

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

**November 27, 2006
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION:** *William P. Shanahan, Jr., City Manager*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES X NO _____**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *November 13, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*
- PRESENTATION:**
FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SCAD PRESENTATION – Alyce Thornhill
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal (ADDED)*
- VII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS:** None
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. DECEMBER 25TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING - Discussion**
 - B. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE – Cisco Travel Plaza.....TAB “A”**
 - C. 2006 AD VALOREM TAX – St. Marys Machinist Club.....TAB “B”**
 - D. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – Council Meeting Order of Business.....TAB “C”**
 - E. CAMDEN COUNTY RESOLUTION: 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan Update.... TAB “D”**
- X. REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**
- A. DECEMBER TERM EXPIRATIONS**
 - 1. Historic Preservation Commission – Two Seats**
 - 2. Planning Commission – Two Seats**
 - 3. Tree Board – One Seat**
 - B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT & PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE.....TAB “E”**
- XI. REPORT OF MAYOR:**

XII REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XIII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 27, 2006
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, November 27, 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 Gull Weaver
Councilmember LJ Williams

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Gary A. Bacon, City Attorney
Max Tinsley, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Lt. Roger Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. William P. Shanahan, City Manager 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: *November 13, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Corrections were discussed on page 1, to delete the phrase “and to adjourn to executive session” and page 5, Ordinance Amendment Oak Grove Cemetery changing the word “crease to create”. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION:

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Finance Director presented the 4-month finance report. The report is attached as part of the minutes.

SCAD PRESENTATION – *Alyce Thornhill*

The Economic Development Director spoke about the Savannah College of Arts and Design (SCAD) Studio 7 Graduate Student projects displayed in the Economic Development Building Downtown. St. Marys had the opportunity to partner with SCAD through networking with the Quality Growth Resource Team. SCAD has impacted Savannah's revitalization by bringing back the community of Broughton to a vibrant retail district due to the skill and creative minds of the students. Savannah has learned to tap into this talented pool for great designs and ideas.

On Friday, November 17, 2006, Studio 7 Students made presentations during an open jury session with meaningful solutions to complex architectural problems in St. Marys. Across the board recommendations were for St. Marys to become a destination, not just a stopping point before ferrying to Cumberland Island. The ideas were fresh, well thought out and included rooftop dining at the Riverview Hotel; a trolley system; marsh walks; a river cruise; an interactive war museum with authentic boats to tour, celebrating St Marys Naval Port history past and present; and suggestions for the boat ramps.

For the next few months, presentation boards and models will remain at the Economic Development Building Monday through Friday at 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.. The City will work together with the DDA, Planning and Zoning Department, Tourism and the Community to voice their opinions. Public workshops will be conducted by the Planning Director and/or City Planner to gather ideas from the community to develop a Downtown Blueprint. The City has worked hard to make this project beneficial for the students, downtown and available for the City's Comprehensive Plan. SCAD's partnership will strengthen the City's relationship and help with future growth and changes.

Mayor Eskridge stated that after speaking with Council it was suggested to move executive session to the beginning of the agenda. Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Legal (ADDED)*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to adjourn to executive session for legal. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 6:15 P.M., returning at 6:21 P.M. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

LEGAL

No official action was taken at this time.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Cookie Johnson, resident spoke in support of the relocation of the Waterfront Theatre near the St. Marys Public Library because there is ample parking. Ms. Johnson stated that St. Marys 101 is "terrific" and was impressed with the Fire Department's presentation.

Candy DeLoughy, resident opposed the relocation of the theatre to a location other than downtown because there needs to be something to draw people. There are many nice restaurants and everyone could conveniently park within walking distance of the theatre and downtown.

Ed McCoy, resident is opposed to changing executive session to the beginning of the meeting and removing the last granting audience to the public.

Councilmember Blount stated that changing the agenda was not done haphazardly, there are issues that impact the agenda and need to be discussed prior to the end of the meeting.

Charlotte Bartzack, resident spoke in opposition of the proposed change to executive session, regardless of the topic discussed and the elimination of the second granting audience giving the public an opportunity to comment on action taken during the meeting.

Roger Rillo, resident opposed the amendment to the structure of the meetings and requested tabling of the issue to another meeting for more citizen input. Mr. Rillo also opposes the relocation of the waterfront theatre by the library because the view of the tennis courts and water park is not as desirable as the waterfront. There are many restaurants and business on the waterfront which will draw many to the area.

Dave Schmitz, resident stated that granting audience to the public should be at the beginning and end of the meetings. He further stated that executive session could be moved prior to each meeting if there is a need. Mr. Schmitz addressed Mayor Eskridge concerning the governor's response to Highway 40 and whether anyone had fiber optics from Comcast.

Mayor Eskridge stated that the governor contacted the Department of Transportation and a contract was signed to begin working on the railroad crossing in January 2007. Councilmember Weaver stated first the crossing arms would be completed, then the paving, also, Comcast has been adding coaxial lines throughout the City.

Keith Post, resident commented that St. Marys 101 with the Fire Chief was a great class. Alyce Thornhill, Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and SCAD students were commended for the tremendous job on the presentations and everyone was urged to view them at the DDA building. Council was updated on the invitations to the Chief of Naval Operations and Marine Corp Assistant Commandant to visit Camden County. The CNO is working with Sheila McNeil to visit in the first quarter and the Marine Corp Assistant Commandant is scheduled to come January 25, 2007 for breakfast with community leaders. Mr. Post opposes moving executive session to the beginning of the meeting unless there is a need and it is important that the public has a chance to comment at the end.

John King, resident commented that parking at the new arts and activity center could be interlocking with the park if public transit is considered. This being the case it would eliminate the problem by parking further out and being carried down to the waterfront and several other streets could be opened in a new way. Mr. King considered moving executive session and

public response another problem and suggested that the City's chaplain should be consulted to turn those times into a huge energy gain instead of a drain.

Walt Natzic, resident opposed the change to executive session and removing the last public comment session. The Economic Development Director was complimented on her report and outstanding work with DDA and SCAD.

Chris Daniel, Chamber of Commerce announced Entrepreneur Friendly Designation Review Team will be in Camden County on December 13, 2006 and invites Council to participate in the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DECEMBER 25TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING – Discussion

Mayor Eskridge stated the Council Meeting scheduled on December 25th needs to be cancelled due to the holiday.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to cancel the meeting. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE – Cisco Travel Plaza

The City Manager stated due to the pending sale of Cisco Travel Plaza, the City Clerk requests Council consideration to approve advertising for a 2007 Alcohol License Public Hearing for United Fuel, Inc. The hearing will be scheduled on December 11, 2006 at 5:45 P.M. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. A completed alcohol application is on file, however, the permitting panel has not met to review the application because of the holiday. The application will be reviewed and available to Council prior to the public hearing.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the advertising for Cisco Travel Plaza pending a satisfactory application and review by the Clerk. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. 2006 AD VALOREM TAX – St. Marys Machinist Club

The City Manager stated that the Camden County Commissioners request Council's consideration to waive the City's 2006 tax bill for the Union Hall (St. Marys Machinist Club). St. Marys Machinist Club is a facility used as a polling place for Camden County citizens. Camden County Commissioners voted to waive the County's tax bills as long as the facility remains a polling location. The Commissioners request City Council to waive the St. Marys Machinist Club's 2006 City tax bill in the amount of \$125.40. The City Manager recommended approval, as the City also uses this building for elections at no cost to us.

2006 AD VALOREM TAX (CON'T.)

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to waive the St Marys Machinist Club 2006 City taxes in the amount of \$125.40. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – *Council Meeting Order of Business*

The City Manager stated that the amendment is to change the administration ordinance to change the order of business. Mayor Eskridge and several councilmember's request a change to the council agenda. To insure compliance with the administration ordinance, this amendment changes the agenda order for council meetings. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Williams made a motion for discussion. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The City Attorney suggested limiting the time of the presentation to 10 minutes and adding the speakers name and address to granting audience to the public. Following much discussion, voting was unanimously opposed to amend the ordinance.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to postpone this issue until the next meeting to allow time for the public, council and legal to react and comment. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. CAMDEN COUNTY RESOLUTION: 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The City Manager stated that the County's resolution is to submit the Updated Solid Waste Management Plan to the RDC and DCA for review. On June 12, 2006, City Council approved the joint Solid Waste Management Plan Update Project for Camden County, St. Marys, Kingsland, and Woodbine, which are due in Calendar Year 07. After several months of data collection by R. W. Beck Consulting, the finished project must be submitted to the RDC and DCA for review. The total cost of this process is \$60,000, which will be shared using the LOST ratio, as done in the past. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve Camden County's 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan Update Resolution. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. DECEMBER TERM EXPIRATIONS

- 1. Historic Preservation Commission** – Two Seats
- 2. Planning Commission** – Two Seats
- 3. Tree Board** – One Seat

Councilmember Blount made a motion to postpone the appointments until the next meeting and anyone interested in serving on the committees contact the City Clerk of their intent. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT & PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE

Councilmember Williams, Chairman Personnel Committee stated that the Committee met on November 15, 2006 to discuss the need to hire two individuals; one in the water department and one in finance. Due to the lack of personnel, thirty work orders are unfulfilled in the water department and assistance is required in accounting. Although it is not a budgeted position, the Committee recommends hiring persons and assurance has been given that money is available to pay for these positions.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to hire both personnel. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

Councilmember Williams amended the original motion to create two positions. Councilmember Weaver seconded the amended motion.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to add a meter reader and clerk in the finance department as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Williams stated that in moving personnel around, it may become necessary for their salary increases to go over 10%. The Compensation Policy needs to be changed so the City Manager could come to council to move people into positions. The City Manager stated that if someone is given a pay increase of 10% or above, it must come before Council for final approval. When jobs are advertised internally, personnel receive the entry level rate, which is the same as hiring someone off the street with the same experience. The City Manager requests permission to have the authority to approve these promotions under the condition that the Mayor and full Council are notified. Councilmember Williams made a motion to post the Personnel Policy change. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- November 14, 2006 – Attended the Board of Health Meeting to discuss swimming pool permitting problems.
- November 15, 2006 – Comprehensive Plan Meeting at the Economic Development Building.
- November 17, 2006 – Participated on a panel for Georgia Rural Forestry on Jekyll Island
- November 20, 2006 – VITA Meeting to discuss IRS training to assist low to middle income citizens to prepare taxes at no charge.

Mayor Eskridge read the City Calendar of events, meetings and activities.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- Tax Allocation District Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, December 7th at 2pm in St. Marys City Hall.
- The Comprehensive Plan was pushed back a few months because of the Coastal Georgia Master Plan.
- The Planning Department will soon begin working on a City-Wide Master Plan
- The traffic light at Martha Drive is pending property ownership issues. Kings Bay and St Marys Road traffic lights will be funded in part by DOT and will put them out to bid
- Working on quotes on a Television for the lobby.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Keith Post, resident invited Council to attend the Annual Toys-for-Tots and Marine of the Month Brunch hosted by the Navy League on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. in Osprey Cove. The only requirement is to bring a toy or a cash donation.

Arlene Norris, resident complemented the Mayor and Council on their discussion and action on the order of business issue.

Sandy Feller, resident commended Mayor and Council for the most open transparent government in the county. This policy is apparent by the 27 meetings that were open to the public last month. The general public could review the entire law that involves the Durango matter by going to Mr. Feller's blog.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk