



**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**February 9, 2009**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CELTIC DRAGONS BISTRO & BAR, LLC ALCOHOL LICENSE**

**5:45 p.m.**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 p.m.**

**AMENDED**  
**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION** *City Manager Bill Shanahan*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES \_\_\_ X NO \_\_\_**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *January 12, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*January 12, 2009 City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes*  
*January 12, 2009 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes*

**PRESENTATION**

**ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT** (**POSTPONED TO 2/23/09**)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 312 CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:** *Jeanie Shugart, Commander*

**CITIZEN APPRECIATION:** *Dr. Bryan Warren*

**EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION RECOGNITION:** *Jennifer Brown, Finance Director; Kim Dockery, Accountant & Amy Peebles, Bookkeeper*

**RECOGNITION:** *Lieutenant Fayette “Frank” Thornal & Wiley King*

**ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:** *One Vacancy Announcement*

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **CELTIC DRAGONS BISTRO & BAR, LLC:** *New Alcohol License.....TAB “A”*
- B. **ST. MARYS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY:**.....TAB “B”  
*By-Laws for Amended H.B. 839*

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **HOSPITAL AUTHORITY RESOLUTION FOR TERM EXTENSIONS.....**TAB “C”
- B. **PT. PETER ROAD GOLF CART PERMITS:** *Expiration 2/15/09.....*TAB “D”
- C. **RESOLUTION:**.....TAB “E”  
*Camden County, Georgia Greenway Alliance Plan for Smart Growth Biking and Pedestrian Friendly Environments*
- D. **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR A NEW SENIOR CENTER:**.....TAB “F”
- E. **BARTLETT STREET PARKING LOT PROJECT:** *Award.....*TAB “G”
- F. **LKC ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A THE MILL SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL:**...TAB “H”  
*New Alcohol License Advertising*
- G. **MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE:** *Changes.....*TAB “I”
- H. **MICKLER DRIVE BRIDGE INSTALLATION:**.....TAB “J”  
*Contract with Underground Excavating Inc.*
- I. **TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION ON KINGS BAY ROAD AT QUALITY DRIVE/PRO 3 PARKWAY:** *Contract with MetroPower, Inc.....*TAB “K”
- J. **WORK SESSION DISCUSSION:** *Councilmember Weaver*
- K. **APRIL 13TH COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSION:** *Councilmember Weaver*

- L. **ST. MARYS MACHINIST CLUB: 2008 Ad Valorem Taxes**.....TAB “L”
- M. **AIRPORT AUTHORITY WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: Councilmember DeLoughy**  
**(MOVED BEFORE ITEM “A”)**

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

- A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**.....TAB “M”
  - 1. **Rezoning** – Request of Elaine Hamilton to rezone property located at 2716 Osborne Road, known as Dollar General Store Tax Parcel 135-037F. The property is currently zoned R-3 and the request is to change zoning to C-2.
- B. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**
- C. **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**
- D. **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**
  - 1. **FISHING PIER ON DOCK: Benches**
- E. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- F. **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**

**February 9, 2009  
5:45 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC D/B/A Celtic Dragons**

**MINUTES**

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met in a Public Hearing on Monday, February 9, 2009 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

**ABSENT WERE:**

Councilmember Larry Johnson

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

William Shanahan, City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Tim Hatch, Police Chief  
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Gene Rudy, IT Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Kim Dockery, Accountant  
Amy Peeples, Bookkeeper  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal  
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the public hearing to order at 5:45 p.m., and stated the purpose of the public hearing was for “Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC D/B/A Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar” alcohol license application. The floor was opened to the public for questions and/or comments.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions and/or comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Eskridge declared the public hearing closed at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**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, February 9, 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

**ABSENT WERE:**

Councilmember Larry Johnson

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

William Shanahan, City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Tim Hatch, Police Chief  
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Gene Rudy, IT Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director  
Kim Dockery, Accountant  
Amy Peebles, Bookkeeper  
Rindy Howell, Sr. Center Coordinator  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal  
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arm

**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**

*January 12, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes* Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the January 12, 2009 regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember

Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase requested a change to the wording on page 11, item D in the last paragraph, second sentence by removing the second word “could”.  
Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **January 12, 2009 City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the January 12, 2009 Organizational meeting minutes. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### ***January 12, 2009 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes***

