

CITY OF HAHIRA
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 1, 2019
6:00 P.M.
COURTHOUSE

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council met for a Council meeting on October 1, 2019 with Mayor Pro Tem Davis presiding.

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

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

- A. August 22, 2019 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. Millage Rate Public Hearings**
- B. August 29, 2019 Special Called Meeting**
- C. September 3, 2019 Work Session**
- D. September 5, 2019 Council meeting**

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked if anyone had any questions or changes/additions to the minutes. None noted.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. FY20 BUDGET FINAL ADOPTION (COUNCIL MEETING-CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated this is the final step in the budget process. We have had no comments or request regarding the FY20 Budget. The final adoption will be Thursday night at the Council meeting and that will make it official. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked if anyone had any questions or discussion regarding the bills. None noted.

DISCUSSIONS:

- A. HEALTH INSURANCE (RONNIE BLANTON, PARTNERS' BENEFIT)**

City Manager Sumner stated that your FY19-20 Health Insurance⁴ option sheet is included in your packets for your review. A renewal with United will see a 20% increase in premiums. FY20 budget only includes a projected 15% increase, which means that a renewal would bring a projected budget deficit of almost \$20,000. There is also an option to switch to Anthem within the Blue Cross Blue Shield Network for comparable benefits. Mr. Paul Watkins is here tonight with Partners Benefit to answer any questions you may have. We have had a rate increase of

12-15% every year. This plan is not benefit rich like the current plan but will be a savings to the City. He compared the co-pays and discussed the \$1500 deductible which is non-changing. The max out of pocket will be \$3,000 which was \$2,000 last year. He stated that the plans are very similar. IF you are out of state they will take this plan, Anthem is valid in Florida and other states. City Manager Sumner stated that he sat down with the Finance director, Mayor and Department heads and discussed the plan and the cost. This will lock us in for the next 18 months with the Anthem plan. Staff recommends going with the Anthem plan and we would have 30 days to switch over starting November 1, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked if anyone had any questions and wanted to know if the Department heads were ok with this plan. The department heads are all ok with the plan.

B. 2020 CITIES UNITED SUMMIT-GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that this is the old Mayors Day Atlanta training that has been renamed. The dates will be January 24-27, 2020. I would like to know if you will all be going. We will send you a list of the classes in the next few weeks.

C. COASTAL PLAINS EOA APPOINTMENT (CITY MANAGER)

The City's appointee to the Coastal Plains Economic Opportunity Authority, Marilyn Dye, is seeking to step down. She would like a replacement named that can start service at the EOA's next meeting on October 31st. Cathy Daniels a resident of Judy Ann Drive in Hahira has agreed to accept the appointment.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. FFY18 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARD-\$76,000; 5% REQUIRED MATCH-SPLOST VII (CHIEF BENNETT)

Chief Bennett and his staff has successfully applied for an AFG Grant. He stated we have 16 air bottles coming due in December 2019 that need to be replaced. The FEMA grant will cover Air packs and bottles, we have always gotten grants for these items. The grant is for \$69,500 with a 3.309 match by the City from SPLOST VII funds. The quotes are in your packet and this is for specific needs at this time for these items. We also had Jason Shaw contact me regarding us having equipment in case of a gas explosion like the one that had in Homerville last year. As I understand the gas companies will be providing equipment to area Fire departments as part of the fine. We have received grants for the last 16 years, 11 grants totaling \$385,000.

B. CLERK'S WINTER CONFERENCE (CITY CLERK)

City Clerk Lisa Mashburn would like to attend Winter Clerk training in February at Jekyll Island for 4 nights. The cost will be \$325.00 and approximately \$150.00 per night for the room, the total would be around \$925.00.

C. TWO PUMPS FOR SPRAYFIELD-\$30,000 DONALD SMITH COMPANY-SPLOST VII (PWD WARREN)

PWD Warren stated that we need to replace the pumps at the spray fields, the pumps have been up and running for the last 16 years. These are needing to be replaced as soon as I can. PWD Warren has retained two quotes for replacing pumps at the spray fields. The low quote

was from Donald Smith Company for the amount of \$30,000 for both pumps and it is SPLOST VII eligible. The other quote was \$50,000.

D. METAL ROOF FOR COMMUNITY CENTER-\$12,765 JOHN BAILEY-SPLOST VII (PWD WARREN)

The roof at the Community Center is rotten and leaking and needs to be replaced. We have a bid from John Baily in the amount of \$12,675 and it would match the current roof.

E. UNIFORMS-SPLOST VII (CHIEF DAVIS)

Chief Davis this is a request to purchase our regular uniforms in the amount of \$5,200, our uniforms are shot. This is in the budget every year and is SPLOST VII eligible. WE will order standard uniforms with no changes. I would also like to remind everyone to come out this week for Coffee with a Cop, 7:30 a.m. at Daylight donuts and 6-8 at the Huddle House.

F. 2020 MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated this is the list of meetings and holiday for the 2020 year. The only change will be the week of July 4th which falls on Friday we will move the meetings to the second week of the month.

G. 2019 CHRISTMAS PARTY-DECEMBER 10 (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated the Annual Christmas Party will be December 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Depot. The cost of the dinner will be \$1800.00. This will be for all employees and a guest and we will line up caterer for the event.

H. FY20 RETREAT –FEBRUARY 7, 2020 (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated the date for the FY20 Retreat will be Friday, February 7, 2020. IT will be held at the Depot and it will start at 9:00 a.m.

I. FY19 CHRISTMAS BONUSES & EXCESS SICK LEAVE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that the Christmas bonus is always paid out in November at the City Thanksgiving lunch. I have a list in your packet for you and this is a budget item and we do have sufficient funds. Councilman Benjamin stated that he thinks we need to look at raising the \$50.00 for part timers and give them an increase in the future.

J. WATER SYSTEM UPDATE (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated that he has a water system update, we have had challenges for the last few months that we need to address. The Mayor, PWD and I have been working with the firm Ingram and Associates to give us options concerning our fresh water system. As you know notices were sent out in the mail that our sampling is out of alignment. It is required that we test at different locations around the City non-stop. Mr. Ingram is here to discuss this issue. We had two areas that we are watching. We are watching the TTHM, which is the matter in water and the HAH5 which is the hyaluronic acid in the water. HE stated you would have to drink 10 gallons of water for 70 years to make it a public concern. When the water is out of compliance it goes into consent order and it is tested regularly. Mr. Ingram stated that we were asked to give advice and help find option for the fresh water system. Every single government has run

into this and now we have fallen into it, we need to pin down what is causing it. Mr. Ingram stated that for the last 5 quarters the Sonny Rogers site had violations. The max limit was .06 mill and it came back at .064 to .068 which was the highest. This is natural organic matter in the water. We can run pilot test, clean the tank in that area and test or we can do like Perry Florida and add hydrogen peroxide to the water and test. We also have the option to purchase a granulated filter that would cost \$600,000 and that would be last option. We could also do another well in North Lowndes but Lowndes, Valdosta and Remerton all have the same problem. We are all testing and all wells are combining. The filter would not be an immediate fix. The Compliance officer with Albany EPD said they do not have experience with this, they are looking at traditional solutions. We will wait for a letter to arrive from EPD and then we will know what is going on. Florida is taking a 1000 gallon tank and adding Hydrogen peroxide so we may do this test to see if it works in Georgia. No one in Georgia is doing this but they say it will take the organic matter out. Do the filters last? They last 10-20 years. We are looking at other options first to see what we can do. City Manager said we are waiting on tangible recommendation to address, we may get a consent order. If you have any questions please let me or Donnie know. This is nothing unique to Hahira. What steps can a resident take? The Britta System or a granulated filter attached to the water line on both sides may help but the issue is not all over town. Some people have lead copper issues. City Manager Sumner said this was just to give update as to what we may need to do in the future.

SET OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

-All moved to Consent agenda

SET OCTOBER CONSENT AGENDA:

-FFY18 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARD-76,000; 5% REQUIRED MATCH-SPLOST VII

-CLERKS WINTER CONFERENCE

-TWO PUMPS FOR SPARYFIELD-\$30,000 TOTAL-DONALD SMITH COMPANY-SPLOST VII

-METAL ROOF FOR COMMUNITY CENTER-\$12,675-JOHN BAILEY-SPLOST VII

-POLICE UNIFORMS \$5,200-SPLOST VII

-2020 MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

-2019 CHRISTMAS PARTY-DECEMBER 10

-FY20 RETREAT-FEBRUARY 7

-FY19 CHRISTMAS BONUSES & EXCESS SICK LEAVE

-HEALTH INSURANCE-ANTHEM

-2020 CITIES UNITED SUMMIT-GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

-COASTAL PLAINS EOA APPOINTMENT-CATHY DANIELS

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:05 P.M.

ADJOURN.

MAYOR PRO TEM KENNETH DAVIS

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN