

## Minutes of Hahira Council Meetings for December, 2011

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**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
NOVEMBER 28, 2011  
6:30 P.M.  
COURTHOUSE**

Mayor and Council met for a Work Session November 28, 2011 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.

PRESENT: Councils: Ralph Clendenin, Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Cain, Terry Benjamin, Rose Adams, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett not present, PW Director Donnie Warren, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

### **REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

- A.) October 31, 2011 Work Session
- B.) November 3, 201 Council Meeting

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

#### **A. Door-to-Door Sales Ordinance**

City Manager Sumner stated there were no changes to the ordinance and that he had no additional citizen comments. He stated it would go to third reading at the Council meeting on Thursday night.

#### **B. HA-2011-05 Rezoning Request from Kris Gordon**

City Manager Sumner stated that Matt Martin the Planning and Zoning Administrator would be in later in the meeting to discuss. Mr. Martin was not present at the end of meeting so City Manager Sumner gave an update to Council. He stated he had received a text from Mr. Martin stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had rejected the zoning change 6-0. Sumner then stated that he had several complaints from citizens in regards to changing the zoning Residential /Professional to Highway Commercial. He stated that Planning and Zoning staff is recommending to deny.

### **REVIEW OF BILLS/OVERAGES**

Councilmember Adams had a questions regarding inert debris charges for last month in the amount of \$393.00. It was then stated by City Manager Sumner that this was due to the billing cycle and it is for two months. Councilmember Adams then asked about the sanitation and the price of it changing from month to month. City Manager Sumner stated it will not be the same each month due to the amount of garbage being different each month.

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

City Manager Sumner stated that the Employee Health Insurance went out for bids. He stated he received response from three entities. He stated that GMA elected not to respond because they did not feel that they had competitive fees. He then stated that he received a quote from Hahira Insurance with Assurant Health Insurance for approximately \$600.00 per month. He then stated he had received two additional quotes from Nippon Health Insurance at approximately \$550.00 per month and Partners Health Insurance/Coventry at approximately \$490.00 per month. He then stated the main differences in the policies and stated that he had put a 25% increase in the budget for health insurance. He stated that Nippon Health Insurance would be a 10% increase which would be a savings of 15% over the projected 25% increase when the budget was created. City Manager Sumner stated that he recommended the City stay with Nippon Insurance Company. Councilmember Clendenin then asked if this included employee dental and eye glass coverage. City Manager Sumner stated it is for base health coverage only. It was then decided by Mayor and Council to choose Nippon Health Insurance for the FY 2012.

### **REDISTRICTING**

City Manager Sumner stated it was requested that Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain's areas be reviewed due to the number of residents in each district. City Manager Sumner asked if the Mayor and Council would like to have another redistricting session. Councilmember Clendenin stated he had spoke with Deb Cox at the Board of Elections and that she stated that she would come up with a plan; this would then come to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Cain said they had reviewed different ideas but had a problem with wrap around areas. He stated that Mulberry Place was almost a district among itself. It was then decided that they would get plan from Deb Cox and then review it at that time.

### **CITY HALL FLOORS**

Councilmember Adams stated she was looking at the carpet, base boards and ceiling tiles at City Hall and that she felt it needed replacing. She also felt that the steps coming in through the Police Department needed to be replaced. Chief Davis stated that he also observed a leak at the Police Dept entry.

Councilmember Clendenin stated that he felt the outside needed repair also, starting with the shutters and soffit. He then stated he felt the City needed to put out bid for a master carpenter to do the repairs. City Manager Sumner stated that he could get a list together and get informal bids/pricing to do repairs. It was then stated that the light needs to be replaced in the parking lot at City Hall and then PW Director Warren stated it would be replaced by Georgia Power.

## **BILLBOARD**

City Manager Sumner stated the design for the new billboard was approved but that the City needed to decide how much to pay and then let the business owners know how much they will need to pay. He stated the cost of the billboard would be about \$4600.00, and that it should also be decided how to bill the businesses. Councilmember Clendenin stated that the business could all pay up front to avoid not being paid. Sumner then stated the FY12 budget would cover 75% of the cost in the amount of \$3200.00, which would only leave \$1480.00 for the businesses to pay and this would not be too much of a cost to them. Council then discussed where the sign would be placed. Previously it was stated to place the sign on the northbound side but after discussion it was decided that the billboard should be placed on the southbound side. It was then stated that the Downtown Coordinator should get in touch with the business owners and give them the information. Councilmember Clendenin then stated that Harvey's Supermarket would be putting up a billboard and wanted to ask if the City of Hahira could add something to the bottom of the sign; "Shop Downtown Hahira" and save the money for the billboard.

## **UPDATE OF GRACE STREET**

City Manager Sumner stated he had conversation with Scruggs and they should start on Tuesday depending on the weather. He then stated they would fill center of road and fill on each side of the road.

## **MAYORS MOTORCADE**

Chief Davis invited everyone to participate in the Mayor's Motorcade in Thomasville on December 8, 2011. He stated he would personally donate \$50.00 and would like to challenge the Mayor and Council to do the same. He then stated they requested men's clothing especially coats/jackets are needed at this time.

## **TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ENGINEERING COMMITTEE**

City Manager Sumner stated that the paperwork was submitted and that the City was waiting for proposals. The next step would be to have three City employees/Council members to score the proposals and then approve the contract. It was then decided that Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro

Tem Cain would work with City Manager and score the proposals. He will then report to Mayor and Council at January Council meeting.

### **MOODY SUPPORT COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION**

City Manager Sumner stated that the City donates \$1000.00 every year to Moody to assist Parker Green with his efforts to help keep the base open in Lowndes County. He then stated it is in budget for the year. There were No questions regarding this item.

### **RECYCLE CENTER**

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated that he wanted to discuss the recycle center days and hours of operation. He stated several citizens approached him regarding opening the recycling center a half day during the week for citizens that cannot make it on Saturday. Mayor Bullard stated he had several complaints about being closed on holiday weekends and that he thought it would be a good idea to open a half day during the week. Public works Director Warren stated he could easily have someone there for half a day during the winter months but stated it would be harder to open in the summer with the staff he has now due to work load. It was suggested to do trial period and see what the busiest times are.

### **RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF LOWNDES COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

City Manager Sumner stated this is resolution to us from FEMA and Lowndes County. It is to endorse hazard mitigation plan to Lowndes County and the State in case of emergency situation.

### **MARKET DAYS**

Resident Marilyn Dye stated she would like to extend Market Days into the fall season. She stated many vendors have vegetables that they could sell during the winter months. She stated she felt the vendors should register and have it organized for food only. She then stated this could be something the Downtown Coordinator could organize. She then stated she would like to see information on the utility bills about the 40 gallon challenge and the drought situation. She was then informed that not much information can be added to the water bills. It was then discussed that a newsletter could go out to all citizens.

### **DEPARTMENT REQUESTS**

#### **NFA TRAINING**

Chief Bennett on vacation this week but it was stated by City Manager Sumner that this is training paid for by FEMA. The training is February 4 to February 11,

2011. Everything reimbursed by FEMA except for the \$130.00 meal ticket for the week.

## **CONTRACT RENEWALS**

### **Jessica Freeman-Probation officer**

Chief Davis stated it is time for the renewal of contract for Probation officer Jessica Freeman. He stated she did a good job and would like to renew the contract. He stated on the \$44.00 collected for probation per month that the city gets half and Jessica gets half. He stated he would not like to use private probation but would like to keep Jessica because the City is making money. He then stated she makes approximately \$8,000 to \$9,000 per month.

### **Robert Mellot-IT Services**

City Manager Sumner stated he had solicited for IT services; he stated the South GA Regional Commission, Circuit Board and Robert Mellot are the only three for IT services. He stated Robert Mellot is the choice he would prefer. Councilmember Clendenin stated that Best Buy had IT services now and asked the City manager to check into it.

### **G Waste Management-Solid Waste Pickup**

City Manager Sumner stated he just needed the contract renewed for next year. He stated this is beginning of third year under the contract.

## **SET DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Bullard and Council stated that items to be placed on the Council meeting agenda would be:

Door-to door Sales Ordinance

HA-2011-05 Rezoning Request from Kris Gordon

FY Special Revenue Fund Budget Amendment

Mayor's Day Conference

Recycle Center

Contract Renewal: Robert Mellott (IT Services)

Contract Renewal: G Waste Management-Solid Waste Pickup

Mayor Bullard and Council stated items to be place on the Consent agenda would be:

NFA Training

City Hall Renovation

Moody Support Committee Contribution

Resolution for Adoption of Lowndes County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Contract Renewal: Jessica Freeman

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**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2011  
7:30 P.M.  
COURTHOUSE**

**Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting December 1, 2011 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard presiding.**

**PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Bullard: Councils: Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Ralph Clendenin, Rose Adams, Terry Benjamin, City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.**

**Call to Order: Mayor Bullard**

**Establish Quorum: Mayor Bullard**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Adams**

**Invocation: Councilmember Adams**

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:**

- A) November 28, 2011-Work Session**
- B) December 1, 2011-Council Meeting**

Mayor Bullard asked if there were any questions concerning the minutes. There were no corrections to the meeting minutes. Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Councilmember Clendenin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Benjamin, vote was unanimous.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

##### **A. DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES ORDINANCE (THIRD READING)**

City Manager Sumner stated this would be third reading of ordinance with the purpose to clarify door-to-door sales activities. He stated that this was a good ordinance that had been reviewed by the City Attorney. This ordinance provides appropriate restrictions for door-to-door sales. He stated he recommended this ordinance passing. Sumner then asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Adams stated that the ordinance would limit the time peddlers can call on the residence and that the time of 7 p.m. would be year round. She also stated that they would have to get a license and this would protect our citizens. The Mayor asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance, and if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor. There were no comments.

A motion was made to accept the ordinance as read by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Council member Adams. Vote was unanimous.

##### **B. HA-2011-05 REZONING REQUEST FROM KIRS GORDON (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**

Matt Martin Zoning Director stated the zoning request is for 1.5 acres at 117 E. Main Street the former Smith Hospital location to put a Fred's retail store and pharmacy at that location. He then stated the square footage of 16,000 and the planned 54 parking spaces would not be sufficient for the space. He stated that side of Church/Main Street was not zoned Commercial but from the red light to I-75 would be zoned Commercial. He stated he recommended denying HA-2011-05. He then asked if there were any questions. The Mayor asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in favor. There were no comments. He then asked if there was anyone wishing to speak against. Mary Ann Robinson of 111 E. Lawson Street stated she wished to speak against the rezoning. She stated she lives right behind the proposed parking lot for the Fred's building. She stated she bought her house about 5 years ago and that she has a 5 year old and 2 year old son and a dog. She stated she is afraid of where the customers for the Fred's will park. She stated she did not have the option to get rid of her house in this market. She stated they also did not want the traffic and large trucks going through the neighborhood and she stated several of the parents in the neighborhood felt the same way. She stated she felt they should move to the downtown area where we have vacant stores. David Dillard of 201 Main Street stated he wished to speak against the

rezoning. He stated he has lived in area for more than 50 years. He also stated he thought they should use one of the buildings currently empty in downtown area. He then stated that we do not need a Fred's; we already have a Dollar General. He stated the large trucks going in and out would be bad for the residential area and cause more traffic problems. Joey Carter of 202 E Lawson Street stated he wished to speak against the rezoning. He stated he had three small boys and that he does not want more traffic in area. He stated it would mean more traffic and his house would be at the back entrance of proposed store location. Elaine Dillard of 201 Main Street stated she wished to also speak against the rezoning. She stated that the traffic in area would be bad and that she felt we did not need more traffic. Kim Owens of 108 N. Owens Street stated she wished to also speak against the rezoning. She stated she lives on the backside of the proposed location for the store and that she already has a lot of traffic with the Audubon Heights Subdivision. She stated kids are always walking or riding bikes in the area. She stated they do not need big trucks going on those streets and that Fred's is not needed.

Tommy Griffin of 110 E. Main Street /112 E. Main Street stated he wished to speak against the rezoning. He stated he did not think we need the additional traffic, noise and bright lights. He stated the large trucks would be coming in and out and would possibly block access to the fire station.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cain to reject the rezoning request which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Vote was unanimous.

#### **C. FY11 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT**

City Manager Sumner stated for the first time in 5 years that we do not need to amend the budget. He stated the staff did an excellent job. He stated the Special Revenue Fund was approved by Council as needed. Sumner stated the detailed report would be in the newspaper on Saturday. The Major asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this item. No response.

A motion was made by Councilmember Adams to approve amended budget as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

#### **CITIZEN TO BE HEARD:**

Wilmon Stanley of 308 Washington Street stated he would like to commend Chief Davis regarding the Mayor's Motorcade and all the donations he collected. He stated he attended in previous years and that it was a good experience and great help to the patients of the mental hospital in Thomasville. He also stated he was glad to see the crowd at the Council meeting. He stated he would approach the church regarding a donation and asked that other come forward with a donation.

He then stated he felt that it would be a good idea to open the recycling center a half day during the week.

## **REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES**

Councilmember Adams stated all her questions were answered. No other questions. A motion was made to pay the bills as stated by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Vote was unanimous.

## **DISCUSSIONS:**

**A-B, D-E, G REMOVED**

**C. MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**F. MAYOR'S DAY CONFERENCE**

City Manager Sumner asked if anyone would like to attend the Mayor's Day Conference in January 2012. No response. Sumner then stated he would like for the Mayor to attend again and the Mayor stated he would like to attend. A motion was made for the Mayor to attend Mayor's Day by Mayor Pro Tem Cain which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

**H. MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**I. RECYCLE CENTER**

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated at previous meeting that he had request from citizens to open the recycle center during the week for citizens that cannot get there on Saturday. Councilmember Clendenin suggested opening half day on Saturday and half day on Wednesday. Public Works Director Donnie Warren stated that Saturday is a very busy day. City Manager Sumner stated that the work load is lighter in the winter months than in the summer. It was then discussed by PW Director Warren to take a part-time employee that we have now that works 25 hours and put them at recycle center for 5 hours on Saturday. He then suggested if we have increased traffic on Wednesday we can come back to Council in April and see what the permanent need is. A motion was made to open the Recycle Center on Wednesday's from 1-6 p.m. by Councilmember Clendenin which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Vote was unanimous.

**J. MOVED TO CONSENT AGENDA**

**K. CONTRACT RENEWAL: ROBERT MELLOTT-IT SERVICE**

City Manager Sumner stated that he had contacted Best Buy as directed by Councilmember Clendenin at the last meeting. He stated the sales associate at

Best Buy did not have the information to give him regarding the services. He then stated he recommended Robert Mellot for another year (2012). A motion was made to renew contract with Robert Mellot for 2012 IT Services by Councilmember Clendenin and seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Vote was unanimous.

**L. CONTRACT RENEWAL: G WASTE MANAGEMENT-SOLID WASTE PICKUP**

City Manager Sumner stated G Waste Management was under contract with the City since 2008. He then stated he needed action if the City would like to renew the contract for another year. Councilmember Adams stated she would like to put out RFP for solid waste including alternative services including white/brown goods and yard debris. She stated we would be able to get bids from other local companies like Allgreen and Veolia. She stated some citizens are unable to go to the collection site and she feels that now is the time to give G Waste 90 days notice and put out RFP. A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to deny the renewal contract with G Waste and give them 90 days notice, then put out RFP which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Councilmember Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Cain opposed. The Mayor voted to oppose to break the tie. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to renew the G Waste Management Contract for 2012 which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Adams and Clendenin opposed. The Mayor then voted in favor of the renewal contract with G Waste Management. Motion carried to approve G Waste Management for 2012.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. NFA TRAINING**
- B. CITY HALL RENOVATIONS**
- C. MOODY SUPPORT COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION**
- D. RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF LOWNDES COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**
- E. CONTRACT RENEWAL: JESSICA FREEMAN-PROBATION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM CAIN TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BENJAMIN. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

**REPORTS:**

Councilmember Adams stated she would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting the community. She also thanked Harvey's for the food they

donated to the City at Thanksgiving. She thanked the Citizens for giving her the opportunity to serve them. Thank you to the Public Works Department for the Holiday decorations; the City looks good and Merry Christmas to all.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out and to please come back to the meetings. He thanked the staff for their hard work as we close out another year. He stated the departments do a great job with the funding and that it is a pleasure to serve the citizens. He then stated donations are needed for the Mayor's Motorcade and to please get with the Chief if you would like to donate or attend. He stated he would like to thank Council and that he hopes everyone has a safe and happy holiday.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain stated he would like to thank everyone for coming out and letting everyone know how they feel. He stated he would like for everyone to come back and attend meetings. He thanked the department heads for all their hard work, and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Clendenin stated it was nice to see district 3 coming out to the meeting. He stated he would like to invite everyone to come out for the Christmas tree lightening at the Caboose and to try and attend the Christmas Parade on December 17<sup>th</sup>. He then stated that the City looks great and he wanted to thank everyone.

City Manager Sumner stated he would like to thank the Mayor and Council for another good year. He then wished all a Merry Christmas and reminded everyone that there will be snow in Hahira on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

The Mayor stated he would like to also thank everyone for coming out and that it looks good to see everyone. He then stated the Mayor's Motorcade was a very good event and invited everyone to attend on December 8<sup>th</sup> if they can and to please donate. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Clendenin made a motion which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin, vote was unanimous. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk, Lisa Mashburn

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