon. The two are Danny O. Lucas presently working in Hillsboro, TX and Kevin Trimble of Valdosta, GA.

After council discussed the two candidates in executive session, Mayor Adams announced the meeting was again open to the public and unlocked the doors to the courthouse. He then gave each council member a ballot with the names of the two candidates on it and asked each council member to place a check in the block provided by the name of the candidate of their choice. The ballots were then collected and handed to Mr. Willie Linahan city attorney to count. After counting Mr. Linahan announced that Mr. Lucas received three votes and Mr. Trimble one vote.

Mayor Adams reminded council that when Mr. Lucas was interviewed he was told the following:

1. Starting salary would be \$34,000, with an increase after six and 12 months of satisfactory employment.
2. The city would reimburse up to \$1,000 in moving expense.
3. The city would provide a vehicle to be used on city business if one could be obtained from the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department in the same manner as police vehicles are obtained. Mayor Adams stated he had contacted Sheriff Paulk who said: "He should have a car available in a couple of months."

Mayor Adams stated, he would contact Mr. Lucas and offer him the position based on vote of council.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

John F. Adams, Mayor
Brady, City Clerk

Marilyn