

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

**May 22, 2006
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION: *Councilman L.J. Williams*

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

QUORUM: YES X NO

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *May 8, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

- ❖ **PRESENTATION – EMPLOYEE’S OVER 25- YEARS OF SERVICE**
- ❖ **CITIZEN’S COMMENDATION – RODERICK BREWER**

VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **TEMPORARY ALCOHOL LICENSE** – *Waterfront Warehouse Theatre.....* **TAB “A”**
- B. **HIGHWAY 40 & DANDY STREET SEWER LINE** – *Emergency Repair.....* **TAB “B”**
- C. **DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS** – *Temporary Signs.....* **TAB “C”**
- D. **SIGNATURE COMMUNITY M.O.U.**..... **TAB “D”**
- E. **BUDGET ORDINANCE** – *Overages in Various Departments.....* **TAB “E”**
- F. **PERSONNEL POLICY** – *Nepotism (WITHDRAWN).....* **TAB “F”**
- G. **SATILLA PROBATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**..... **TAB “G”**
Community Service Agency Agreement
- H. **FIRE APPARATUS FOR CUMBERLAND HARBOUR - Bids (ADDED)**
- I. **FINLEY STREET SEWER REPAIR – Bids (ADDED)**

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

- A. **ORANGE HALL FOUNDATION REPORT** – *Three Term Expirations in June*
- B. **HOSPITAL AUTHORITY** – *Four Term Expirations in June*

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

➤ **Finance Director's Report.....TAB "H"**

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

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

May 22, 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, May 22, 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
Chris Cox, City Engineer
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Lt. Roger Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Councilman L.J. Williams 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: *May 8, 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.

“ADDITION TO THE AGENDA”

- 1. Fire Apparatus for Cumberland Harbour – Bids**
- 2. Finley Street Sewer Repair – Bids**

Councilman Blount 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 Fire Apparatus for Cumberland Harbour is added under New Business “F” and Finley Street Sewer Repair “F”.

“WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA”

1. Personnel Policy - Nepotism

Councilman Blount made a motion to withdraw the item from the agenda. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *May 8, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

❖ **PRESENTATION – EMPLOYEE’S OVER 25- YEARS OF SERVICE**

Mayor Eskridge and the City Council recognized City employees for their efforts and unselfish contributions of time and energy serving the citizens of St. Marys for 25+ years of service.

Bill Lomnick	28-years of service
Virginia Andrews	27-years of service
Wayne Broxton	27-years of service
Walter Hamilton	27-years of service
Nelson Rhone	27-years of service
Emory Sloan	27-years of service
Edward Souls	27-years of service
Wiley King	25-years of service

The employees were presented with watches and a Certificate of Accomplishment.

❖ **CITIZEN’S COMMENDATION – RODERICK BREWER**

The Police Chief recognized Roderick Brewer and presented a certificate of commendation from the St. Marys Police Department for supporting and assisting a police officer in apprehending of a robbery suspect.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Bill Creed, thanked Council for supporting the Waterfront Warehouse Theatre building project through the years and requests consideration of the temporary alcohol license.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A. TEMPORARY ALCOHOL LICENSE – *Waterfront Warehouse Theatre*

Mayor Eskridge stated that a fundraising event is scheduled for two days. Sale of alcohol will be contained under a tent, with no alcohol allowed in the park.

Councilman DeLoughy made a motion to approve the temporary alcohol license for the Waterfront Warehouse Theatre. Councilman Lockhart seconded the motion.

Councilman Johnson questioned its relation to the current City Alcohol Ordinance. Mayor Eskridge stated that last year, City Attorney Terry Floyd did not find anything wrong with granting the license as long as it was done by the Council. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. HIGHWAY 40 & DANDY STREET SEWER LINE – *Emergency Repair*

The City Manager stated that the Public Works Department requests approval of a project to replace approximately 360' linear feet of 8" vitrified clay pipe with PVC. The sanitary sewer line is located from the intersection of Highway 40 and Dandy Street eastward along the Highway 40 right-of-way. Estimated cost of the project is \$300,000. Public Works began soliciting bids from area contractors when it became apparent that the scope of the project was larger than could be handled in-house. Currently a temporary bypass pump is being used to continue providing services to our customers. The City Manager recommends approval, as money will come from the Sewer Contingency Fund.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the sewer line emergency repair located at Highway 40 and Dandy Street. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS – *Temporary Signs*

Councilman Lockhart stated that the Downtown Merchants Association submitted a plan to implement sandwich board signs in the Downtown Garden District. This is a temporary sign request until the directional signs are available in 6-8 months, through the Signature Community Grant. After speaking with the City Attorney, state law is in the process of being changed regarding signage. The new law will allow the City to have sandwich signs in our medians and public places on July 1, 2006. Changes to the local ordinance is estimated to take 3-4 weeks and the same time for a business to submit a design and drawing to the Planning Director for approval. Under the present state law it is unlawful to have any signs in public right of ways.

Councilman Lockhart made a motion to approve the guidelines for the manufacturing of temporary sandwich signs with a maximum size of 5.25 square feet, require a metal stake in the ground for safety purposes, placement at a reasonable distance from the corner of a city block, so a drivers view is not obstructed and to proceed with this project to implement it on July 1, 2006. Councilman Blount seconded the motion.

DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS (CON'T.)

The City Attorney stated that the law is changing on the first of July, which allows the city or county to have a local ordinance equal or less. It could not be done before because this provision was not in the law. Councilman DeLoughy questioned whether this issue was going before the Planning Commission to be voted on at the first council meeting in June. Councilman Lockhart replied that in order to change the ordinance this issue would go to the Planning Commission and by approving this tonight, everything would be in place to make it happen. Councilwoman Weaver questioned why the ordinance would be changed for something that is temporary. The City Attorney stated that the reason to changes the ordinance is to give the City the authority to allow people to put signs in the median. Currently, the City does not have the authority and could not get the authority in the past. It is a new provision signed by the Governor, giving the Cities and Counties the authority on their own medians. Generally, no one could do it. Councilman DeLoughy stated that this is a temporary change until the way-finding-signs become available. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. SIGNATURE COMMUNITY M.O.U.

The City Manager stated that the Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into between the Department of Community Affairs and the selected Signature Community Program participants. The Parties agree to enter into this cooperative arrangement to work toward the goal of having our community designated a full standing Signature Community at the end of the two year program period. A M.O.U. is required to begin the process of becoming a Signature Community. The City Manager recommends approval based on the advantages that the program offers the City and county.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the Signature Community M.O.U. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilman DeLoughy stated this program is one of the best things that have happened in our community and county in a number of years and thanked the Economic Development Director for spearheading this program. Some of the benefits offered are grants and city/county employee assistance. The City Manager stated that this program is a fine example of working together with Kingsland, Woodbine and the County. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. BUDGET ORDINANCE – *Overages in Various Departments*

Mayor Eskridge stated that the budget ordinance is to allocate funds received to the property accounts to cover the overages in various departments.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance as presented. Councilman Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. PERSONNEL POLICY – *Nepotism* (WITHDRAWN)

- G. SATILLA PROBATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION: *Community Service Agency Agreement***
The City Manager stated that this agreement is a continuation of community service workers to perform duties such as trash pickup on streets, landscaping services, painting, etc. on various City projects. These workers have been used in the past with good success and it provided additional manpower at minimal cost to the City.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve the Community Service Agency Agreement between the Public Works Department and Satilla Probation Management Corporation. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

H. FIRE APPARATUS FOR CUMBERLAND HARBOUR - Bids (ADDED)

The City Manager stated that the Fire Chief requests approval of the bid to purchase the new fire apparatus Quint truck from FireLine, Inc., which Cumberland Harbour has agreed to fund. Two bid proposals were received and reviewed by the Fire Chief. FireLine's quote for Emergency One Fire Apparatus is the best value to all parties interested. The cost for the Quint truck is \$557,382 and \$70,103 for the apparatus equipment.

Councilwoman Weaver made a motion to award the bid to FireLine, Inc. in the amount of \$557,382 for the Quint truck and \$70,103 for the apparatus equipment. Councilman Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

I. FINLEY STREET SEWER REPAIR (ADDED)

The City Manager stated that Public Works Department recommends approval of a project to replace approximately 46' linear feet of 8" vitrified clay pipe with PVC. This sanitary sewer line is located at Finley Street. An estimated cost of the project is \$9,000-36,000. The City Manager recommends approval with funding for the project coming from Water/Sewer Contingency.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve the sewer line repair located on Finley Street. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. ORANGE HALL FOUNDATION REPORT – *Three Term Expirations in June (Postponed)*

Karen Preble, President Orange Hall Foundation presented the Foundation report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

Councilman Blount made a motion to postpone the Orange Hall Foundation and the Hospital Authority appointments until the next Council meeting. Councilwoman Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY – *Four Term Expirations in June* (Postponed)

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- A letter of intent was drafted to Chairman Rainer regarding St. Marys Airport. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the letter to Chairman Rainer. Councilman DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Met with Jordan, Jones and Goulding and the Environmental Protection Division in Atlanta to discuss wastewater capacity and toured wastewater treatment plants.
- Mayor Eskridge read the City calendar of meeting, events and activities.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- Scrubby Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant – Plant is complete and in operation. Waste load allocation has been applied for to take the plant to 1.0 million gallons per day. Consideration is being given to increase from 2.0 to 2.2 mgd.
- Point Peter Wastewater Plant Process Renovation – A waste load allocation request has been submitted to EPD in the amount of 4.0 mgd. Reviewing options on a temporary basis until the new plant is built.
- Martha Drive Traffic Signal – Department of Transportation has approved the project and their participation. The project was advertised and no bids were received. The project will be readvertised. Based on DOT comments, some additional right of way will need to be acquired. Property owners are being contacted about necessary right of way acquisitions.
- St. Marys Road and Kings Bay Road Traffic Signals – Both signal studies have been completed and both intersections warrant a traffic signal. The plans are in the process of being reviewed by DOT. Once DOT issues permits on the plans, the project will go out for bid. Currently, funds are being sought to help with the cost of the new installations.
- St. Marys 101 – The class is full and the next class begins July 12, 2006.
- Due to the number of accidents that have occurred, Mayor Eskridge and Councilwoman Weaver have requested solutions to increase the safety to drivers and citizens. A presentation was given today by Your Place Traffic System. Cameras are placed at the lights or stop signs at no cost to the City. They will video tape or take snapshots of vehicles that run lights/stop signs and accidents. Through this technology, vehicle license plates and drivers could be identified to increase the safety of our citizens. The company will receive \$4,800 a month per signal from the revenues received from tickets. The City Manager requested permission to go forward with implementing this program. Council gave verbal approval to proceed and use good judgment on the project.
- Spoke with the County Tax Assessor regarding growth in St. Marys and real property growth has increased 12% over the last year.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director presented the 10-month Finance Report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Tom Turner, resident addressed Council regarding the leakage in the sewer system and asked how many clay ducts are left in the system. Mr. Turner stated that with the Fourth of July and Rock Shrimp Festivals approaching the temporary signs might encumber the median. Also, a lot of money was used to irrigate the medians and stakes could damage the system.

Councilman Blount stated that there are a substantial amount of clay ducts in the system and as long as they do not fail it can be converted into PVC. The City Manager stated that a lot of it is good for another 20-30 years.

Mayor Eskridge stated that the temporary signs would not be allowed overnight. Councilman Blount commented that these signs would be similar to the stakes on real estate signs. There should be some order and assigned placement of the signs. Councilman Lockhart questioned the reason signs would need to be removed during festivals when the City has 20,000 people visiting. The vendors should be in the street.

Angie Mock, Proprietor Market on the Square and Emma's Bed & Breakfast stated that vendors are not paying taxes in St. Marys. Ms. Mock questioned whether the Planning Commission would review the sign issue at the meeting tomorrow.

The Planning Director stated that it would not be reviewed tomorrow however it should be ready for Council approval by the July 1st deadline. Councilman DeLoughy suggested a possibility of pre-approval from Council with the Planning Commissions consent.

Frank Frasca, Chairman Hospital Authority strongly recommends reappointment of the four members in June. Mr. Frasca requests a meeting with Councilman Blount to discuss his reservations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for "Executive Session" at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman DeLoughy made a motion for adjournment. Councilman Blount seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk