

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
APRIL 24, 2006

SECOND QUARTER TOWN MEETING
6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION:** *Reverend Bobby Woods, Lighthouse Church of God*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES**___ **NO**___
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *March 27, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

“ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA”

1. Telephone System Upgrade – TDS Telecom

PRESENTATIONS

- ❖ **PROCLAMATION – ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**
- ❖ **PROCLAMATION – MUNICIPAL CLERKS’ WEEK**
- ❖ **PRESENTATION – KIWANIS**

VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

DIANE HAYES REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: *Additional Streetlights at Inlet Reach*

JANE MOORE & ALLISON ANDERSON REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: *Drainage and Flooding on Watts Street & Development of Davison Plantation at Old Jefferson Villas*

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** – *Police Explorer Post*.....TAB “A”
- B. **ORDINANCE TO REPEAL** – *Special Fire Tax District*.....TAB “B”
- C. **AIRPORT RELOCATION** – *Councilman Blount*
- D. **VOTING DELEGATES FOR 2006 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION**TAB “C”
- E. **2006 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION** – *Flag Bearer*.....TAB “D”
- F. **ATLANTIC COAST CONSULTING, INC.** – *Master Plan Project W3*.....TAB “E”

- G. **CITYWIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN** – *Advertise for Proposals...* TAB “F”
- H. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** – *Coast Guard/PD/Gun Range...* TAB “G”
- I. **TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE** – *TDS Telecom (ADDED)*
- IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**
 - A. **PLANNING DIRECTORS’ REPORT**..... TAB “H”
 - 1. **Brenda Eddinger and Newton Seals** request to annex into the City of St. Marys .6 acres located off of Lonesome Pine Road on Tax Map 160A, Parcel 009A.
 - B. **ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY REPORT**
 - C. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**
- X. **REPORT OF MAYOR:**
- XI. **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**
 - **FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- XII. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Personnel & Legal*
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

April 24, 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, April 24, 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
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Donna Folsom, Human Resources Director
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Janet Brinko, Tourism 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 Bobby Woods, Lighthouse Church of God 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.

The public viewed video footage of St. Marys, donated by LandMar, Marsh Arbors and Cumberland Harbour, saving the City approximately \$30,000. The DVD was shown during the "Heart and Soul Tour" on April 19, 2006, which was partnered with Kingsland, Woodbine, the County and St. Marys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *March 27, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilwoman Weaver moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion with a correction on page 5, under "C" Water/Sewer Committee Report, adding MGD (Million Gallons per Day) to the permit amount. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

“ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA”

1. Telephone System Upgrade – TDS Telecom

Councilman DeLoughy made a motion to add the item to the agenda. Councilman Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Eskridge indicated Telephone System Upgrade is added under New Business “I”.

PRESENTATIONS

❖ **PRESENTATION – KIWANIS**

Mayor Eskridge presented a certificate of appreciation to the Kiwanis for unselfish service to the City of St. Marys by volunteering to assist with the “Heart and Soul Tour. The Kiwanis were commended and recognized for their efforts and exemplary performance of civic duty. Kiwanis volunteers were Peggy and Flem Hall; Gail and Mike Tate; Patty Earhart; John Hegman; Keith Post; Greg Lockhart and Stan Prince.

❖ **PROCLAMATION – ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**

Mayor Eskridge proclaimed April 2006 “Alcohol Awareness Month” in the City of St. Marys. All citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools were called upon to support the efforts that will encourage recovery from alcoholism throughout our community.

❖ **PROCLAMATION – MUNICIPAL CLERKS’ WEEK**

Mayor Eskridge recognized the week of April 30 through May 6, 2006, as “Municipal Clerks Week”, and extended appreciation to the City Municipal Clerk, Darlene Roellig, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Susan Howard announced that Crooked Rivers Sisters Three Community Theater will be performing at Crooked River State Park Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday at 2:30 PM until May 7, 2006.

Tom Turner, St Marys Joint Development Authority (JDA) Representative gave a report on the actions taken during the last meeting. The Authority approved a resolution to negotiate with developers for water services at the north end of the County. Mr. Turner also inquired about the railroad crossing on Highway 40.

The Mayor requested copies of the Authority’s approved meeting minutes. Councilman DeLoughy suggested that the County consider an enterprise fund that is self sufficient and supported by the citizens in the service areas.

Celenda Perry recognized St. Marys Elementary School's students for placing "Second" out of 150 schools in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl in Athens, Georgia. Suzie Bottorff, Gifted Education Teacher was commended for assisting the students who participated in the Bowl.

Mayor Eskridge commended the St. Marys Elementary School Choir for their outstanding performance at the "Heart & Soul Tour."

DIANE HAYES REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: *Additional Streetlights at Inlet Reach*

Diane Hayes requested six (6) additional streetlights at Inlet Reach in the rear of the property. Plans are being made to replace the existing lights with the old fashion style that are downtown. Ms. Hayes presented Council with an introduction booklet designed for prospective buyers.

JANE MOORE & ALLISON ANDERSON REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: *Drainage and Flooding on Watts Street & Development of Davison Plantation at Old Jefferson Villas*

Allison Anderson and Jane Moore presented photos and newspaper articles indicating major drainage problems on Douglas Drive, Florence Street, Watts Street, Tiffany Circle and Martha Drive. Other topics discussed were existing flooding, ditch and culvert maintenance and the potential effects the development of Davison Plantation would have in the area.

The Mayor and several Council Members agreed that the drainage issue would be reviewed with the engineers, Public Works and Planning Departments. Councilman Blount stated that the City is moving forward with a Drainage Master Plan to address these issues and isolated situations might have adverse affects on other areas.

Anthony Rents, Project Engineer Davison Plantation spoke about proposed drainage for the project and infrastructure improvements. Several citizens expressed concerns regarding the affects the rerouted water would have on their property.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no "Old Business" for Council consideration at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – *Police Explorer Post*

The City Manager stated that the Police Department requests endorsement to formally charter with the Boy Scouts of America and organize a Police Explorer Post. The Police Department had an Explorer Post under the previous administration. This program did not continue due to the fact that the Department allowed the charter to expire. The reformation of the Explorer Post is one of the goals and objectives for the Department for 2006, in order to facilitate community outreach programs. This Post will establish the proper policies and oversight measures to monitor and present this valuable program that provides knowledge, support and understanding to the youth who are interested in a law enforcement career. The City Manager recommends approval because programs such as this help create future community leaders.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the M.O.U. between the St. Marys Police Department and the Boy Scouts of America to organize a Police Explorer Post.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (CON'T)

Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. ORDINANCE TO REPEAL – *Special Fire Tax District*

The City Manager stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to repeal Cumberland Harbour's special fire tax district. The homeowners association is securing a loan to buy out the remaining costs for the fire tax district, donate two (2) acres of land for the fire station, fund the construction and purchase all equipment. Taxes for the fire district already collected would be included in the building fund, and the city's tax base will supply the manpower when construction is completed. This ordinance will repeal the special fire services tax district, which imposes a tax on the property owners within the subdivision for FY06 and subsequent years. The City Manager recommends approval.

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to repeal the special tax services for Cumberland Harbour fire tax district. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. The Finance Director requested the rewording of fiscal to property tax year. Following discussion, Councilman Lockhart amended the motion to include changing the words fiscal to "calendar". Councilman DeLoughy seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. AIRPORT RELOCATION – *Councilman Blount*

Councilman Blount opened discussions on the future of St. Marys Airport, whether it remains in St. Marys or relocates to the county, costs associated with the studies and sale of the site and land use. Following much discussion, a Property Committee meeting was scheduled to organize an airport committee on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

D. VOTING DELEGATES FOR 2006 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mayor Eskridge stated that at the City is entitled to one vote at two meetings during the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) 2006 Annual Convention.

Councilman Blount made a motion to appoint Mayor Eskridge to vote on Sunday, June 25, 2006 district caucus and Councilman DeLoughy on Monday, June 26, 2006 membership meeting. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. 2006 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION – *Flag Bearer*

Mayor Eskridge stated that a flag bearer is needed to represent St. Marys at the GMA Convention.

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to appoint Councilman Williams as the City's flag bearer at the GMA Convention on Sunday, June 25, 2006. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the favor of the motion.

F. ATLANTIC COAST CONSULTING, INC. – *Master Plan Project W3*

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department recommends approval of task order #2 to Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. for the design of Master Plan Project W3. The City Manager recommends approval, as this was approved in the Water/Sewer Master Plan and will be paid through Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) Loans.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve task order #2 to Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$119,820. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. CITYWIDE STORM WATER MASTER PLAN – *Advertise for Proposals*

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department recommends approval to advertise for Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of a Citywide Storm Water Master Plan. This is the next phase of the project to select a firm to develop a plan to correct drainage problems throughout the City. The City Manager recommends approval, as this is part of the Storm Water Master Plan process implemented several years ago, this will be funded through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve advertising for Request For Proposals for the development of the Citywide Storm Water Master Plan. Councilman Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

H. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – *Coast Guard/PD/Gun Range*

The City Manager stated that the Police Department requests approval to allow access to the police shooting range facility to the local Coast Guard unit for training purposes. In order to facilitate this request, the Coast Guard requires a formal agreement by way of an MOU between them and the City of St. Marys. It is the policy of the Police Department that no agency using the range facility will do so without being briefed on the police range rules and expectations of conduct while training there. No training will be conducted without the presence of an approved firearm instructor and all students will sign a copy of the range rules before training commences. At the recommendation of the City Attorney, a liability waiver may also need to be included in this process. The City Manager recommends approval.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Coast Guard and St. Marys Police Department to allow access to the police shooting range facility for training purposes. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

I. TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE – *TDS Telecom (ADDED)*

The City Manager stated that the current telephone wiring and system in City Hall is obsolete and needs to be upgraded. Funds are available for this project. Additionally, the Planning and Building Department's could not move into the new offices without the upgrade. The City Manager recommends approval.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE (CON'T)

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the Telephone System Upgrade as presented. Councilman Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PLANNING DIRECTORS' REPORT

1. **Brenda Eddinger and Newton Seals** request to annex into the City of St. Marys .6 acres located off of Lonesome Pine Road on Tax Map 160A, Parcel 009A.

The Planning Director stated that Ms. Eddinger and Mr. Seals also request to rezone the property to R5 townhouse upon annexation. The property abuts another parcel that they annexed into the City last year under these same conditions. The County was notified and submitted no comment. The Planning Commission recommends approving the annexation and rezoning requests.

Councilman DeLoughy made a motion to approve the annexation of the Brenda Eddinger and Newton Seals property located on Tax Map 160A, Parcel 009A and rezone the property to R5 townhouse upon annexation. Councilman Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY REPORT

The Tourism Director presented the St. Marys Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority Report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

C. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Weaver presented the Personnel Committee Report from the April 3, 2006 Meeting. The report is attached as part of the minutes. Also presented was a revised pay scale, comparable to other municipalities in the area and the sale of leave, which was discussed in Executive Session in Personnel Committee meeting on April 24, 2006. The revised pay scale is attached as part of the minutes.

Sale of Leave Policy states:

An employee may sell 80 hours of leave per year. In order to sell leave, an employee must have taken 40 hours of leave during the calendar year in which they are selling. After selling leave, at least 120 hours must be left.

Chairman Williams made a motion to approve the Personnel Committee report, the revised pay scale and Sale of Leave Policy.

Councilman Johnson commented that he met with many employees to discuss salaries. There is much doubt that any increase will come to pass because prior administrations have failed to follow through with promises that were made. Council needs to communicate with employees that raises will be sufficient enough to sustain a living wage and if not, review the digest when it comes out in July, in relation to the budget. Following much discussion, Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (CON'T)

Councilman DeLoughy made a motion that in addition to accepting the pay scales they are adjusted for the fiscal year budget on an annual basis, equal to the CPI for every grade level. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- March 28, 2006 - LandMar meeting and tour the mill
- March 31, 2006 – First Baptist Church meeting with Pastor Kegley to discuss construction problems and attended a Multi-Cultural Theatre meeting to discuss plans and a deck.
- April 4, 2006 spoke at the St. Marys Garden Club meeting
- April 5, 2006 - New Citizens State Bank Ribbon Cutting and St. Marys Airport meeting
- April 6 – 8, 2006 - Elected Officials training at Lake Lanier
- April 11, 2006 – Regional Development Center (RDC) Steering Committee meeting
- April 12, 2006 - Scrubby Bluff Treatment Plant meeting
- April 13, 2006 – met with Captain McKinnon regarding a road on the base and Advisory Jail Committee meeting
- April 19, 2006 - Heart & Soul Tour
- April 20, 2006 – met with a citizen regarding the management of the nursing home
- Town Hall meeting

Mayor Eskridge read the calendar of events.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager commended the community theater group that presented the Crooked Rivers Three Sister performance and encouraged everyone to attend.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director presented the 9-month Finance Report. The report is attached as part of the minutes. Finance Committee meetings were scheduled to discuss the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget on Monday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Tom Turner addressed Council regarding the ordinance to repeal height limitations for buildings, the ladder truck height for the fire station at Cumberland Harbour, St. Marys Airport and Industrial Development being land locked and the noise level that will increase at the firing range.

Councilman Blount recommended a dirt berm at the gun range.

Keith Post thanked the Mayor and Council for attending the Submarine Museum's 10th Anniversary, the Public Works Director for assisting with the Family Fun Day to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity, the Downtown Development Director for allowing him to be Master of Ceremony at the Heart and Soul Tour. Mr. Post announced the return of service for the USS Florida on May 25, 2006 in Mayport.

Leon Pickney appreciated the DVD of St. Marys where he was born and raised. He wished everyone could come and enjoy beautiful St. Marys, Georgia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel & Legal*

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 8:54 P.M., returning at 9:18 P.M. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

PERSONNEL

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to approve the City Managers' 5% pay increase following his annual review. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

LEGAL

No official action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk