

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 14, 2006**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION** *Reverend Verdell Griffin, Wheeler Street Church of God*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES X NO \_\_\_**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *July 20, 2006 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*July 24, 2006 Public Hearing Minutes*  
*July 24, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*August 7, 2006 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*

**PRESENTATION**

- **ST MARYS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS**  
Samantha Charpia & Denise McConnell
- **COURTWARE SOLUTIONS-MUNICIPAL COURT SOFTWARE**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- 1. ST. MARYS CONVALESCENT CENTER – Discussion**
- 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Legal**

- VI. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **PERSONNEL POLICY** – *Nepotism*.....TAB "A"
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **PARADE/MANUAL POLICY**.....TAB "B"
  - B. **GMA EQUIPMENT LEASE** – *General Fund*.....TAB "C"
  - C. **PALMETTO STREET SIDEWALK** – *Task Order*.....TAB "D"
  - D. **STORM WATER MASTER PLAN**.....TAB "E"
  - E. **2006 TAX MILLAGE RATE**.....TAB "F"
  - F. **ST. MARYS CONVALESCENT CENTER** – Discussion (ADDED)
- IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**
  - A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT** .....TAB "G"

1. **TREE BOARD** – *Board Member Appointments*
2. **WINDING RIVER, LLC** requests a major final subdivision plat for 160 lots known as Winding River Phase II located on Tax Map 120, a portion of Parcel 8B.
3. **Stokes, Baren & McLean Land Company, LLC** requests to rezone 130.65 acres known as Cannon Forest Located off of Winding Road and surrounding Sugarmill Elementary School on Tax Map 120, a portion of Parcel 8B from planned development PD with multi-family R2 usage to planned development PD with single-family R1 and multi-family townhouse R5 usage.
4. **Kirk Nelson** requests a three lot subdivision on property located at the intersection of Park Street and Borrell Boulevard.
5. **Planning Commission** requests Council consideration to extend the C1 commercial district.

X. **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

XI **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

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

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

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Personnel & Legal*

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 14, 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, August 14, 2006 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

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

**ABSENT WERE:**

*Councilmember William DeLoughy*

**CITY OFFICIALS:**

*William Shanahan, City Manager*  
*Gary Bacon, City Attorney*  
*Robby Horton, Fire Chief*  
*Max Tinsley, Planning Director*  
*Alyce Thornhill, Economic Dev. Director*  
*Jennifer Brown, Finance Director*  
*Tim Hatch, Police Chief*  
*Bobby Marr, Public Works Director*  
*Wiley King, Building 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 Verdell Griffin, Wheeler Street 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *July 20, 2006 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*

*July 24, 2006 Public Hearing Minutes*

*July 24, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

*August 7, 2006 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**ST MARYS POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS:** Samantha Charpia & Denise McConnell  
The Police Chief recognized Samantha Charpia and Denise McConnell for coming to the aid of an elderly man who fell and passed out on the side of the road while taking out garbage. They were presented with a certificate of commendation from the St. Marys Police Department for coming to the aide of a private citizen. Ms. Charpia and Ms. McConnell showed compassion and great responsibility for others.

## **COURTWARE SOLUTIONS-MUNICIPAL COURT SOFTWARE**

Cathy East, Courtware Solution, Inc. presented information on a Court Management System. The system calculates all fund deductions and surcharges that are applicable to each traffic violation. It also manages all monies related to court and miscellaneous payments. Software provides warrant tracking, warrant alert notification for offenders with outstanding warrants, court calendars, witness tracking, subpoenas and statistical reporting. All costs and services are provided at no cost to the city or law abiding citizens.

Councilmember Blount directed the City Manager to perform cost analysis between Courtware Solution's software and current software used by municipal court.

Mayor Eskridge recognized the contributors, volunteers and citizens who participated in the "National Night Out" on August 1, 2006. A list of the participants is attached as part of the minutes.

## **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- 3. ST. MARYS CONVALESCENT CENTER – Discussion**
- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Legal**

**Councilmember Blount made a motion to add the items to the agenda. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Eskridge indicated St. Marys Convalescent Center discussion is added under New Business "F" and Legal is added to Executive Session.**

**Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

## **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Charlene Sears**, resident questioned the selection process for the engineering firm chosen to prepare the city-wide storm water master plan and why the original proposal was not included in the information presented to the public.

**Charlene Sears (CON'T.)**

The Public Works Director stated it was not a bid process. Proposals were received and evaluated by city staff independently of one another. Staff then met and discussed the recommended firms. From that meeting, Thomas and Hutton Engineering were selected as the top firm. Since the fee was substantially higher than the lower priced firm, Thomas and Hutton was contacted and the fee negotiated. It was staff's recommendation that the difference is acceptable in order for the City to benefit from the experience the firm had on coastal projects.

**Tom Turner**, resident thanked Council for beginning the Palmetto Street Sidewalk Project.

**Barbara King**, resident discussed the presentation made by Southeast Georgia Health System at the Hospital Board meeting on August 7, 2006, and the pending sale of the convalescent center. Ms. King also discussed her conversation with an analyst in the Office of General Counsel at the Georgia Department of Community Health regarding the certificate of need at the facility versus the proposed location. Her main concerns were for the residents to feel safe in the home and a secure future for its employees.

**Ernie Mancil**, resident requested Council to reconsider the extension of C1 single-family occupancy until the planning process is reviewed.

**Roger Rillo**, resident expressed concerns about the life safety issue of zero lot lines and requested a study to be performed by the Fire Chief for the impact of over crowding in C1 and C2 areas.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. PERSONNEL POLICY – *Nepotism***

The City Manager stated that the draft to the current Nepotism Policy has been duly posted in City Hall for at least fourteen (14) days prior to the effective date of the amendment. One comment was received, which requested the inclusion of elected officials in the policy. The Personnel Sub-Committee worked with the City Manager and HR Director to draft the revisions to help make clear any inconsistencies in the current policy. Suggested changes were to prevent close relatives from being hired into or transferred into a department where another relative is currently employed. Seasonal employees will be exempt from the proposed amendment. The City Manager recommended approval of the amended policy.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the amended Nepotism Policy. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Councilmember Johnson moved to amend the motion to include elected officials in the proposed policy. Following much discussion the motion was not amended. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. PARADE/MANUAL POLICY**

The City Manager requested a postponement of the Parade/Manual Policy so the organization could get together one last time to review the policy.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to postpone the issue until the next Council meeting. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. GMA EQUIPMENT LEASE – *General Fund***

The City Manager stated that Georgia Municipal Association has quoted a rate of 4.26% for a 5-year lease for the purchase of all general fund equipment in the amount of \$647,000.00. This rate was obtained by financing all the equipment as a group. The loan amount will be escrowed until the equipment is purchased. Reimbursement will be submitted at the time of purchase. GMA proposed rate is good for 30-days (September 1). The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to enter into a Lease Agreement with GMA for the general fund equipment in the amount of \$647,000.

Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Councilmember Blount questioned whether all of the \$647,000 would be funded immediately or is GMA holding the money until it is needed. The Finance Director stated that the City would draw on the money from the escrow account as equipment is purchased and the loan payment would be made on the funds allocated to the City. Councilmember Blount stated that the City is paying interest on money that is not being used and requested the amount of interest that we would be receiving on the funds held in escrow. Councilmember Weaver noted that the 10 police cars were not included in the lease. The Finance Director stated that the police car purchase is a separate lease. The City Attorney stated that in March of 2001, the City entered into a Master Lease with GMA and GIRMA for insurance. As we go forward with the lease the City is passing a resolution amending or adding to the original lease. This resolution will supplement the original lease. Two resolutions will need to be passed, one for the police cars and another for equipment. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution for supplemental leases for ten (10) police cars in the amount of \$139,890.66. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. PALMETTO STREET SIDEWALK – *Task Order***

The City Manager stated that the purpose of this item is to approve a Task Order for Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$32,500.00 to design a sidewalk along Palmetto Street from Martha Drive to Point Peter Road. For several years, residents have been requesting a sidewalk so pedestrians would be able to avoid walking down the edge of the travel lanes along Palmetto Street. There were accidents along this highway when vehicle versus pedestrians. The project will be delayed by the construction of the proposed new sixteen (16) inch water line along Douglas Drive. Therefore, the project is

**PALMETTO STREET SIDEWALK (CON'T.)**

broken down into two phases. The first phase is the design and the second takes the project through the bid and construction. This project would provide a link between the sidewalk system along Point Peter Road and the system along Martha Drive and Douglas Drive. The City Manager recommended approval, as money will come from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Fund.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Task Order for the Palmetto Street sidewalk. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. STORM WATER MASTER PLAN**

The City Manager stated that Thomas and Hutton Engineering has been selected by city staff to prepare a city-wide storm water master plan. In an effort to reduce the negative effects of storm water flooding throughout the city, engineering firms were solicited to submit proposals for a master plan. The City has already completed the first two stages of the project, which were storm water structure inventory and laser topography. These will assist the selected engineering firm with the storm water master plan. Thomas and Hutton Engineering was considered the top firm because of their experience. The City Manager recommends approval of Thomas and Hutton Engineering to prepare the Storm Water Master Plan in the amount of \$220,650.00. Money will come from the SPLOST Fund.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the preparation of the Storm Water Master Plan by Thomas and Hutton Engineering. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge questioned why the City would pay a higher rate of when JJ&G has been doing business with the City year after year. The Public Works Director stated that when qualifications were submitted by Thomas and Hutton they were far above JJ&G. There were no qualifications submitted by JJ&G for storm drainage work along the coast of Georgia. They are a licensed engineering firm but they have never done the work. What is needed is a firm familiar with coastal topography. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. 2006 TAX MILLAGE RATE**

The City Manager stated that Council approval is needed to advertise the proposed 2006 millage rate (6.7 mills) and public hearing. Advertisement is required for the proposed millage rate along with the 5-year tax history and public hearing announcement for citizen input. The City's current rate is 6.2 mills; the new rate is 6.7 mills, which is an increase of .5 mills. The City Manager recommended approval to advertise.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to advertise the proposed millage rate, 5-year tax history and public hearing. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR  
Councilmember Johnson  
Councilmember Lockhart  
Councilmember Weaver  
Councilmember Williams

OPPOSED  
Councilmember Blount

**F. ST. MARYS CONVALESCENT CENTER – Discussion (ADDED)**

Mayor Eskridge gave a report regarding the Convalescent Center. He reviewed the minutes from the Special Called Council meeting dealing with the concerns of the citizens. A list of concerns were submitted to the Hospital Authority members for review. After speaking with the employees and several board members it was estimated that 80% of the items were addressed and resolved. The main issues were the director and the firing of Loretta Thrift. The director has resigned and Ms. Thrift was rehired. There are also two Certified Nurses Aides at night. A copy of the concerns is attached as part of the minutes. Mayor Eskridge opened the floor to anyone that has someone in the home for additional comments. Council is aware that the home is tentatively sold, but that discussion would take place in executive session.

Tommy King stated that after contacting the state the home could not be moved unless it was within three miles of the present location. The hospital is six miles from that location.

Councilmember Williams stated that he was contacted by the nursing home and the residents have now been given a choice of cloth or disposable diapers.

Councilmember Blount stated that he has visited the nursing home several times and had lunch. He did not see anything noticeably wrong or of great concern. Morale is definitely much better. Most of the issues and concerns addressed at the special meeting were answered, resolved or worked on. Councilmember Blount also visited the facility in Brunswick for comparative purposes.

Millie McClellan stated that the Hospital Authority has reimbursed half of the replacement cost for her mother's false teeth.

Councilmember Johnson was interested in hearing from Loretta Thrift about the changes she has seen.

Loretta Thrift stated everything is looking very good. Things are a lot calmer. It is a happier and more comfortable place for residents, family members and staff. The tension has decreased and everyone is beginning to work together again. There are still a few issues that need to be worked on in the kitchen. Ms. Thrift thanked Council for visiting and urged them to come out more often.

Tom Turner stated that it is his understanding that there is only one certificate of need in the county. Is the hospital purchasing the certificate of need, the building or both?

**Mayor Eskridge** stated that during his discussion with the Board the hospital was to purchase all of it. According to the hospital's attorney it does not have to be that way.

**Carlton DeVooght**, Vice President and General Counsel for Southeast Georgia Health System stated that it could be twofold, one for real property and one for assets, including the certificate.

## **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**

### **E. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **1. TREE BOARD – Board Member Appointments**

The Planning Director provided a list of eight volunteers for Council consideration to appoint a Tree Board. The tree board will oversee the public and City's property to maintain the trees and keep the City beautiful. The Board may make recommendations for changes to the City's Tree Ordinance. They will not regulate anything on citizen's property. The Tree Board requires five members, serving different initial terms to stagger membership. Voting is recorded as follows:

**George Beaver** - Councilmember Johnson

**Beverly Cyphers** - Councilmember Weaver

**Michelle Donini Bellisle** – Councilmember Johnson

\***Dianna Forster** – Councilmembers Johnson, Blount and Lockhart

\***Heath Heron** – Councilmember Weaver, Councilmembers Blount, Lockhart and Williams

\***Jim Greer** – Councilmember Weaver, Councilmembers Blount and Lockhart

\***Daniel Westcot** – Councilmembers Williams, Blount and Lockhart

\***Tom McClendon** – Councilmember Weaver, Councilmembers Williams and Blount

#### **6. WINDING RIVER, LLC** requests a major final subdivision plat for 160 lots known as Winding River Phase II located on Tax Map 120, a portion of Parcel 8B. The Planning Director stated that Winding River, LLC requests final plat on Winding River Phase II. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the final subdivision plat for Winding River for 160 lots. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion.

Councilmember Weaver expressed concerns that Winding River, Cannon Forest and the other subdivisions on Winding Road are funneling into Colerain Road where potential accidents could occur when turning left on Colerain Road. The problem is that there are several hundred homes proposed for Winding Road and they are either coming out onto Colerain Road or Spur 40.

The Planning Director stated that Cannon Forest's traffic study is complete and it recommended a turn lane into the subdivision.

Councilmember Blount stated that this would be a good time to look at the traffic impact at the Colerain Road interchange, which is already stressed out because of the high school. Even though there are plans to widen Colerain that does not preclude

**WINDING RIVER, LLC (CON'T.)**

Council from doing something along Winding Road or the interchange. Is there a possibility of adding turning lanes and do we go through the DOT?

Mayor Eskridge stated that the City may not be able to put in a stop light, due to the fact that there are plans to widen the road in the future.

Councilmember Weaver asked if a study could be prepared for the Colerain and Winding Road intersection to be included in the widening project. Councilmember Johnson questioned if a traffic study was done on Winding River.

The Planning Director stated when the DRI was done; the state did not recommend a traffic study. The DRI for Cannon Forest did not recommend a traffic study for Winding River but staff felt that a traffic study was needed because there are two major subdivisions in that area. The Mayor and Council directed the City Manager to prepare a study at Winding Road, Colerain Road and Spur 40. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

7. **Stokes, Baren & McLean Land Company, LLC** requests to rezone 130.65 acres known as Cannon Forest Located off of Winding Road and surrounding Sugarmill Elementary School on Tax Map 120, a portion of Parcel 8B from planned development PD with multi-family R2 usage to planned development PD with single-family R1 and multi-family townhouse R5 usage.

The Planning Director stated that there were recommended changes to the Cannon Forest PD from the Planning Commission. The applicant requested this item to be postponed until the changes in design could be made.

8. **Kirk Nelson** requests a three-lot subdivision on property located at the intersection of Park Street and Borrell Boulevard.

The Planning Director stated that at the June Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Nelson was asked to supply surveys showing the locations of the two houses on the new proposed lots to insure they meet all required zoning restrictions. Mr. Nelson failed to supply the surveys to the Planning Commission so the Planning Commission recommends denying this subdivision application. The actual surveys were to the presented planning department today. The Planning director recommends sending it back to the Planning Commission for review.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to refer Mr. Nelson's request to the Planning Commission to review the survey. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

9. **Planning Commission** requests Council consideration to extend the C1 commercial district.

The Planning Director stated that the Planning Commission requests a postponement of the extension of C1 commercial district to gather additional information. The

**Planning Commission (CON'T.)**

Downtown Development Authority is receiving assistance from the University of Georgia to make recommendations on the C1 and C2 district future changes and design guidelines. The Planning Commission requests approval to amend the definition of single-family occupancy.

Councilmember Lockhart made a motion to refer the extension of the C1 commercial district to the Planning and Zoning Committee for further action until such time that studies are completed by the University of Georgia. The city is at a point where it needs professional help with the planning. An ordinance was in place that did not do exactly what the City thought it would do. Many people are concerned about the ordinance, increasing the length of C1 to the railroad tracks, many of people in that area were not contacted to be given an opportunity to speak. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion.

The Planning Director requested a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Committee to change the definition of single-family occupancy as soon as possible, since there is a 30-day time limit.

Councilmember Lockhart suggested making the extension to the moratorium for C1 single-family a part of the motion, until it is resolved in Planning and Zoning Committee.

The City Attorney stated that it is his understanding from the last meeting that the moratorium was to give time to draft the ordinance and that it would be advertised. The Planning Director stated that it was advertised and ready for approval. The City Attorney recommended approval of the amended ordinance.

Councilmember Lockhart responded that he did not think Council was ready to pass the ordinance because there were still problems.

Following much discussion, Councilmember Lockhart amended the motion by approving the amended ordinance to clarify C1 single-family occupancy and refer the proposed C1 extension back to the Planning and Zoning Committee for further consideration. The change to the definition is as follows:

***That Section 110-69 be amended so as to delete subsection (a) (12), and replace subsection (a) (12) which shall read as follows:***

***“(a) (12) Family/Commercial occupancy. This permits a current structure to be used for family occupancy (one family per structure) only when utilizing the first occupied floor for a commercial establishment (other than a parking lot), and the above occupied floor/s for residential, but does not permit a new single-family dwelling to be constructed utilizing the zoning restrictions established for C1 commercial. A new commercial structure may be built using the first occupied floor for commercial use (other than a parking lot) and the above occupied floor/s of the new structure for family occupancy (one family per structure).”***

Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

- July 27, 2006 – The City Manager and Mayor went to Jesup to meet with the Department of Transportation concerning the railroad crossing. Until litigation is cleared up, DOT will not do anything.
- July 31, 2006 – The Mayor, Councilmember Lockhart and City Manager met with Attorney Charlie Smith and LandMar to discuss plans for the Durango site. City staff plans to visit a site converted by LandMar in Orlando.
- August 7, 2006 – Special Council meeting concerning a legal matter.
- August 8, 2006 – Met with a former employee of the Convalescent Center.
- August 10, 2006 – Met with the Hospital Authority Chairman, Vice Chairman and three attorneys.
- August 11, 2006 – Attended a chamber meeting to address the Camden County Leadership group.
- August 17, 2006 – A Water and Sewer Committee meeting is schedule at 5:30 P.M. to discuss the request to the Environmental Protection Division and excess.
- August 21, 2006 – LandMar Redevelopment Group is making a presentation at St. Marys Elementary School at 5:30 P.M.
- Mayor Eskridge read the City Calendar of the meetings, events and activities.

### **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

- August 11, 2006 – A lifeguard at the Aquatic Center noticed an alligator is the kiddie pool and evacuated the area. The Police and Fire Departments responded and the alligator was taken to Borrell Creek before animal control came. Very proud of the lifeguard (son) and no one was hurt.
- Scrubby Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant – Waste load allocation has been approved by the EPD to take the plant to 1.0 MGD (Million Gallons per Day). The next step is for the EPD to review specifications for new requirements and get back with us next week on whether or not additional allocations are available.
- Point Peter Wastewater Treatment Plant – A waste load allocation request has been submitted to EPD in the amount of 4.0 MGD. The City is looking at doing something on a temporary basis until the new plant is built and the paperwork has already been submitted. The City has contacted the Navy Base in hopes that they will lease a piece of land to build another plant and plans to close down the Weed Street Plant.

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Finance Director presented the 12-month Finance Report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

### **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Tom Turner**, resident asked for a status report on the traffic light for St. Marys Middle School.

Councilmember Blount stated that even with a traffic light it would take some time to get acclimated to the in and out traffic pattern. The Police Department will need a little time to

**Tom Turner (CON'T.)**

analyze what would happen at this area. Councilmember Weaver stated that time will fix the problem because in a few months, parents will be dropping off from Spur 40 and buses from Martha Drive. Mayor Eskridge stated that there are still right-of-way issues that have not been resolved. The City Manager stated DOT notified the City that additional right- of- ways needed to be purchased and then the project would be turned over to the County to do the work.

**Ernie Mancil**, resident questioned the storm water master plan engineering firm's track record in dealing with the Department of Natural Resource and did they have the best track record. The Public Works Director stated it was one of the requirements to state their relationship with DNR. Both DNR and EPD were contacted to discuss their partnerships with the firm.

**Tom Cyphers**, resident questioned if the hospital sale is based on the certificate of need and the property to Southeast Georgia Health System. Mayor Eskridge stated that is the original deal. Mr. Cyphers stated his concerns about selling a dual property, both the convalescent center and its residents and also the property itself to a "not for prophet" organization and then moving it. Councilmember Johnson stated that there are some legal issues to be resolved then approach the primary problem after that.

**Keith Post**, resident thanked Mayor Eskridge for attending the Leadership Camden meeting. The program was revamped after a year lapse and it is a great program. Mr. Post also thanked the Mayors, Commissioner and Mangers from the other entities for attending.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel & Legal**

Councilmember Blount made a motion to adjourn to executive session. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 9:07P.M., returning at 10:01 P.M. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

**PERSONNEL**

There was no official action taken at this time.

**LEGAL**

Mayor Eskridge stated that the City Council has discussed the issue of the sale of St. Marys Convalescent Center. The City Attorney was directed to do in-depth research in what has taken place and to meet with the hospital's attorney to answer Council's concerns about parts of the sales contract.

Councilmember Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 10:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk