



**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**October 13, 2008**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**“Millage Rate”**

**10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.**

**FOURTH QUARTER TOWN MEETING &**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION:** *City Manager Bill Shanahan*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *September 22, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*September 22, 2008 Public Hearing Millage Rate*  
*September 22, 2008 Water & Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*September 15, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*October 7, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes*

**PRESENTATION:**

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** *Max Tinsley*

**GEORGIA’S OUTSTANDING OLDER WORKER OF 2008 RECOGNITION:** *Lois Cooper*

**PROCLAMATION:** *Red Ribbon Week*

**PROCLAMATION:** *Admiral Thad W. Allen Day*

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS** *(Bryant & Mizelle)*

**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORT**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**VII. OLD BUSINESS: *NONE***

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **2008 TAX MILLAGE RATE:** *Ordinance & Computation of Rollback*.....TAB “A”
- B. **RESOLUTION:** *Service Delivery Strategy*.....TAB “B”
- C. **RESOLUTION:** *Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda*.....TAB “C”
- D. **2009 MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE**.....TAB “D”
- E. **GMA LOAN:** *Police Car Purchase*.....TAB “E”
- F. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *HR Department*.....TAB “F”
- G. **D. RAY JAMES PRISON:** *Contract*.....TAB “G”
- H. **FY09 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**.....TAB “H”
- I. **2008 PAVEMENT PATCHING PROJECT:** *Various Streets*.....TAB “T”
- J. **MARTHA DRIVE TRAFFIC SPEED STUDY AND SCHOOL ZONE DESIGN**...TAB “J”

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

- A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**.....TAB “K”
  - 1. **AMENDED PD REZONING:** Sawyer & Associates, requests rezoning of a 2.8 acre property known as St. Marys River Retreat from the present PD-R1 zoning to an Amended PD-R1. The development is located at St. Marys St. & Ready St., Tax Parcel S41-12-001.
  - 2. **SUBDIVISION-MINOR-FINAL:** W/H. Gross, requests final approval for a 2 lot subdivision, zoned C-2, for Lot 5 of South Georgia Professional Park Phase II. Tax Parcel 121-050.
  - 3. **SPECIAL USE PERMIT:** Adam Jacobson, Atlantic Auto Brokers requests a Special Use Permit to place a used car lot at 3866 Highway 40 East, Tax Parcel 135D-03. The property is zoned C-2.
- B. **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**.....TAB “L”
- C. **ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**X. REPORT OF MAYOR:**

**XI. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

**XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Legal***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**October 13, 2008**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**“Millage Rate”**

**10:00 a.m.**

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a Public Hearing on Monday, October 13, 2008, in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Greg Bird  
Councilmember William DeLoughy  
Councilmember Deborah Hase  
Councilmember Larry Johnson  
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

**ABSENT WERE:**

*Councilmember Chuck Trader*

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

*William Shanahan, City Manager  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Chad Kinzly, Asst. Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Donna Folsom, HR Director  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Dir.  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator*

Mayor Eskridge called the Public Hearing for the “Millage Rate” to order at 10:00 a.m., and opened the floor to the public for questions and/or comments.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

**Robert Arndt**, resident at 105 Miller’s Trace Drive, commented about the reduction of three full-time and three part-time positions at the Fire Department. Mr. Arndt also stated that he did not believe that it is the Council’s job to cut city taxes to offset county taxes. He noted that businesses are the few versus the number of residences; therefore, he feels that the large cuts are for a few.

After a brief discussion, the City Manager clarified that everyone has agonized over the decisions that are being made and that the cuts have not been easy.

**Greg Harrell**, owner of Closet Innovations and resident at 111 Point Peter Road, expressed concerns about the reassessment of commercial property values.

Mr. Harrell stated that his county property taxes have increased from \$300.00 in 2007, to \$3,000.00 in 2008. The tax increase along with a 55% decrease in business since January has

MINUTES  
Public Hearings, Town Mtg. &  
City Council Mtg.  
October 13, 2008  
Page 4

caused him to lay off his five workers to be able to stay in business. Mr. Harrell requested that City taxes stay the same, at least for this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Eskridge declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. Johnson, Deputy Clerk

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**October 13, 2008**

**5:30 p.m.**

**“Millage Rate”**

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a Public Hearing on Monday, October 13, 2008, in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Greg Bird  
Councilmember William DeLoughy  
Councilmember Deborah Hase  
Councilmember Larry Johnson  
Councilmember Chuck Trader  
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

*William Shanahan, City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Chad Kinzly, Asst. Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Donna Folsom, HR Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Dir.  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Timothy Hatch, Police Chief  
Rodger Wooten, Police Major  
Wiley King, Building Director  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Dir.  
Kim Dockery, Junior Accountant  
Lori Whitlow, Executive Administrative Asst.  
Connie Miller, HR Executive Administrative Asst.  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Bilaal Muhammad, City Marshall  
Richard Riggles, Sergeant-At-Arms*

Mayor Eskridge called the Public Hearing for the “Millage Rate” to order at 5:30 p.m., and opened the floor to the public for questions and/or comments.

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

**Matt Hernandez**, resident at 304 East Dillingham Street, asked the Council to reconsider the millage rate due to the business properties having been reassessed at double, triple and even quadruple their previous assessments. He requested the millage rate be lowered from 5.6 to 5.1 mills, as any increase will be detrimental to businesses and non-homestead residents. Mr. Hernandez stated that he had polled residents and presented a signed petition, with over 200 signatures, to the Mayor.

**Charlie Jacobs**, resident at 301 East Conyers Street, commented that the taxes affect residences as well as businesses. Due to the economy he implored the Council to find another way to meet budget demands other than a tax increase.

**Rosemary Rillo**, resident at 605 Wheeler Street, noted that taxes are often paid through escrow accounts. A tax increase will increase the escrow amounts, causing an increase in mortgage payments and foreclosures. An increase in foreclosures could decrease the City's revenue.

**Tom Cyphers**, resident at 206 West Bryant Street, agreed as a prior mortgage banker with Mrs. Rillo. Mr. Cyphers feels that the Council is asking for the tax payers to bail the City out. He suggested that services, people and other items should be cut instead of raising taxes.

**Joyce Flenniken**, resident at 1039 Greenwillow Drive, stated that residential taxes cannot support the City. She urged the City to be proactive in looking for businesses to help increase the revenue instead of taxing the good citizens and losing honest employees.

Councilmember Trader commented that the Council desires to find businesses to come to the City and welcomed any help or suggestions. He agreed that the City is heavy on residential.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There were no further requests to address Council; therefore Mayor Eskridge declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. Johnson, Deputy Clerk

**FOURTH QUARTER – TOWN MEETING**

**October 13, 2008**

**6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a Town Meeting on Monday, October 13, 2008 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Greg Bird  
Councilmember William DeLoughy  
Councilmember Deborah Hase  
Councilmember Chuck Trader  
Councilmember Gull Weaver  
Councilmember Larry Johnson*

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

*William Shanahan, City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Chad Kinzly, Asst. Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Donna Folsom, HR Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Dir.  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Timothy Hatch, Police Chief  
Rodger Wooten, Police Major  
Wiley King, Building Director  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Dir.  
Kim Dockery, Junior Accountant  
Lori Whitlow, Executive Administrative Asst.  
Connie Miller, HR Executive Administrative Asst.  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshall  
Richard Riggles, Sergeant-At-Arms*

Mayor Eskridge called the Fourth Quarter Town Meeting to order at 5:41 p.m., and opened the floor to the public for questions and/or comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There were no requests to address Council; therefore Mayor Eskridge declared the Town meeting closed at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. Johnson, Deputy Clerk

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 13, 2008**

**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, October 13, 2008 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Greg Bird  
Councilmember William DeLoughy  
Councilmember Deborah Hase  
Councilmember Larry Johnson  
Councilmember Chuck Trader  
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

*William Shanahan, City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Chad Kinzly, Asst. Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Donna Folsom, HR Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Dir.  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Rindy Howell, Senior Center Director  
Rodger Wooten, Police Major  
Wiley King, Building Director  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Dir.  
Kim Dockery, Junior Accountant  
Lori Whitlow, Executive Administrative Asst.  
Connie Miller, HR Executive Administrative Asst.  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshall  
Richard Riggles, Sergeant-At-Arms*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Manager Bill Shanahan 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:**

### **September 22, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the September 22, 2008 Regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **September 22, 2008 Public Hearing Millage Rate**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the September 22, 2008 Public Hearing Millage Rate minutes. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **September 22, 2008 Water & Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the September 22, 2008 Water & Sewer Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **September 15, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the September 15, 2008 Property Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **October 7, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the October 7, 2008 Property Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **PRESENTATION:**

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** *Max Tinsley*

Mayor Eskridge read and presented a proclamation to Dr. Max Tinsley in recognition of his 19 years of service to the City. He proclaimed Wednesday, October 15, 2008, as "Dr. Max Tinsley Day" in the City of St. Marys. The Mayor urged all citizens to thank and recognize Dr. Tinsley for making a difference in the lives of the citizens of St. Marys.

### **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORT**

The Mayor announced a change to the agenda, moving the Development Authority Report up to accommodate Mr. Lewis who had to leave the meeting.

Mr. Kyle Lewis, Chairman of the Development Authority, gave a report of the current financial status of the Authority. He noted that the Authority had a reduction in revenue during the past year. This was due to the Authority enforcing the repurchase clause of the lease for the 26 acres on the southeast side of the airport. Mr. Lewis went on to report the various activities that the Authority has been involved with during the past 11 months.

Councilmember Trader asked Mr. Lewis for his perspective on the ability to attract businesses to the area. Mr. Lewis commented on the process used to attempt to bring businesses to our City. Councilmember DeLoughy explained the inability of the individual cities or counties to offer

incentives. By law, only the State or an Industrial Development Authority can offer any types of incentives. This ties the City's hands in trying to develop.

**GEORGIA'S OUTSTANDING OLDER WORKER OF 2008 RECOGNITION:** *Lois Cooper*

The Mayor congratulated Lois Cooper for her hard work and recognition as Georgia's Outstanding Older Worker of 2008. Loreatha Jenkins from the Georgia Coastal Regional Development Center presented Ms. Cooper with a plaque, a gift bag and a copy of the program from the Georgia Gerontology Society (GGS) conference. The award was originally presented at the GGS conference.

**PROCLAMATION:** *Red Ribbon Week*

Mayor Eskridge proclaimed October 27-31, 2008 as Red Ribbon Week in the City of St. Marys and urged all citizens to participate in tobacco, alcohol, and other drug prevention programs and activities, making a visible statement and commitment to healthy, drug-free communities in which to raise a generation of drug-free youth.

**PROCLAMATION:** *Admiral Thad W. Allen Day*

The Mayor read a proclamation for the City of St. Marys to join with the cities of Kingsland and Woodbine and Camden County, Georgia in designating October 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 as Admiral Thad W. Allen Day. The citizens are urged to welcome, salute and pay tribute to a man who has served his nation with distinction for more than 38 years.

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

Mr. Tracy Mizelle, Chairman of the Hospital Authority, presented the Authority's annual report. He advised that after 18 months all items with Medicare and Medicaid have been settled.

A financial report for the last 11 months was reviewed. The money from a CD that matures on November 8<sup>th</sup> will be transferred from Coastal Bank to Wachovia Investments, a brokerage company. The principal of the money will be fully insured. The State is currently approving everything that is done with the Authority's money. The transfer of the money on November 8<sup>th</sup> will put all of the Authority's funds in one location. Once the transfer occurs it will be at least a year before any of the money will be able to be spent. The Authority is looking at many avenues and ways to spend the money in St. Marys, as instructed.

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS** (*Bryant & Mizelle*)

Mayor Eskridge stated that Louie Casey, Tracy Mizelle and Colby Stilson have expressed an interest in the two Hospital Authority appointments. He requested two votes from each Councilmember.

Voting was recorded as follows:

Louie Casey – Council members Hase, Trader, Weaver, Johnson and Mayor Eskridge

Tracy Mizelle – Council members Bird, Trader, DeLoughy and Johnson

Colby Stilson – Council members Bird, Hase, Weaver, DeLoughy and Mayor Eskridge

Councilmembers Trader and DeLoughy verified the votes. The Mayor announced that Louie Casey and Colby Stilson would each be appointed to the Authority.

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

The Finance Director presented the 2-month (YTD 8/31/08) FY09 report on the General, Water/Sewer, Solid Waste, Tourism, and Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Funds. Councilmember DeLoughy noted that the revenues from the SPLOST fund are running behind. Councilmember Hase inquired about the reason the Library Extension is on the budget if the work will not be completed until 2010 or 2011. Mrs. Brown gave an explanation.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**Barbara Ryan**, resident at 711 Mildred Street, advised that it had come to the attention of a group of concerned citizens that the issue of combining the Downtown Development Authority's efforts with the Tourism Department is still being discussed by Council.

The group feels that although there are times to synthesize departments should be done, when one is either obsolete or redundant. These two separate entities have two different missions, but are working towards the same goal of achieving and maintaining economic health for the community. We firmly believe that a vibrant economic future for the City of St. Marys will be anchored by tourism. Given the current economic environment, St. Marys must now more than ever pour more resources into the tourism trade. Economic stability as a result of vibrant tourism is in our future.

Councilmember Johnson assured Ms. Ryan that he would never support such a nonproductive move. Councilmember Weaver stated that Mr. Shanahan has been tasked with finding all opportunities that are available to cut the budget. That he has not yet presented that option to the Council; therefore the Council is not discussing it at this point.

**Doug Vaught**, resident, questioned if there would be a discussion in open council or in executive session, or any other meeting tonight that would change the roles of each of those entities (Tourism Department and Downtown Development Authority). He stated that he did not see the item on the agenda.

The Mayor stated that he could not answer Mr. Vaught's question because he was aware of a public report that Mr. Shanahan would be giving to the Council. Mr. Shanahan stated that he would not be changing anything tonight.

**Rosemary Rillo**, 605 Wheeler Street, asked for clarification of the answer to Mr. Vaught's question. Mrs. Rillo felt that discussing the topic in executive session would be a violation of the Sunshine Laws, governing the items that can be discussed in such a session. If the topic were to be discussed behind closed doors and not open to the public, she advised Council that with the

current budget constraints and talk of raising taxes they can ill afford to take on another lawsuit or litigation of any kind for violation of the law.

The Mayor told Mrs. Rillo that if Mr. Shanahan had anything to report on the subject, he would do so in public not behind closed doors.

Mrs. Rillo went on to explain that if there were to be further discussion on the matter, because it is vital to the economy of St. Marys, the Tourism and Downtown Economic departments have completely different functions and purposes. They are also, by and large self funded, not part of the regular general budget. It was her understanding that the State has strict requirements governing the use of tourism funds from bed taxes. Comingling of these funds could cause bookkeeping headaches that open the City to further liability and problems that are presently not present with two separate departments.

**Matt Hernandez**, 304 East Dillingham Street, wished to reiterate the information he gave earlier for those who were not at the public hearing. He stated that with the current economy it is important that further burden not be placed on the businesses that keep the community afloat. On his behalf, and the 200 plus citizens who signed the petition he asked that the millage rate be kept at revenue neutral 5.1 mills and not raise it.

**Cathy Kloess**, owner/operator Sky Diving School, advised that her business is thriving. Ms. Kloess recently attended an event in Valdosta. While at the event she shared the St. Marys magazine and marketed the City. She encouraged people to hang tight like every business owner does in America to get through the problem.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. 2008 TAX MILLAGE RATE: *Ordinance & Computation of Rollback***

Approval is needed for the proposed 2008 millage rate at 5.6 and computation of the rollback. Three public hearing were duly held for the proposed millage rate of 5.6. Approval is needed in the form of an ordinance to set the millage rate for ad valorem property taxes and assessment. In addition, the computation of the millage rate rollback and percentage increase in property taxes for 2008 needs to be approved and certified for submission to the county.

Councilmember Bird moved that the millage rate be rolled backed to 5.1 mills. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion.

After much discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

**FOR**  
Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Johnson

**OPPOSED**  
Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver  
Mayor Eskridge

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the proposed 2008 millage rate ordinance for 5.6 mills. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>OPPOSED</u>
Councilmember DeLoughy	Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Trader	Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Weaver	Councilmember Johnson
Mayor Eskridge	

The Mayor commented that he wished that the millage rate could have been split so that the business rate was 5.1 mills and the residential rate 5.6 mills.

**B. RESOLUTION: *Service Delivery Strategy***

The City Manager stated that the resolution is to approve the Camden County Joint Service Delivery Strategy. In July, 2008, the current Service Delivery Strategy expired. All Camden County city managers and city/county administrators met to discuss updating the plan. The Service Delivery Strategy presented tonight is the outcome of that meeting. The plan is a ten (10) year summary of agreed upon delivery arrangements for the following services:

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Animal Control & Shelter      | 17. Municipal Court                |
| 2. Building Inspection & Permits | 18. Occupational Tax               |
| 3. Cemetery                      | 19. Police/Sheriff Patrol Division |
| 4. Code Enforcement              | 20. Public Defender                |
| 5. Department Family & Children  | 21. Recreation/Leisure Services    |
| 6. Development Authority         | 22. Road/Street Const./Maintenance |
| 7. District Attorney's Office    | 23. Senior Citizens Services       |
| 8. Emergency Management Agency   | 24. Sewer                          |
| 9. EMS                           | 25. Sheriff, Constitutional Duties |
| 10. Fires Suppression            | 26. Solid Waste Collection         |
| 11. Health Department            | 27. Superior Court                 |
| 12. Jail                         | 28. Tourism/Welcome Center         |
| 13. Landfill                     | 29. Voter Registration             |
| 14. Library                      | 30. Water                          |
| 15. Magistrate Court             | 31. Land Use                       |
| 16. Mosquito Control             |                                    |

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Service Delivery Strategy. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

Councilmember DeLoughy noted that the plan did not include the St. Marys Industrial Authority in the listing. In addition, the Development Authority was incorrectly listed as funded by the General Fund. He also inquired whether the land use map was considered to be the future, as it did not include properties designated for future growth. It was requested that the comprehensive plan map replace the current map. Finally, he mentioned that under police and sheriff patrol it is not addressed that the City does the patrol of the unincorporated area. The Council agreed to request in the future that pages were numbered.

Councilmember Hase moved to amend the motion with two amendments, the correction of the Development Authority funding and the replacement of the map. Voting was unanimous for the motion.

**C. RESOLUTION: *Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda***

The resolution approves the Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda. On December 1, 2005, the Camden County Commissioners along with the Cities of Kingsland, St. Marys and Woodbine entered into the Camden County Joint 20-Year Comprehensive Plan contract for professional services with the Regional Development Center (RDC). A Steering Committee was created to schedule a timeline of events leading to the draft of the Plan. Committees were formed by citizens and business leaders in their respective areas where public meetings and hearings were held for public input. Once the public sessions were completed, the RDC compiled the information into the final draft documents and presented them to Council and

the public. A resolution was approved for transmission of the document to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for official review. The next stage is to adopt the Community Agenda portion of the 20-year Comprehensive Plan Update.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution to approve the 20-Year Comprehensive Plan Agenda. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Hase asked for assurance that this is a guideline that does not have to be followed to the letter, that we are not bound to the plan. She requested that it be noted for the record that we are not agreeing not to expand **the boundaries of St. Marys**. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. 2009 MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE**

Each year, the Municipal Court calendar is presented for Council approval. The calendar consists of two court dates per month where pleas, arraignments and trials are scheduled January through December 2009.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the 2009 Municipal Court Schedule. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver commented that last year there was an issue with the probation services. She requested that the probation services be placed out to bid this year so that the contract does not have to be accepted as is due to lack of time.

**E. GMA LOAN: *Police Car Purchase***

Approval is needed to secure a loan at a 3.71% interest rate to purchase and equip four (4) police cars. The loan is through GMA. These four (4) police cars were approved along with other vehicles and equipment when the original budget was approved. Once staff was made aware that there would be changes to the budget, we attempted to cancel all orders made based upon the original budget approval. We were allowed to cancel all orders except these four (4) police vehicles as they were already on the assembly line being built.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the loan. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. After discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *HR Department***

The City of St. Marys received funds in June from the City of Kingsland for their participation in the Management Development class. We received the bill for the class in September, which is in a different fiscal year than when the payment was received. A budget ordinance is necessary to transfer money from Contingencies to cover this expense.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. D. RAY JAMES PRISON: *Contract***

The City Manager recommended that the two (2) existing contracts with D. Ray James Prison be terminated. The contracts require sixty (60) days written notice to terminate. Public Works Department has been utilizing two prison work details as additional labor from D. Ray James Prison. The maximum annual cost for each detail is \$36,592.56 or \$3,049.38 per month. Also, the Public Works Department has additional cost for maintenance on the vehicles used to transport the work details, maintenance on the equipment, gasoline, and other consumables. The Public Works Department has been tracking the performance of the prison details for the past few months. The prison details have not been performing to what is expected and the Prison has not been supplying the labor force per the contract.

July 08

Detail 1 – Worked 4 days with required number of inmates out of 19 possible days

Detail 2 – Worked 8 days with the required number of inmates out of 19 possible days

August 08

Detail 1 – Only worked 13 days out of a possible 16 days and only had the minimum number of inmates 1 day.

Detail 2 – Only worked 7 days out of a possible 16 days and never had the minimum number of inmates.

After discussion, Councilmember Bird made a motion that the contract be terminated. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hase asked that the Sheriff Elect be contacted to inquire about future use of county inmates by the City. Councilmember Trader suggested that this may be an area where we possibly have to outsource on a seasonal basis if we do not have the manpower. After discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**H. FY09 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

The City Manager explained that this ordinance would approve implementation of the proposed changes to the FY09 Budget.

Councilmember Trader moved to approve for discussion. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. After discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**I. 2008 PAVEMENT PATCHING PROJECT: Various Streets**

During the process of performing maintenance, repairs and upgrades to the storm drainage system, sanitary sewer system, and potable water system this year, the asphalt pavement had to be cut and removed from several City streets. The Public Works Department developed a bid package and advertised for contractors to perform the permanent repairs to the various City streets. Two companies responded to the request for bids. The following is a tabulation of the results.

Rowell Contracting, Inc.	\$29,015.00
Kudzue 3 Trucking, Inc.	\$32,240.89

Rowell Contracting has performed several projects for the City recently including the Bishop Circle Paving Project, the Palmetto Sidewalk Project and the Meeting Street Boat Ramp Parking Lot Pavement Project. The Public Works Department has reviewed the bids received and recommends Rowell Contracting, Inc. be awarded the contract as the lowest and most responsive bidder. Funding would come from SPLOST V.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to accept the 2008 Pavement Patching Project contract. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**J. MARTHA DRIVE TRAFFIC SPEED STUDY AND SCHOOL ZONE DESIGN**

At the request of many citizens, the City Council instructed the City Manager and the Public Works Department to look into the creation of a School Zone on Martha Drive. The initial step in the creation of a School Zone is to conduct a Traffic Speed Study to submit to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) along with an Engineering and Traffic Investigation Report. Once GDOT has concurred with the report the School Zone can then be designed and designated. The Public Works Department developed a Request for Proposal and advertised for engineering services. The City received proposals from three engineering firms interested in

providing their services to the City for the Martha Drive Traffic Speed Study and School Zone Design. The following is a tabulation of the firms submitting proposals.

	\$9,800
LAI Engineering	
P.C. Simonton & Associates, Inc	\$17,250
Genesis Group	\$40,045

A review committee was created from City staff and met on September 30th to review the proposals. The review committee consisted of Bobby Marr, Chris Cox, Roger Weaver, Amy Peebles and Tim Hatch. The review committee recommends LAI Engineering as the best candidate to provide their services for this project. The cost of this project is \$9,800.00. Funding would come from SPLOST V.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the Martha Drive Traffic Speed Study and School Zone Design. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

Councilmember Weaver inquired if the signs could be put up now. Mr. Marr advised against posting the signs until after the study was completed in approximately seven (7) weeks. After further discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

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

#### **1. AMENDED PD REZONING**

Sawyer & Associates, requests rezoning of a 2.8 acre property known as St. Marys River Retreat from the present PD-R1 zoning to an "Amended PD-R1". The development is located at St. Marys St. & Ready St., Tax Parcel S41-12-001. The Planning Director advised that the preliminary plan for the property is nine (9) single-family homes.

After discussion, Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Amended PD Rezoning. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **2. SUBDIVISION-MINOR-FINAL**

W.H. Gross, requests final approval for a 2 lot subdivision, zoned C-2, for Lot 5 of South Georgia Professional Park Phase II, Tax Parcel 121-050.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the Subdivision-Minor-Final. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **3. SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

Adam Jacobson, Atlantic Auto Brokers requests a Special Use Permit to place a used car lot at 3866 Highway 40 East, Tax Parcel 135D-03. The property is zoned C-2. Mr. Jacobson previously had a car lot on this property.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. BURRELL DRIVE & SOUTH DANDY STREET: *McDowell's Marsh Property***

The McDowell's own a portion of marsh at the south end of Dandy Street where it turns into the unopened Burrell Drive. They wish to give the property to the City of St. Marys. Mr. McDowell feels that he will not be able to use the property due to the City's drain line that runs down Burrell Drive. The City currently receives approximately \$50.00 a year in property taxes.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to accept the property after completion of a title search and legal review. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. After discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned, for the record, that it was being recommended that the property be taken off the tax roll because of its possible future use to the City. She voiced her concern about setting a precedent of citizens donating their property back to the City.

**2. EAST CHURCH STREET: *Trees***

The four trees in the alleyway on East Church Street have been examined by an arborist. The arborist recommended that two of the four be removed and the other two be pruned.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to remove the two trees and prune the other two trees in accordance with the Arborist's recommendations. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to grind the stumps. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy voiced his concern about setting a precedent of grinding stumps. After discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

FOR  
Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Johnson  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

OPPOSED  
Councilmember DeLoughy

**3. WATERFRONT FERRY DOCK: *Americans with Disabilities Act Ramp***

The water taxi vendor, Kevin McCarthy would like to install an ADA ramp so that handicapped users can transition between the dock and the deck of the water taxi. All materials would be furnished and installed at his cost. The ramp's construction would be removable if the use ceases for any reason.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the installation of the ADA ramp. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver announced that a meeting has been set for the review of the Memorial Park submissions. The Mayor will be one of the reviewers. Therefore,

Chairman Weaver excluded herself from the review for lack of a quorum. The meeting has been set for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 o'clock. The meeting will not be open to the public.

**C. ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilmember Weaver announced that the Committee has finished their work. The proposed new Ethics Committee Ordinance will be presented to Council at their next meeting. She noted that Council will be requested to resolve two differences at that time.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

September 23, 2008 Meeting with Mary White regarding Workman's Compensation  
Attended the Planning Commission Meeting

October 2 - 3, 2008 Attended the GMA Board Meeting

October 7, 2008 Attended the Ethics Committee Meeting  
Attended the Property Committee Meeting

October 8, 2008 Attended the Budget Workshop

October 13, 2008 Held two (2) Millage Rate Public Hearings  
Held 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Town Meeting  
Held City Council Meeting

The Mayor informed citizens about the upcoming drive-thru flu shot clinic, at the College of Coastal Georgia on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 – Noon. He noted that the Health Department will not start giving flu shots until the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Weaver mentioned that the Marching Wildcats are having a Royal City Classic on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at the stadium. There will be eleven bands from across the state of Georgia competing. She encouraged the citizens to attend.

The Mayor stated that he has been informed told that the ferry traveling back and forth to Fernandina has helped a number of the businesses downtown. There have been a number of people walking around and buying from the shops.

The Scarecrow Stroll on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> was also announced.

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

The City Manager advised that he has been reviewing the budget. He stated that the ordinance approved at this meeting makes one time cuts, and that the budget also needs to be proactive with long lasting cuts. He had spoken with the department heads and had identified the positions that can be cut, combined or filled with part-time people. He asked permission to not identify the names of the positions at this time, as the employees had not yet been notified. The City Manager requested the Council to approve a two (2) week severance for any employees who are separated from the City. Other ideas that will be brought up for consideration include

merit pay reduction, leave, four (4) day work weeks and light fees. There is also a possibility that there are some departments that could be under one leader or one department head versus two. This would only be considered if there is a proven benefit to the City. Again he did not wish to name departments being considered. He advised the Council that changes would occur on Tuesday and Friday. The department analysis has been delayed due to the loss of the Assistant City Manager. The plan is to start on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

After discussion, Councilmember Weaver made a motion to give two week severance pay to any separated employees. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**Matt Hernandez**, 304 East Dillingham Street, stated that he appreciated the responsibility that the Council faced tonight and the difficulty of some of the decisions they have made. Actions speak louder than words. Therefore, he resigned from the Planning Commission on behalf of himself and the 200 petitioners.

**Lee Bernasek**, 306 Carolina Court, spent a year on the board for tourism. As secretary he took the opportunity to learn a lot about how the bed tax is to be used and spent. He wished to warn the Council that the State is very liberal, but can come down hard on cities that violate the bed tax use. Mr. Bernasek felt that the City must be very careful how they manage these funds.

**Doug Vaught**, Downtown Merchants Association, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the association to the Public Works Department, Alyce and Janet for all of their help with getting the scarecrows set up.

**Shavon Gibbs**, 101 Royal Court, asked the Council about the study that was discussed in the budget hearings. It was her understanding that the City Manager was going to complete the study before making any cuts. She voiced her concerns that the cuts were made prior to the study being completed. She also stated that she was not clear on the two week recommendation.

Council members discussed the City Manager's scope of authority, the three stages of reducing the budget, departmental restructuring and the long-term effects of any actions by the City Manager or Council.

The City Manager explained that the study will identify the process and the best way to do the task. If the purpose is to look for ways to take things away, it is not an objective, viable study. Processes will be identified, the number of people it takes to do the process, identify whether it is the best possible process and then make recommendations based on the information. The City Manager further explained that he did not consider the first step as a reduction in force. Decisions concerning positions that could be eliminated or be reduced were based on the information from the department heads.

Mrs. Gibbs verified with Mr. Shanahan that the first round was not a reduction in force. She noted that the City has a policy in effect for reduction of force and that the policy should be followed. She also requested Council's assistance concerning the lack of a grievance policy against the City Manager for Department Heads. The Human Resources Director confirmed that

there is not a grievance policy for Department Heads. Mrs. Gibbs commented that she was possibly risking her job by speaking out.

Councilmember Bird commented that there were three (3) Council representatives on the Personnel Committee and that this item would be added to the next agenda for the Committee to address. He also assured Mrs. Gibbs that he appreciated what she was doing and asked her to please come see either him, Councilmember Weaver or Councilmember Johnson.

Mrs. Gibbs thanked Council for their time and said that she would take them up on their offer to speak with her.

**Lee Bernasek**, 306 Carolina Court, expressed appreciation to the City on behalf of the Kiwanis Club for assistance with the Rock Shrimp Festival. He noted that almost 1,400 meals were served.

**Robert Arndt**, 105 Miller's Trace, stated that in his personal opinion, Council is passing the buck off on Mr. Shanahan unfairly. He went on to explain that each Council member had made statements that there would not be cuts to certain sectors of the City. Yet cuts have been made in those sectors. Mr. Arndt felt that Mr. Shanahan is taking the responsibility of Council's decisions by having to make these cuts. He further stated that Council says they won't make cuts and then tell him to make cuts.

It was explained that it is the Council's job to create the policies and Mr. Shanahan's responsibility to enforce the policy.

Mr. Arndt wondered who would be held accountable if something happened due to the cuts in fire and police departments. He did not feel that it should be Mr. Shanahan.

Councilmember Hase stated the Council is accountable, if we get down the road and see that something is not working, we can come back and reverse that decision.

Mr. Arndt wanted to be sure that the Council realized the liability.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal*

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

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 8:27 p.m., returning at 8:45 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

### **LEGAL**

No official action was taken at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy A. Johnson, Deputy Clerk