

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 7, 2013

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting March 7, 2013 at the Courthouse with Mayor Wayne Bullard residing.

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, PW Director Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wayne Bullard

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Wayne Bullard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Wayne Bullard

INVOCATION: Councilmember Rose Adams

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

- A.) FEBRUARY 4, 2013 WORKSESSION**
- B.) FEBRUARY 7, 2013 COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilmember Adams stated that she the addition of names to the item American Legion Award Honoring Chief Bennett, she would like to have the name Adjutant Steve Couch and Commander Knox added to minutes. City Clerk Lisa Mashburn stated she would make correction to minutes. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Clendenin, Council member Benjamin and Councilmember Adams voted in favor of the motion.**

Mayor Bullard stated that he would like to welcome County Commissioner Bill Slaughter to the meeting and also a student by the name of Jordan Ray.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Carol Jacobs of 402 E Stanfill Street stated she would like to speak on behalf of the Honeybee Committee and make a formal request for the City of Hahira to do what they usually do for the upcoming Honeybee festival which will be September 30, 2013 through October 5, 2013. City Manager Sumner stated that the City will generally close certain roads for the festival, use the right of way and use the assistance of the Public Works Department. It was then stated that it would be Councils pleasure to do so. She thanked everyone.

Karen Tolbert of Hahira Liquors at 1012 Hwy 122 stated that she would like to speak to Council regarding a liquor license application from another establishment. She stated that she opposed another liquor store coming into the area. She stated that she was here tonight because she would like to give the Councils some things to think about when the application comes before them. She stated she had this come up last year and that she emotionally could not do it again. She stated that she had three points to discuss with them. 1.) She stated that owning a business has huge rewards and that she loved her customers. She stated that it also has a huge risk but that the rewards out way the risk. She stated that the store has been in business for four years and that she does not draw a paycheck that everything goes back into the business. She stated that they are busy but that she has to time her deposit with the payment of her bills to make it work. She stated that there are a lot of taxes involved and that they benefit the citizens of Hahira. She stated that she wanted to inform them that she only owns one store. 2. She stated that it is all in the hands of Council but she wished they would consider the distance when making a decision, consider does Hahira need another liquor store. She stated that she does not want to struggle or be put out of business by another liquor store. She state that she pays her bills on times, donates to the schools and is active in the community. 3. She stated that Apple Valley Café provides something to Hahira and that it is always full of people. She stated it is pretty unique business and that it would be a loss to lose it.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

Councilmember Adams stated that she had received the G Waste bill and that the gas had gone up from last month. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he spoke with the truck driver and that they are driving around in first gear and that would use more gas. The Mayor stated that is not a factor in the bill reimbursement. He stated that it based on a fuel surcharge formula and that he would send a copy of the last three to them via email tomorrow. City Manager Sumner stated that he had a request from Councilmember Clendenin to get the numbers for SPLOST VI that shows our obligations and estimated balance. He stated that the form is in front of them and explained the items. Councilmember Clendenin thanked Sumner for that information. **A motion was made by Councilmember Benjamin to pay the bills which were seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Adams and Councilmember Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

DISCUSSIONS:

SALARY INCREASE FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Clendenin said that as he stated on Monday night he had reviewed the DCA web site Wage and Salary Survey 2011 and that after reviewing he stated that the Mayor and Council are under paid. He stated that he hates to bring this up in hard times but that it has been 10 years since last increase. The Mayor stated he would like to give everyone history on the salaries for Mayor and Council. He stated that 1972 was the first year that Mayor and Council received pay. He stated that at that time it was \$250.00 per year for CM and \$500 per year for the Mayor. Then in 1993 it increased to \$1500.00 per year for Mayor and \$875.00 per year for CM. In 2003 it was \$3600.00 per year for Mayor and \$2100.00 for CM. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. City Manager Sumner stated that for information purposes he would like to let everyone know that if vote to change then it will not go into effect until the new term of the Chief elected official-January 1, 2014. Councilmember Adams thanked Councilmember Clendenin for his research but that she thought \$300.00 for CM and \$500 for Mayor would be what she suggested. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he thought that would make it below average and it is based on 10 year increments. **A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to make the Mayor pay \$700.00 per month, Mayor Pro Tem \$550.00 per month and Councilmember's \$500.00 per month which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Adams opposed the vote. Motion carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO HAHIRA HOUSING AUTHORITY

City Manager Sumner stated the Hahira Housing Authority is maintained by the Nashville Housing Authority but that we need a person to sit on the board from Hahira. He stated that one housing group is in District 1 and one in District 3. He asked if anyone had any suggestions of someone who lives in the city limits of Hahira that could serve on the board. Councilmember Clendenin stated that he asked several people but nobody showed interest. Councilmember Benjamin asked what the deadline was on filling the spot. Sumner stated that it needs to be filled as soon as possible. Sumner then suggested that he get with Net Clanton who is a chair person and see if she has any suggestions.

Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to authorize Chairperson Clanton her suggestion for appointment to the Hahira Housing Authority which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cain. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Adams voted in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. CHIEF'S CONFERENCE
- B. EXCAVATOR, TRACTOR-SPLOST VI
- C. FROGTOWN WINERY AGREEMENT/SEWER EXTENSION – SPLOST VI
- D. COTTONWOOD DR DRAINAGE ENGINEERING-SPLOST VI
- E. ENGINEERING FOR INTERCHANGE PROJECT-SPLOST VI

A motion was made by Councilmember Clendenin to accept the consent agenda which was seconded by Councilmember Adams. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Benjamin and Councilmember Adams all voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS:

Councilmember Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and for the great opportunity to serve district 1. He said this year is moving on rapidly but that he wanted to thank all department heads for a job well done and to thank the City Manager and City Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tem Cain thanked all for coming out and a special thank you to Chairman Slaughter and to Ms. Jordan for coming out. Thank you to the department heads for a great job. He stated he would have a lot more calls if they did not go a great job and it was appreciated.

Councilmember Clendenin thanked the fire chief for another grant to purchase equipment and a special thank you to Chairman Slaughter and to please come again. Thank you to everyone for coming out and that he knows that PW Director Warren will be happy to get the new equipment.

Councilmember Adams thanked the citizens for the honor and privilege to serve. She welcomed home Lt. Shannon Kingston and thanked her for her dedication to our country and to the City of Hahira. Thank you to Chief Bennett for being awarded the FEMA grant in the amount of \$33,730.00 to purchase personnel protection equipment. She thanked PW Director Warren for the hard work during all the rain and stated that she felt Hahira fared good during all the rain. She stated that we had a small amount of spillage due to all the rain but because of the good job Public works does everything was well taken care of. Councilmember Adams stated it is a privilege to serve with fellow councilmember and that it was good to see County Commissioner Bill Slaughter at the meeting and that she hopes he will come back.

City Manager Jonathan Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve; thank you to the department heads and the administrative staff for all the work that they do. He stated that they fared well during the flood and thank you to the Public Works Department for the all the hard work; it paid off. He thanked Lowndes County for clearing the ditch off of Fry Street and he stated he appreciated it.

Mayor Wayne Bullard stated that he would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you to County Commissioner Bill Slaughter for coming out tonight and that it is the first time since 2006 and that we feel special. He thanked student Jordan Ray for attending and asked her to come back again. Thank you to Chief Bennett for the grant, thank you to Chief Davis and to PW Warren for their hard work during the rain and stated that he thinks it is the best they have ever faired. He stated that he had three complaints and that they were all taken care of and he appreciated it. Thank you to the Council and City Manager on a good job and that they should give themselves a pat on the back.

Mayor Bullard asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cain made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin. Mayor Pro Tem Cain, Councilmember Adams, Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Wayne Bullard

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn