

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 27, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION** *Reverend Randall Dockery, Church of God of Prophecy*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES X NO ___**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *March 13, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

“ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA”

- 1. **Commendation – Daniel Tolliver and Lena Swigarty**
- 2. **Executive Session – Personnel**
- 3. **April 10, 2006 City Council Meeting**

VI. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

- ❖ **PROCLAMATION – JEFF BLACKMON DAY**
- ❖ **PROCLAMATION – CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**
- ❖ **CITIZEN’S COMMENDATIONS – DANIEL TOLIVER AND LENA SWIGARTY
(ADDED)**

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **CUMBERLAND HARBOUR FIRE TAX DISTRICT** – *Proposal*TAB “A”
(Postponed 2/27/06)

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **ORDINANCE:** *Lazy River Repair*..... TAB “B”
- B. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *City Clerk’s Document Scanner Lease Purchase*... TAB “C”
- C. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *Planning & Building Department Large Printer Lease*.....TAB “D”
- D. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *Fire Department Grant*.....TAB “E”
- E. **D.O.T. LETTER:** *Spur 40 & Douglas Drive Findings*.....TAB “F”
- F. **JJ & G TASK ORDER:** *Water Supply Study*..... TAB “G”
- G. **TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE:** *TDS Telecom*.....TAB “H”
- H. **APRIL 10, 2006 CITY COUNCIL MEETING (ADDED)**

IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS &
COMMITTEES:**

- A. **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION REPORT**
- B. **PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**
- C. **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**
- X. **REPORT OF MAYOR:**
- XI. **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**
 - Finance Director's Report.....TAB "I"
- XII. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel (ADDED)***
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 27, 2006
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, March 27, 2006 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilman Gary Blount
Councilman William DeLoughy
Councilman Larry Johnson
Councilman Jerry Lockhart
Councilwoman Gull Weaver
Councilman LJ Williams

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Gary A. Bacon, City Attorney
Max Tinsley, Planning Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Donna Folsom, Human Resources Director
Jane Drake, Aquatic Center Director
Lt. Roger Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Reverend Randall Dockery, Church of God of Prophecy gave the invocation. Mayor Eskridge led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Council roll call indicated a quorum of council members present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *March 13, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

“ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA”

- 1. Commendation – Daniel Tolliver and Lena Swigarty**
- 2. Executive Session – Personnel**
- 3. April 10, 2006 City Council Meeting**

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to add the items to the agenda. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Eskridge indicated Commendation – Daniel Tolliver and Lena Swigarty is added under Granting Audience to the Public, Personnel is added to Executive Session and the April 10, 2006 City Council Meeting is New Business “H”.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public at this time.

❖ **PROCLAMATION – JEFF BLACKMON DAY**

Mayor Eskridge read a proclamation to pay tribute to Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffery Blackman for his dedication and service during Operation Iraqi Freedom and America’s War on Terrorism. Jeffery Blackmon gave great sacrifice for his love of county and loyalty to do his part in combating terrorism. Saturday, April 8, 2006, was declared “Jeffery Blackmon Day.”

❖ **PROCLAMATION – CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**

Mayor Eskridge proclaimed April 2006 as Confederate History and Heritage Month in St. Marys to commemorate those who served the Confederate States of America. The proclamation was presented to Sgt. at Arms, Andrew E. Smith, Camp #747 Camden Mounted Rifles for the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

❖ **CITIZEN’S COMMENDATIONS – DANIEL TOLIVER AND LENA SWIGARTY (ADDED)**

The Police Chief and Mayor Eskridge recognized Daniel Toliver and presented a certificate of commendation from the St. Marys Police Department for supporting and assisting a police officer in apprehending three burglary suspects.

The Police Chief and Mayor Eskridge recognized Lena Swigarty and presented a certificate of commendation from the St. Marys Police Department for observing and aiding a police officer in apprehending an escaped fugitive for car theft.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **CUMBERLAND HARBOUR FIRE TAX DISTRICT** – Proposal (Postponed 2/27/06)

The City Attorney stated that Cumberland Harbour’s Homeowners Association has agreed to the changes in the amendment presented to Council for approval. An ordinance to repeal the Special Fire Tax District will be on the next agenda.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the amended agreement for Cumberland Harbour’s Fire Station as presented. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion.

CUMBERLAND HARBOUR FIRE TAX DISTRICT (CON'T)

Councilwoman Weaver questioned when the fire station would be built and the estimated costs for personnel. Councilman Lockhart stated that the proposed completion date is June 2007 and \$25,000 is for personnel equipment. A 75-foot ladder truck could cost up to \$800,000. Emergency One has a demonstrator truck available for \$500,000, if Council approves a Request For Proposal (RFP). An estimated cost savings for the truck is \$45,000 to \$50,000 based on new emission quality standards at the end of this year. Councilman Johnson amended the motion to include advertising for a Request For Proposal for a 75 foot ladder truck. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the amendment to the motion.

Councilman Blount requested projections of the operating costs for the fire station at the next council meeting. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE: *Lazy River Repair*

The City Manager stated that a repair is needed to fix leaks in the expansion joint in the Lazy River attraction at the Aquatic Center. This work has been performed three times at the beginning of each season, at no charge due to warranty and materials issues. The leak needs to be repaired because of water loss, difficulty to maintain proper chemical balances and flooding on the inside and outside of the fence line. The City Manager recommended approval to repair the leaks with monies coming from the Contingency Fund.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the ordinance to provide for the expenses to repair the lazy river from the Contingency Fund in the amount of \$5,600. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *City Clerk's Document Scanner Lease Purchase*

The Finance Director stated that the next three ordinances were for audit purposes on capital leases already approved.

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to approve a budget ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2006 budget for the lease purchase of the document scanner in the City Clerks' office. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Planning & Building Department Large Printer Lease*

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to approve a budget ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2006 budget for the lease purchase of the large printer in the Planning & Building Department. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Fire Department Grant*

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to approve a budget ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2006 budget to record the receipt of a Fire Act Grant in the amount of \$329,868 for the Fire Department. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. D.O.T. LETTER: *Spur 40 & Douglas Drive Findings*

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department recommends that the City Council send a letter of support to the Department of Transportation for the Spur 40 and Douglas Drive findings. The study found that a traffic signal is not warranted at this intersection. However, there were some improvements recommended to include: installation of a raised concrete median on Spur 40 which would provide left turns only from Spur 40 onto Douglas Drive and Old Jefferson Road; installation of raised concrete islands on Douglas Drive and Old Jefferson road that would allow right turns only onto Spur 40 and that the City approach the Navy Base about acquiring property to realign Douglas Drive with Colerain Road with the potential for a signal at that intersection. The City Manager recommended approval of this action.

Councilman Blount made a motion to send a response to DOT concurring with their findings, direct the City Manager to contact Navy Base officials regarding acquisition of property to realign Douglas Drive with Colerain Road and add this issue to the Washington Fly-In agenda. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Councilman Williams recommended that the City's delegates attending the Washington Fly-In should bring to Congressman Kingston's attention these issues and potential areas for signalization. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. JJ & G TASK ORDER: *Water Supply Study*

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department recommends approval of JJ&G's task order to upgrade the water withdrawal capacity. This is a proactive approach to address the future water capacity before the population needs exceed the current capacity. Therefore, the city would increase the existing water withdrawal permit for an amount to be determined from the Sound Science Study completed in December. The City Manager recommended approval of the task order.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve Task Order No. 19 for General Consulting Services for Source Water Supply Study. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE: *TDS Telecom (Postponed)*

H. APRIL 10, 2006 CITY COUNCIL MEETING (ADDED)

Mayor Eskridge stated that a number of council members will be out of town due to spring break. Mayor Eskridge entertained a motion to cancel the meeting.

Councilman Blount made a motion to cancel the April 10, 2006 City Council meeting. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Ann Stacey, Co-Chair HPC presented the Historic Preservation Commission report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

B. PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Lockhart presented the Planning & Building Committee report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

Councilman Lockhart stated that the Department of Community Affairs recommends a requirement in any major subdivision of six lots or more should mandate green space. Nearly every major project has a drainage pond and in the City's Ordinances it is to be offered to us within 12 months for purchase. The Committee discussed removing this requirement because the City is not in the pond maintenance business and determine who will maintain the ponds. Councilman Lockhart further stated that Council needs to recommend a figure to mandate an amount or percentage of green space in major subdivisions.

Councilman Blount agreed with the concept of green space. However, the Planning & Building Director would need to review the plats before a determination of green space could be reached. Also, there are agencies such as RDC and DCA that should be able to provide this information. Councilman DeLoughy suggested that other ordinances be researched for ideas on how much area should be set aside for green space and what might work for the City. Councilwoman Weaver stated that some developments have a 30 – 70 split, but in St. Mary's wetlands are a major impact on green space.

C. WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Blount presented the Water/Sewer Committee report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

Councilman Blount made a motion to direct JJ&G to draft a letter to the Environmental Protection Division to increase the wastewater permit to 4.0 MGD at the Pt. Peter Plant. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

Mayor Eskridge attended the following meetings:

- Regional Development Center Steering Committee meeting on the St. Marys Comprehensive Plan
- Downtown Development Authority meeting on beautification for the City and its entrances
- Water/Sewer Committee meeting on wastewater capacity
- LandMar meeting to discuss environmental issues at the mill site
- March 31, 2006 - St. Marys Submarine Museum 10th Anniversary at the Howard Gilman Waterfront Park

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- The Planning Director and City Clerk completed the St. Marys Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings. Surveys have been e-mailed to committee members to reinforce discussions from the meeting.
- Implementation of the budget process to include the Capital Improvement Plan for 5-year projections on large projects/equipment and a Department Master Plan.
- St. Marys 101 Program is a 6-month class to educate citizens on the role of the City and is open to twenty people for each 6-month session, twice a year.

Finance Directors' Report

The Finance Director presented the 8-month Finance Report. The report is attached as part of the minutes. The finance director stated that 92% was collected on 2005 property taxes and the fire tax district totals over \$200,000 to date. Since August 2005 the Collections Clerk collected \$23,500 in delinquent water and sewer account. A second delinquent notice will be mailed next week to notify owners that fi fa liens will be filed.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Sandy Feller, resident thanked the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service and Police Department for their response to a faulty propane tank at his business. Mr. Feller offered a Power Point presentation on impact fees for enterprise funds for water and sewer. He also suggested that the City research the type of fire equipment need for LandMar's proposed 125 foot hotel.

Rosemary Rillo, resident addressed Council regarding the possibility of imposing a moratorium on new developments because of the water and sewer capacity problems and require trees to be left on lots as green space, if they do not interfere with the footprint of the homes.

Keith Post announced St. Marys Submarine Museum anniversary is Friday, March 31, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. in the Howard Gilman Waterfront Park and Realtors Fun Day on April 1, 2006 at the Kings Bay Village Shopping Center. Mr. Post commended Mayor

Eskridge for proclaiming Jeff Blackmon Day and addressed the traffic light issue at Douglas Drive and Spur 40.

Frank Saffold, resident thanked Council for proclaiming April as Confederate History and Heritage Month.

Dave Schmitz, Resident requested a status report on Highway 40, potholes in the turning lanes and the substandard service citizens are receiving from Comcast Cable.

The City Manager stated that DOT has advertised for a supplemental contract for the project. They are in the same situation as the City with contractors not wanting to compete for small jobs. He further stated that the DOT would be contacted regarding repairs to the potholes.

The City Manager responded that all cable complaints are received in the manager's office, which are forwarded to Comcast and they are taken care of immediately. Councilman Blount stated that he has met with Comcast to discuss making upgrades to the outdated equipment and making improvements to the services.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel (ADDED)

Councilman Blount made a motion to adjourn to executive session to personnel. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 8:42 P.M., returning at 9:04 P.M. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

PERSONNEL

Councilman Williams scheduled a Personnel Committee meeting on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Lockhart made a motion for adjournment. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk