

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**WORKSESSION**

**JANUARY 4, 2016**

**6:30 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Work session January 4, 2016 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Mason Barfield, Terry Benjamin, Kenneth Davis and Patrick Warren. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, Fire Chief Dwight Bennett, Police Chief Terry Davis, PWD Donnie Warren and City Clerk Lisa Mashburn.

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:**

- A. NOVEMBER 30, 2015 WORK SESSION**
- B. DECEMBER 3, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. None noted.

**RIVIEW OF BILLS/OVERAGES:**

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

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**A. MS4 STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY (RACHEL STROM, SGRC)**

Rachel Strom with SGRC GIS department is here to speak regarding the MS4 plan. She assist Cities in collecting inventory and storm water structure. She takes the data and creates a map. The GPS tracks above ground features. She assist the staff on how to use the data dictionary (which is a two day training with staff), it will then come back to the GIS department and will then go into a map. We help cities create maps for the MS4. We have assisted Lowndes County and Valdosta and many other cities. City Manager Sumner said that he has worked with Rachel Strom and her staff and that there is nobody that does it better than SGRC. The cost of this will be \$1,944.52 and it is considerable more with other providers. We have a desperate need to update infrastructure mapping for the MS4 mapping requirement. The Mayor stated we will be training City staff how to use the GPS unit. Councilmember Benjamin asked how soon this would start. Rachel Strom stated it would start within the month after the contracts are signed. Councilmember Barfield asked if this could be paid out of SPLOST VII funds. City Manager Sumner stated yes it could be paid by SPLOST VII.

**B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (COUNCILMAN DAVIS)**

Councilmember Davis stated that the discussion regarding the DDA has come full circle. We started last year in the step by step process for the evaluation of a DDA, we have had a few detours along the way and the best decision was to have it all researched and discussed. I believe we are at the point to discuss if we want to undertake ordinance and possible board

members. We also need to amend the map and take out some of the residential properties. Councilmember Barfield said that he felt we should wait and discuss it at the retreat on February 5 & 6. I know we have done a lot of research and discussion but I feel we have a lot of little things to discuss at the retreat, we need to make sure we are all on the same page. Councilmember Benjamin said I concur. Councilmember Warren said that he feels the bigger issue is the map, we need to amend it and we may want to discuss it further. Councilmember Barfield said we need to be sure that Councilmember Warren as a new member understands. Councilmember Davis said I respect the opinions up here and generally agree 99 times out of 100% with everyone up here but tonight I feel different, I disagree. This has been going on for the past 15 years and I think that everything has been done, I think we need to move forward, make the changes regarding the map. We need to go ahead and have the board members discussed and nominated. We also need to amend and tailor the ordinance to fit the City of Hahira. Councilmember Barfield asked what the hurry is. Councilmember Davis said there is no hurry, this is something that needs to be done. Councilmember Warren said we do need to look at the map because he has residents in his district that do not want to be on the map. City Manager Sumner said that he talked to a former Mayor and that in the 1980's and it was designated that the borders of town were in the DDA area. This can change and it needs to be different. This map will be what the Council wants it to be. It does not adversely affect anyone. Councilmember Warren asked about a tax district. The Mayor stated a tax district is a separate thing. He said that he understands what they are saying but that some will feel at ease if they are not in it. City Manager said that there is no reason for a tax district. Councilmember Barfield said that his family has 11 properties in the DDA district and that he feels comfortable with the DDA, I have as much to lose as anyone, I think we can approve the map as is. This DDA is for businesses to access money to develop and redevelop. They can request to be taxed but I do not see that. Councilmember Warren said he would like to go back to his district, he said he would feel more comfortable. Councilmember Davis said we have steps to start a DDA. It was explained that the DDA board would have 6 members and 1 Councilman. City Manager Sumner said that his function would be to give assistance to the board when needed. Sumner said that he would suggest sending a list of the members you would like to nominate to him by noon on Wednesday. I can compile a list from that and send out to everyone. You will also want to decide on any changes to the map for the Thursday night meeting.

C. WEL #2-SPLOST VII (MAYOR CAIN)

The Mayor stated that we have a problem with well number 2. The well contractor has to pull the well at this time and take it back to the shop to give us an estimate for repair or upgrade. We do not have the estimate at this time but we should have something by Wednesday.

**SET JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA (MAYOR CAIN)**

-MS4 STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY

-DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

-WELL#2

**The Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**