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the January 12, 2009 First Quarter Town meeting minutes. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT: POSTPONED TO 2/23/09**

### **AMERICAN LEGION POST 312 CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION: *Jeanie Shugart, Commander***

Ms. Shugart presented certificates of appreciation to the City and participants in the inaugural and 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wounded Warriors Day in recognition of leadership and contributions. The recipients were as follows:

Kathy Galarita	City of St Marys
Mayor Rowland Eskridge	William DeLoughy
Gull Weaver	Larry Johnson
Gary Blount	Jerry Lockhart
Darlene Roellig	Doug Vaught
Georgia Department of Labor	Armed Forces Motorcycle Club of America
Faith Copeland-Pittman	Hailey Pitman
Ian Cooper	Jamoni Browne
Kingsbay Employer Committee	Kingsbay Submarine Base
St Marys Middle School Chorus	St Marys Public Works Department
St Marys Police Department	St Marys Fire Department
Vista Outdoor	

Ms. Shugart announced that a proposal for a National Wounded Warriors Day was presented last year in Washington and to the State of Georgia.

### **CITIZEN APPRECIATION: *Dr. Bryan Warren***

Mayor Eskridge presented Dr. Warren with a certification of appreciation for his efforts and unselfish contribution to the beautification of the Community and the City of St. Marys.

**RECOGNITION: *Lieutenant Fayette “Frank” Thornal & Wiley King***

Mayor Eskridge presented Wiley B. King with a plaque in appreciation and recognition for 28 years of service and dedication to the City of St. Marys.

Mayor Eskridge presented Lt. Fayette “Frank” Thornal with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for over 24 years of dedication and service to the City of St. Marys.

Both Mr. King and Mr. Thornal were congratulated by Council and given standing ovations.

**EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION RECOGNITION: *Jennifer Brown, Finance Director; Kim Dockery, Accountant & Amy Peeples, Bookkeeper***

Mayor Eskridge presented Level I Certificates of Completion to Kim Dockery and Amy Peeples; and a Level II Certificate of Completion to Jennifer Brown from The University of Georgia, Carl Vincent Institution of Management, Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association.

**ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Eskridge read a proclamation to proclaim the fourth Friday in April as “*Arbor Day*” and urged St. Marys’ citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and well being of future generations.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The Assistant Finance Director presented the financial reports and presented the 6-months report for General, Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), Water/Sewer, Solid Waste, Tourism, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and Aquatic Center.

**Meredith Lipson, Certified Public Accountant Mauldin & Jenkins**

Ms. Lipson presented the Annual Audit Agenda for the financial statements of the City of St. Marys for the year ending June 30, 2008. The financial statement audits are conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and by Government Auditing Standards. Management has the ultimate responsibility for the appropriateness of the accounting policies used by the City.

Councilmember DeLoughy commented that the fund balance is used until taxes were collected.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: *One Vacancy Announcement***

Mayor Eskridge announced the resignation of Carol Buddin, thus leaving a vacancy on the Downtown Development Authority. Anyone interested in the appointment was advised to submit a letter of intent to the City Clerk.

Councilmember DeLoughy stated that the criteria was living, working or owning a business in the Downtown District, not at-large.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy amended the motion to move item “M” before item “A” under new business. Councilmember Weaver seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**Alex Kearns**, resident spoke in opposition of the Bartlett Street Parking Lot Project. Ms. Kearns requested holding the land surrounding Oak Grove Cemetery in trust for an extension of the cemetery grounds for its serene and verdant space of natural beauty.

**Barbara Ryan**, resident spoke in opposition of turning City property into a parking lot.

**Walter Johnson**, resident read a letter from Charlie A. Smith in opposition of the parking lot across from his home. Mr. Johnson also wanted to express his agreement with Mr. Smith’s letter.

**Juan Albright**, resident and volunteer tram driver spoke in opposition of the parking lot on Bartlett Street and commented that visitors consider the cemetery as the highlight of the tour.

**Jerry Brandon**, resident stated that saving trees and green space is most important and an additional park is not a mandatory need. Mr. Brandon suggested modifying the strip of asphalt on St. Marys Street to offer pedestrian friendly services and to spend Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds in a more appropriate way to provide an aesthetically pleasing parking lot.

Councilmember Trader stated that the City was directed to look at spending SPLOST money and the Bartlett Street Lot was one of the projects. Many councilmembers were not in support of the parking lot.

**Charlie Jacobs**, questioned whether the City has given property at the end of East Conyers Street by the marsh treatment plant to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) because they were putting up signs.

Councilmember’s Bird stated that the City recognizes the value of our marsh front property.

**Doug Vaught**, resident thanked the St. Marys Hospital Authority for helping the seniors and requested Council consideration of the new center.

**Steve Conner**, resident addressed Council regarding property on Hollywood Lane where the trailer park is located and requested that something be done with the debris left from deplorable trailers.

**Cookie Johnson**, resident reported that most of the calls received for Councilmember Johnson were opposed to the parking lot and support for the Senior Citizens Center.

**Kathy Wilson**, resident addressed Council regarding aggressive solicitors on busy highway intersections that were harassing motorists and being a deterrent to newcomers and visitors. Ms. Wilson stated that Department of Transportation (DOT) owns the roads but it does not exempt the City from lawsuits if someone is hurt.

**Jeff Henry**, resident spoke in opposition to solicitors who are obstructing traffic.

**Tom Cyphers**, resident requested a synopsis of the items on the agenda prior to the Council meetings.

Mayor Eskridge invited the public to attend the committee meetings to participate in the discussions about city projects.

**Rosemary Rillo**, resident commented that not all the meeting times were convenient for everyone.

**Lyle Campbell**, President Senior Advisory Board spoke in support of leasing the building from the Hospital Authority. Mr. Campbell stated that there were endless possibilities for the building, it would be an asset to the City and more parking spaces would be available in front of City Hall.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **A. CELTIC DRAGONS BISTRO & BAR, LLC:** *New Alcohol License*

Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC requests approval of a 2009 Alcohol License for sale of beer, wine and spirituous liquor, on-premise consumption, with food. Ms. Bobbins is leasing a suite in the South Georgia Professional Park, Phase IV to conduct business as a restaurant and bar. Having met all requirements, staff and the City Manager recommended approval of the 2009 Alcohol License.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the Celtic Dragons alcohol license. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

##### **B. ST. MARYS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY:** *By-Laws for Amended H.B. 839*

To adopt the new By-Laws to be in place when Amended House Bill 839 is passed. The City Manager recommended approval as long as the state legislature approves amended HB 839 and it is signed by Governor Purdue.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the By-Laws subject to the revision of HB 839 approved by the State. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

**FOR**

Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**OPPOSED**

Councilmember Bird

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**M. AIRPORT AUTHORITY WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: Councilmember DeLoughy (MOVED)**

Councilmember DeLoughy stated that at the Airport Authority meeting, there was a spirit of cooperation and the Authority maintains the safety and security of the airport. They also promised to drop the lawsuits against the City.

**Jim Stein**, Attorney responded that the lawsuit against the dismissal of the board members was dropped. However, the lawsuit as to who has the authority to move the airport is pending. The Airport Authority needs guidance on whether to move the airport and how they will be involved with the business of the airport by defining what the Airport Authority can and cannot do and the pros and cons of the moving.

Councilmember Trader stated that it is the will of the Council to move the airport. Mayor Eskridge responded that the purpose of the meeting was to drop the lawsuit to remove the Airport Authority members. Councilmember DeLoughy disagreed and stated that they would work together.

**Jim Stein** stated that the Board agreed to work with the Council and they have the expertise to run the airport.

Councilmember DeLoughy agreed that they run and maintain a safe airport.

Councilmember Hase stated that they discussed all legal action being withdrawn at the meeting but it has not been done.

Councilmember Bird stated that the purpose of the meeting was to look at the dismissal of the Airport Authority members.

**Jim Stein** stated that the Mayor repeatedly stated during the meeting that we were not here to discuss the relocation.

Councilmember Hase asked Mr. Stein to drop the appeal.

Jim Stein responded that they would not drop the appeal.

Councilmember Weaver questioned the logistics of accepting a lease for “through the fence access” when it puts the City in a bad position with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

**Steve Swanson**, Chairman of the Airport Authority responded that there is no regulation against it, but there is guidance given by the FAA on how to proceed, with an opening disclaimer against “through the fence” agreements. Those guidelines are the rules that are followed by the Airport Authority.

Councilmember Weaver asked for confirmation as to whether there currently was a “through the fence agreement” at the St. Marys Airport.

Steve Swanson confirmed that there was such an agreement.

Councilmember Hase made a motion that the City make an official request for the Airport Authority to withdraw its legal appeal, as a gesture of good faith. This would demonstrate that they are on board with the City Council and the City referendum to relocate the airport. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver stated that she has faith in the judicial system and it is one of the Airport Authority’s rights. Councilmember Bird stated that in light of the current economy even moving the airport should be reassessed. Following much discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

**FOR**

Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Trader

**OPPOSED**

Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Weaver

**A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY RESOLUTION FOR TERM EXTENSIONS**

To adopt a resolution to amend the terms of Hospital Authority Board members to serve for four (4) years with the current members’ terms extended by one (1) year.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the resolution for the term extensions of the Hospital Authority. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. PT. PETER ROAD GOLF CART PERMITS: Expiration 2/15/09**

To renew the golf cart route for Pt. Peter Road between Osborne and North River Causeway.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the Pt. Peter Road golf cart permits by adding training to be conducted by the City Marshal “or an appointee”. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. RESOLUTION**

*Camden County, Georgia Greenway Alliance Plan for Smart Growth Biking and Pedestrian Friendly Environments*

To discuss and adopt a resolution to support the Camden County Greenway Alliance Plan.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution for Camden County Georgia Greenway Alliance Plan for Smart Growth Biking and Pedestrian Friendly Environments. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Bird commented that the City ordinance has been addressed with the differences between motorized carts and low speed vehicles but the Plan has not. Councilmember Hase stated that possible funding sources were from the Safe Routes to School (SR2S), Transportation Enhancement (TE), SPLOST and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY FOR A NEW SENIOR CENTER:**

To adopt a resolution to support the purchase of a building by the Hospital Authority and to enter into a lease agreement for use of this building as a Senior Center for the City of St. Marys.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the resolution by adding that it is brought back to "City Council" for approval. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase recommended adding the lease to the next agenda. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Eskridge thanked the Hospital Authority for making this happen for the City of St. Marys.

Councilmember Deloughy also expressed his gratitude to the Hospital Authority.

**E. BARTLETT STREET PARKING LOT PROJECT: *Award***

To approve the bid and authorize the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Seaboard Construction Company for the construction and installation of the Bartlett Street Parking Lot Project for the amount of \$333,743.94.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to disapprove the project. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. LKC ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A THE MILL SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL: *New Alcohol License Advertising***

Approval to advertise for a public hearing for LCK Enterprises, Inc D/B/A The Mill Seafood Bar & Grill located at 1837 Osborne Road, for the sale of beer, wine and spirituous liquor on-premises, with food. Ms. Cagle is leasing the St. Marys Seafood building to conduct business as a restaurant and bar.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve advertising for a public hearing for LKC Enterprises, Inc. alcohol license. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE: *Changes***

Judge Loeffler has requested approval of the changes to the 2009 Municipal Court Schedule. The May 01, 2009 court date would be moved to May 08, 2009 and June 05, 2009 to June 12, 2009.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the changes to the 2009 Municipal Court Schedule. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver questioned the changes to the dates when there was an associate judge appointed to cover court. Mayor Eskridge commented that he did not think it was a good idea to use the Associate Judge for this, as his position is for emergency fill in only and that we should support Judge Loeffler in her request. This is not a time to test the Associate Judge and his abilities. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**H. MICKLER DRIVE BRIDGE INSTALLATION: *Contract with Underground Excavating Inc.***

To award the bid and authorize the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Underground Excavating, Inc. for the construction and installation of the Mickler Drive Drainage Improvements (Bridge) Project for the amount of \$685,285.00.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the request for authorization for the Mayor to enter into a contract with Underground Excavating, Inc. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver suggested keeping residents abreast of the project by providing a timetable. The Public Works Director stated that he and the Police Chief have met with the school. Timetables will be distributed to students and hand delivered to residents. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**I. TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION ON KINGS BAY ROAD AT QUALITY DRIVE/PRO 3 PARKWAY: *Contract with MetroPower, Inc.***

To award the bid and authorize the Mayor to enter into a Contract with MetroPower Inc. for the construction and installation of the Traffic Signal Installation on Kings Bay Road at Quality Drive/Pro 3 Parkway Project for the amount of \$128,665.43

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the authorization to Mayor to enter into a contract with MetroPower, Inc. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

Councilmember Weaver discussed revisiting the issue of no turn signals at the hospital. The Public Works Director stated that the left turn count was higher at the soccer complex and Aunt B's intersection. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**J. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION: *Councilmember Weaver***

Councilmember Weaver suggested holding work sessions prior to council meetings, not necessarily on the same night, to discuss City business and to eliminate lengthy council meetings.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to have work session discussions on the Thursdays prior to City Council meeting, with the first meeting scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**K. APRIL 13TH COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSION: *Councilmember Weaver***

Councilmember Weaver suggested changing the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to April 6<sup>th</sup> because of Spring break.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to move the Council meeting from April 13<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**L. ST. MARYS MACHINIST CLUB: *2008 Ad Valorem Taxes***

The Camden County Commissioners request Council's consideration to waive the City's 2008 tax bill for the St. Marys Machinist Club (Union Hall) in the amount of \$211.44. The facility is 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.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to waive the taxes. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Council discussed the polling location and possible moving it to the elementary school when the new school is completed. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 1. Rezoning** – Request of Elaine Hamilton to rezone property located at 2716 Osborne Road, known as Dollar General Store Tax Parcel 135-037F. The property is currently zoned R-3 and the request is to change zoning to C-2.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve Elaine Hamilton's rezoning request. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Personnel Committee has scheduled a meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to discuss employee comments.

**C. WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilmember Trader presented the Water/Sewer Committee meeting report as follows:

**1. Chairperson:**

Councilmember Trader's term as Chairman was extended for another term.

**2. Temporary Water Service:**

There was discussion regarding temporary water service and extending the thirty day time period to sixty days. In looking at the financial cost of the temporary service and taking into account the current economic conditions in the real estate market, the best option is to leave the water service connected.

**3. Sewer Fees:**

There are still quite a few septic systems in the City of St. Marys that we are in the process of running lines out to. After looking at the ordinances, there is a time limit in how long you have to connect to City sewer once it is made available.

**D. PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilmember Weaver presented the Property Committee meeting report as follows:

**1. Veteran's Park:**

The Committee recommended postponement of the Veteran's Memorial Park Construction.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to postpone the project. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**2. Pavilion Roof:**

Public Works is ready to bid the project. No action was necessary at this time.

**3. Osborne Street islands between Dillingham and Hall Streets across from SMES:**

Public Works is preparing an estimate prior to the preparation of bid documents. This is part of SPLOST V. St. Marys Elementary School will be doing their portion of the work this summer. No action was necessary at this time.

**4. Benches along fishing pier of the dock:**

The Committee discussed the addition of benches on the fishing pier on the dock. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approval was needed in order to move forward. No action was necessary at this time.

**E. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilmember DeLoughy presented the finance committee meeting report on the general fund expenditures for the last six months and projected shortfalls at the end of the year. The Finance Director was asked to provide monthly cash updates and the Planning Director was requested to give project updates on building permits monthly. There will be another meeting on April 13th.

**F. ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Jim Steele presented the Ethics Committee meeting report on the recommendations of the Board to revise the Ethics ordinance, creation of complaint forms and procedures. The Committee will meet again in March.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

January 13<sup>th</sup> – Met with a St. Marys resident and attended the Airport Authority meeting  
January 14<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Coastal Regional Development Center Budget and Board meetings in Richmond Hill and welcomed the Savannah/Northeast Florida bicyclist at a reception at Seagle's Restaurant  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Hospital Authority meeting  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Georgia Municipal Association Conference in Atlanta  
January 29<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Salvation Army awards supper  
January 30<sup>th</sup> – Attended Wiley King's retirement dinner  
January 31<sup>st</sup> – Participated in Mary Lee Clark Elementary School's reading bowl  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Attended the Property Committee and Airport Authority meetings  
February 4<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Ethics Committee meeting  
February 9<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Finance Committee meeting

Mayor Eskridge read the calendar of events, meetings and activities for the next two weeks.

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

The City Manager commented on multiple projects as follows: wood repairs to the waterfront park, sidewalk repairs on Borrell Boulevard, repairs to the road shoulders on the North River Causeway, new disconnect installation on Lift Station #60, litter pick up on St. Marys Road, repairs to the Weed Street Waste Water Treatment Plant, clearing for the Shadowlawn drainage project and repairs to the Aquatic Center for the season opening.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal*

**LEGAL**

There was no "Executive Session" at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Bird made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk