

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2014

7:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting November 6, 2014 at the Courthouse with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Kenneth Davis, Ralph Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Terry Benjamin. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Police Chief Terry Davis, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, PWD Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn. Councilmember Mason Barfield was not present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

ESTABLISH QUORUM: Mayor Bruce Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bruce Cain

INVOCATION: Pastor Mike Wells

PROCLAMATION: HAHIRA MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

This item was moved until December 4, 2014.

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. SEPTEMBER 29, 2014-WORK SESSION**
- B. OCTOBER 2, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING**
- C. OCTOBER 6, 2014 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the minutes. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. HA-2014-05 VARIANCE REQUEST BARRY ROBINSON (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)**

P & Z Matt Martin said this variance request is for 803 Hwy 122 West, the Huddle House site. This request is for a free standing sign on the development. The planning commission voted 5-0-1 vote. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the variance. None noted. The

Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the variance. Barry Robinson of 6083 Quarterman Road, Hahira and the franchise owner of the Huddle House said he wished to speak in favor of the variance. He stated that as the franchise owner of the Huddle House the reason for the sign is because it is a changeable message board and can be viewed from GA HWY 122 and I-75. The sign can be used for menu and special events and items. He stated that favorable consideration for this request could cause economic impact on this business. He said you have sign drawing and size and it will have a stone foundation. **Councilmember Clendenin made a motion to approve variance request HA-2014-05 which was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

B. HA-2014-06 VARIANCE REQUEST BY ALLIED FIBER LLC (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR)

P & Z Matt Martin said this variance request in regarding 5.1 of the Hahira zoning. Allied Fiber LLC is a utility substation and service facility that will be located on S. Tillman Street at the water tower. He stated that maps are in the packet. He stated that it will be 200 foot from all residential area. The zoning commission voted and recommended approval with 6-0 vote. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the variance request. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the variance request. Patrick Olphelt of Allied Fiber said that he felt this would bring in support for economic development; bring in new companies and that this would connect internet connections from Atlanta to Miami. **Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve HA-2014-06 which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

C. ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLEGAL CONNECTION ORDINANCE (FIRST READING-CITY MANAGER)

This is required for the MS4 permit. City Manager Sumner stated that this ordinance is modeled after the ordinance from Albany, Georgia. He stated that as discussed Monday night if passed we would record it for the record. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak against the ordinance. None noted. The Mayor asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the ordinance. None noted. **Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to approve the illicit discharge and illegal connection ordinance which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion. The Ordinance is codified.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Barbara Stratton of 6233 Justin V Cain Drive said that she felt more transparency in government was needed. She said she was glad that we decided to open the sealed bids in a public meeting and wanted to compliment you on that. She felt that the property for bid should have appraised market value before accepting the bid.

Wilmon Stanley of 308 S. Washington said that he too would like to compliment the Mayor and Council on informing the public regarding the sealed bids. HE said that he also felt that we are going in the right direction in the matter of the water, sewer and sanitation rates and that he knows what it takes to run a city. He knows it is painful but that it needs to be done.

Bill Englund of 708 E. Grace Street said that this is his first City council meeting and that he has lived in the city for 6 and a half years. He said that he is here regarding the water/sewer rate increase. He said that he would like to see the rate increase in incremental segments rather than all at one time. He said that he is retired and living on a fixed income. HE said that it is wonderful that it has not changed the time he has been here; yes do the increase but not all at one time.

Tim Coombs of 8880 Gordon said that he is the president of the Historical Society and he is here to offer city volunteers in regards to the vegetation for downtown Hahira. He said that they would form a garden club of volunteers to take care of the downtown vegetation.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the bills or budget overages. None noted.

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin, Councilmember Clendenin and Councilmember Davis all voted in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSIONS:

SEALED BID OPENING FOR PROPERTY SALE-TILLMAN STREET (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner gave a brief history of the property at 750 S. Tillman. HE stated we were contacted by Norfolk Southern and Allied Fiber to purchase a 50 x 150 ft. (0.17 acre) area for Allied Fiber to put a building. The property is owned by the City and has the water tower on the same lot. The bid that was advertised stated a 10% refundable deposit would need to be paid at the time of bidding. Sumner said the property has not been appraised. Councilmember Davis said that the bid is open to public for anyone to bid and one bid does not meet sole source bid. City Manager Sumner said that the City can accept or reject the bid. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin said what is the likelihood of someone buying this property with restricted use. Councilmember Clendenin said that we need an appraisal of the property. City manager Sumner said that it is the opinion of staff to open the bid and accept or reject. He stated that the only bid received was from Allied Fiber and the bid is \$16,000. We have a deposit of \$1600.00 enclosed. Councilmember Davis said that \$16,000 outweighs what was expected and it is doing a good thing for the City. **Councilmember Davis made a motion to accept the bid of \$16,000 from Allied Fiber which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Clendenin voted against the motion to accept the bid. The vote was carried 2-1.**

WATER-SEWER RATES (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated this has been discussed since the retreat in August, we have had public input, flyers sent out to residents, public hearing for 1-1/2 hours all regarding water/sewer rate increases. We now have a draft of the ordinance to increase the rates that has been sent out to Mayor and Council for review. He stated that we have not had much time to review so he would like to discuss

again at the December work session. Councilmember Davis had a few questions regarding two different paragraphs and the dollar amount of the senior citizens discount and the amount of income for household. He also said that we need a verification process.

DOWNTOWN VEGETATION (COUNCILMAN CLENDENIN)

Councilmember Clendenin said that they met with the City of Valdosta arborist and he said he would research and give us suggestions for planting a section of Hwy 122. This will be discussed at the December meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. HOLIDAY AGENDA SUBMISSION AND PACKET DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE**
- B. MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE-2015**
- C. CHRISTMAS BONUSES & EXCESS SICK LEAVE**
- D. CHRISTMAS PARTY-DECEMBER 11**
- E. CITY-COUNTY MANAGER'S FALL CONFERENCE**
- F. MAYOR'S DAY 2015**
- G. RETREAT 2015**
- H. CHANGE ORDER FOR STANFILL PAVING PROJECT**
- I. FY15 LMIG PAVING LIST –RESTRUCTURE**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions regarding the consent agenda. None noted.

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Clendenin and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin thanked everyone for coming out and for the opportunity to serve District 1. He said he would like to let Mrs. Stratton know that we are an open government, Councilmembers are always available. Congratulations to Chief Bennett on dropping the ISO to a three. HE said this will save taxpayers money and thanked all departments for all that they do.

Councilmember Davis thanks all for coming out and for those who spoke up. He said that this proves people are listening and he likes that you can voice your comments.

Councilmember Clendenin thanked everyone for coming and for all their comments. He said we should all move to be more open and transparent.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and that he has just had his 8th anniversary with the City. He said that he loves working and living in Hahira. Thank you to the department heads and to the City of Valdosta Planning Staff for all that they do.

Mayor Cain thanked all for being here tonight. He really appreciates everyone coming out tonight and hearing from everyone. Special thanks to Mr. Bill Slaughter and congratulation to Chief Bennett and his staff for working so hard to decrease the ISO in a two month period.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilmember Clendenin. Councilmember Clendenin, Councilmember Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURN.

Mayor Bruce Cain

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn