

**HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUNE 7, 2018**

**6:00 P.M.**

**COURTHOUSE**

The Mayor and Council met for a Council meeting June 7, 2018 with Mayor Bruce Cain presiding.

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Bruce Cain

**INVOCATION:** City Manager Jonathan Sumner

**REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- A. MAY 1, 2018 WORK SESSION**
- B. MAY 3, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Tim Coombs of 8880 Gordon Road stated that he thinks we are all on the same page about the Railroad crossing. He stated that he talked to a person in wheelchair that their van hung up on RR crossing on Grace Street. He said they now have a fear of hanging up on the RR crossing. He said he would like to share this with the DOT, they need to take a look at this. I think they should keep Lawson Street open.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:**

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

**DISCUSSIONS:**

**A. FY17 AUDIT (CITY AUDITOR)**

Denise Rackley of Valenti Rackley and Associates CPA stated that she is here to commend the staff and management during the FY17 Audit. We are asked to express our opinion for the FY17 year and it was a clean opinion. She reviewed all accounts and reported a good year. I am asked to report any internal control issue or compliance issues but we found no violations. We always find the internal control segregation of duties and nothing can be done about it because we are a small City. I have presented the standard communication letter and again we found no issues or difficulties to report. City Manager Sumner stated that you will get the final draft of FY17 budget in the blue folder. Anyone that wants a copy or electronic copy can go by City Hall and they will be glad to help you. I would like to thank Valenti Rackley and Associates for the job they do every year. They always meet the deadline. Last year we had a change because Paula the Finance director retired, but everyone came together and filled the gap. We now have Carol and she is up to speed and I am happy we had a clean audit. Thank you to the department heads, this is the first in 11 years that the General Fund had a \$100,000 profit. We are in good shape and we can move forward the next few years. Does anyone have any questions? Councilman Benjamin said that he would like to concur, it is gratifying to hear that we are out of torturous waters. The audit was on time, they get it done and I am grateful. City Manager Sumner stated that once again despite turnover he is pleased with what staff has done. **Councilman Warren made a motion to accept the FY17 audit as presented by Valenti, Rackley and Associates which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Councilman Warren, Councilman Davis, Councilman Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**B. AERATED TREATMENT POND DREDGING PROJECT-TONNAGE CHANGE ORDER-GEFA & SPLOST VII (CITY ENGINEER)**

City Engineer Brent stated that we have a situation with the dredging of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. As of today we have pulled 430 tons out of the pond and it is 50% complete. We have exhausted the tonnage. We have reached out to GEFA to get 10% of loan \$73,000 for if we decide to approve additional tonnage. This will cover a total of 748 tons. We started in the thickest layer of sledge on the pond and we are getting close to where we need to be. If we stop now and come back later the price could increase to continue. I recommend that we do the 10% and get it knocked down and be back at max capacity. Sumner stated that capacity is the point, the entire project is about capacity and this has been in question for the last 20 years. This should have been done 15-20 years ago and we did not know that. We need to continue now because we may not get this good price again. The Mayor stated that 900 tons should be plenty to pull out. Sumner added that the aerated pond should be dredged every 10 years for the future. **Mayor Pro Tem Barfield made a motion to approve the recommendation of the City Engineer and continue with additional tonnage up to 900 tons which was seconded by Councilman Barfield. Mayor Pro Tem Barfield, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Warren and Councilman Davis all approve the motion.**

**C. CODE UPDATE-SPLOST VII (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated that it has been since 1985 that the Code of Ordinances has been updated and it has needed to be done for the last 11 years. Council has looked at it in the past several times but never decided to update. We have accumulated ordinances from 2005 until

present and it is time to update. I have contacted Municode and the cost will be \$11,000 and should take a few months. I have also spoke to the auditor and this is a SPLOST VII eligible expense. This will take a few months but we will have an updated code. The updated code will be brought back for review by Mayor and Council, they will then authorize and adopt to formally make it codified. This is just the need for the process and it will come to you later for adoption when it is completed. **Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the code update with Municode for \$11,000 which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barfield. Councilman Davis, Councilman Barfield, Councilman Warren and Mayor Pro Tem Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

**D. LED STOP SIGN (COUNCILMAN BENJAMIN)**

Councilman Benjamin said that he would like to see an LED sign at the Lawson Street RR Crossing. We have had a lot of discussion and I think we need to bring signage to bring awareness to the crossing. We need some signage that stands out to have everyone slow down. He stated the signs are about \$1,000 each. I do not know how long the crossing will be open but we need something that is highly visible. Sumner stated that the status of the Lawson Street crossing is evaluation by the DOT is next. DOT and the City requested that it be opened until the decision is made. They will be down on Monday to evaluate and see the conditions. They have about 30 more days to make a decision. We can order them and put them up or we can wait and see what the decision will be. IF LED lighting is the solution then it would be a SPLOST VII expense. Councilman Davis said that he thinks it is a great idea but I do not think we need to get them and put them up before we have a decision, it may end up being closed. Council Benjamin said we can get them, put them up and move to another location if they close the crossing. Councilman Warren said do you think putting up the signs will have bearing on the closure of the crossing. City Manager Sumner said nothing like that was indicated. There was then more discussion about the signs and putting them up. Chief Davis stated that we cannot put the signs up, DOT will have to do that. Councilman Warren said that he thinks we should send a letter to the Railroad and let them know we will purchase signs and this will show our intent to make it safer, a commitment letter. Maybe this would be a bargaining chip. We can repaint lines, lower speed limits and new LED signs. **Councilman Warren made a motion to approve a letter to DOT showing the desire to help make the crossing safer, lights, lower speed limits and paint the crossing which was seconded by Councilman Benjamin. Councilman Warren, Councilman Benjamin, Councilman Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

**E. APPOINTMENT TO COASTAL PLAIN EOA BOARD (CITY MANAGER)**

**City Manager Sumner stated that he received and email from current EOA Board member Marilyn Dye stating that she would like to step down. She said she would like to finish what she is working on now and that would give us time to look for a replacement. We will have several months but I would like for you all to start thinking about a new appointee. There will be no action taken tonight, this is just information at this point.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**A. MOWER DECK-SPLOST VII (PWD WARREN)**

PWD Warren stated that the mowing deck is worn out and he thinks if we purchase a new mowing deck we can buy more time before we have to buy a new mower. The cost of the mowing deck would be \$2,850 and we would need this specific deck for the mower. A new mower would cost about \$10,000. Sumner stated that this is an eligible SPLOST VII expense.

**Mayor Pro Tem Barfield made a motion to approve the purchase of the new mowing deck for \$2,850 which was seconded by Councilman Davis. Mayor Pro Tem Barfield, Councilman Davis, Councilman Warren and Councilman Benjamin all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **Amendment to the agenda:**

##### **Fireworks purchase:**

**A motion was made by Councilman Warren to purchase fireworks in the amount of \$2,000 for the celebration on June 30<sup>th</sup> was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barfield. Councilman Warren, Councilman Davis, Councilman Benjamin and Mayor Pro Tem Barfield all voted in favor of the motion.**

#### **REPORTS:**

**A.m. until 10:00 p.m. with fireworks at dark. Emily is on board and getting it all together, she is a new member of our family so please welcome her. We do need volunteers for that day if you would like to help** Councilman Warren stated that he appreciates everyone being here tonight. They had a burning at the house on Park and he stated that the Lawson Street crossing is the smoothest. Don't forget the fireworks on June 30<sup>th</sup>, I hope everyone will come out and enjoy.

Mayor Pro Tem Barfield stated that summer is here, I hope everyone stays safe in all the travels. Thank you to the folks for making things happen and I am looking forward to the heat.

Councilman Benjamin thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve District I, thank you for coming out tonight and to all the department heads for what they do daily. Thank you to the City Clerk and Finance Director, it is nice to be coming in the black. The citizens can be proud of that. Be safe and stay cool.

Councilman Davis said ditto to all that has been said, the clean audit is a testament to the good work of the City. Thank you to all the workers, we have a lot going on, building burning, construction of the sidewalks, construction of apartments in town and I-75 construction. We appreciate you all coming out and I hope you have a good night.

City Manager Sumner thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. Thank you to the department heads and staff. We now have Emily Davenport the Mainstreet Director that started to work, I think she will raise the energy level. She is excited so come by and meet her when you can. I am thankful to accept the appointment on the Municipal Training board and represent the City of Hahira. They will meet every few months and it will be made up of elected and appointed officials. I look forward to many great things.

Mayor Cain said congratulations to City Manager Sumner, he is the first one from Hahira to be on the GMA board, give him a hand. Ditto to what everyone has said tonight. We had a good audit, Nick Valenti came and meet with us and said everything was good and he was proud to tell us our staff did a

good job last year. Thank you to Carol, Lisa, Victoria and all the department heads under the leadership under City Manager Sumner. Don't forget about the June 30<sup>th</sup> event. It will start at 10:00 out.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:15 P.M.**

**ADJOURN.**

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**MAYOR BRUCE CAIN**

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**CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN**