

HAHIRA CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 3, 2025

WORK SESSION

6:00 P.M.

COURTHOUSE

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MET FOR A WORK SESSION ON JUNE 3, 2025 WITH MAYOR BRUCE CAIN PRESIDING.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Cain, Councils: Klay Luke, David Lindsey, Mason Barfield and Mayor Pro Tem Louise White. City Manager Jonathan Sumner, City Clerk Lisa Mashburn, Police Chief Stryde Jones, Fire Chief David Thompson and PWD Willie Jones. Attorney Amy Holbrook and Admin staff Laura Jones were all present.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bruce Cain

REVIEW/CORRECTION OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. APRIL 29, 2025 WORK SESSION

B. May 1, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions or corrections regarding the minutes. City Manager Sumner stated corrections have been made and the updated minutes sent to Council.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. HA-2025-06 SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST FOR MORTGAGE COMPANY AT KINGS COURT-505 SOUTH CHURCH STREET (PLANNING DIRECTOR)

This case is included in your packet and is the same as previewed in the previous meeting. The property is located at South Church Street and would staff maybe people. It is for Bank South Mortgage Bank that is done mostly online with not much foot traffic and would be normal business hours. The Planning Commission had 8-0 votes with condition that approval would expire one year from the date of City Council approval and no City Business license is issued.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions? None noted.

REVIEW OF BILLS/BUDGET OVERAGES:

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

DISCUSSIONS:

A. FY24 AUDIT (CITY AUDITOR)

Nick Valenti City Auditor with Valenti and Rackley LLC is here to present the FY24 Audit report that is included in your packet. He reviewed numbers and stated the General Fund indicates profit and the Proprietary fund breaking even. The Findings are the usual lack of segregation of duties; this happens in most small Cities. The new finding is something we do not usually see and it is due to some new federal requirements that ask for a more thorough Procurement Policy than we currently have. The Auditor has forwarded a draft Policy and the City Attorney is reviewing it offer her opinion. Mr. Valenti said it was a very good audit and he appreciates the help of staff. City Manager Sumner said thank you to Mr. Valenti and his staff for getting the audit on time. He also thanked Ms. Carol and staff for their hard work.

B. PROCUREMENT POLICY (CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY)

Attorney Amy Holbrook stated this is a standard policy that is common but she needs a little more time to review and consider. I should have something at the next meeting for your feedback. This is a common issue in smaller cities. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

C. GEORGIA EPD FRESH WATER CONSENT ORDER (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Manager Sumner stated we have had Halo acetic acid violations since 2018 ; we are committed to correcting the issue and have had three different Engineers working on it. We have two corrective action plans and the Treatment plant is in process now. Both of the plans spell out specifically those steps that the City will undertake to address these concerns. We are moving forward with the drill of well 1-A to move forward with the EPD corrective action plan. We are under a Consent order which is just a legal instrument to make CAP binding. Our Attorney has negotiated some more flexible performance deadline benchmarks than what is indicated in the attachment. We have no fines, this is just a tool used for noncompliance. The Consent order has five stipulations.

1. Notice to proceed by July 31, 2025 with Well #
2. Pilot study-report Well #3 by November 30, 2025
3. Completion of Well #3 by April 2026
4. Submit all updates to EPD
5. All required completed by April 30, 2026 and to keep them updated.

Staff suggest we agree with all this and approves with EPD orders. The EPD does not have any other recommendations and we just want to see it corrected and resolved. Mayor Pro Tem White said let's get to signing and move forward. This is to give the Mayor permission to sign.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS:

A. DRAINAGE DITCH BETWEEN BARFIELD STREET, RANDALL STREET, EAST GRACE STREET AND SOUTH CHURCH STREET (CITY MANAGER)

City Manager Sumner stated we have been investigating the drainage ditch in this area , it has a lot of overgrowth and it has been years since it has been cleared. We do not have easements for this area. We have flooding with heavy rain at the Chinese Restaurant and the house next to it. IT is not a cheap fix. We should work on this area first and get cost estimate from Engineers for the long term. We have a good chance for \$ 224,000 disaster recovery money with 10% match by City. Mayor Pro Tem White said the problem will only get worse, and if there is any rain that ditch fills up. June 1, 2025 is the beginning of hurricane season and we need to make preparations. Sumner stated we will apply for grant the next few months and have answer by the end of the year. We do need to start clearing this area but it is a lot to do on private property. Mayor Cain stated we need to do the worst section first so that it does not create more problems. There is nowhere for the water to go.

**B. BID AWARD-DOYLE HANCOCK AND SONS
CONSTRUCTION-REDRILL OF DEEP WELL #1-TITLED
WELL #1A-GEFA WIIN GRANT-GEFA FRESH WATER
LOAN- \$1,500,000 (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated we received one bid from Doyle Hancock and Sons Construction for redrill of Deep Well #1-A. The cost was higher than expected. We have different options but I feel we should reject the bid and re-advertise the project. Council thoughts are the same to reject the bid and re-advertise the project.

**C. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE-PHONE SYSTEM,
INTERNET, AND VOICE (CITY MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated we have another company that wants to do demonstrations for the staff. I think we should wait and move to July meeting for consideration so that staff is satisfied with the change.

D. WEB SITE (ADMIN DEPARTMENT-LAURA JONES)

Admin Assistant Laura Jones gave quotes to the Council and stated she has been working with Jason at Virtual World on getting information for the best system. The different quotes are in your packet, They all have one time set up fee and annual fees that are different. We need a turnkey system, the quotes were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Sumner thanked Ms. Jones for her work and said that he thinks we should discuss it more with Jason at Virtual World before we make a decision. I think this should be moved to the next meeting.

**E. POLICE DEPARTMENT COPIER-SPLOST VIII-\$3,875-
COLSON BUSINESS SYSTEMS(CHIEF JONES)**

Chief Jones stated the copy machine as at its end of life, it started streaking and Colson came out to repair it and it is the mother board. The cost of a new copier is \$3,875 from Colson Business Systems. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

**F. MAIN STREET BOARD APPOINTMENTS (CITY
MANAGER)**

City Manager Sumner stated the Main Street Director has asked for appointments of Brett Thomas, Church Street Café and Charmane Glenn, resident and Hype Team member to be on the Main Street Board. Does anyone have any questions? None noted.

SET JUNE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:

All moved to Consent agenda or removed.

SET JUNE CONSENT AGENDA:

- FY Audit
- Georgia EPD Fresh Water Consent Order
- Police Department Copier
- Main Street Board Appointments

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:15 p.m.

ADJOURN.

CITY CLERK LISA MASHBURN

MAYOR BRUCE CAIN