

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

April 24, 2006

SECOND QUARTER – TOWN MEETING

6:00 P.M.

“MINUTES”

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a Town Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2006 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Gary Blount
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Jerry Lockhart
Councilmember L. J. Williams
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

CITY OFFICIALS:

*William Shanahan, City Manager
Gary Bacon, City Attorney
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Max Tinsley, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Sgt. Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms*

Mayor Eskridge called the Second Quarter Town Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and opened the floor to the public for questions and/or comments.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

The City Manager stated that many citizens contacted his office requesting an update on City Projects.

Gilligan’s Island – Currently the county is hauling garbage off the property and obtaining bids to remove the underbrush.

Multi-Cultural Theatre – Architect P & A Engineering will present a schedule for a new design eliminating a deck. The city is continuing to work with the Department of Natural Resources to include one.

Water/Sewer – Current capacity is met. A meeting with the Environmental Protection Division is scheduled for May 9, 2006 in Atlanta to discuss upgrading Pt. Peter Plant to 4.0 MGD, Scrubby Bluff to 1.0 MGD and the possibility of building a new plant.

Downtown Development Building – Construction of the building should be completed within 30 to 45 days, depending on weather.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Fund (SPLOST) – Despite interest and issues concerning manning vs. growth, work has begun on citywide drainage, sidewalks, streets, Multi-Cultural Theatre and the St. Marys Library. Based on the SPLOST Agreement projects must be started, not completed by January 2010 in order to keep funding.

Camden County Landfill – The Public Works Director spoke with the County Landfill Director regarding the acceptance of yard waste in biodegradable bags. A policy will need to be adopted to execute this program.

Diane McCoy, resident made a request that the city sell the biodegradable yard waste bags.

Joyce Flenniken, resident stated that there were discussions at a Camden County Chamber of Commerce meeting regarding the debris on the roadways, especially the St. Marys Road off ramp to Highway 40 East. Ms. Flenniken requested that Council implement beautification programs for littering.

Mayor Eskridge stated that this issue has been addressed with the Police Chief. The Police Chief stated that for enforcement, an officer needs to observe littering coming from a vehicle or locate a piece of trash that is identifiable. Citizens could take down license plate information and report it to the 911 Center. The same could be done for any incident that is observed.

The City Manager stated that the City Marshall has been going through bags of trash that were found on the roadways to help identify ownership. Councilman DeLoughy suggested putting cameras at target areas to apprehend offenders and require trash pick-up as their community service. Groups of citizens could form a watch group to take down license plate information.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further requests to address Council. Mayor Eskridge declared the Town Meeting closed at 6:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk