

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
February 13, 2006

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M.

“MINUTES”

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, February 13, 2006 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Rowland T. Eskridge, Sr.
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Jerry Lockhart
Councilmember L. J. Williams
Councilmember Gull Weaver
Councilmember Gary Blount

CITY OFFICIALS:

Charlie Smith, Jr., Interim City Attorney
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Max Tinsley, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Lt Thornal, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Eskridge called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Reverend George Anderson, New Hope Baptist Church 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 9, 2006 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2006 Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2006 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2006 Mayor and Council Oath of Office Minutes

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

“ADDITION TO THE AGENDA”

1. GREENPRINT RESOLUTION

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to add the Greenprint Resolution to the agenda. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Mayor Eskridge indicated that this item is added under New Business item “K”.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Cookie Johnson, resident, addressed Council concerning the disposition of the traffic light on Julia Street and Martha Drive.

Frank Saffold, resident, addressed the Council concerning the new school entrance on Martha Drive. Mr. Saffold asked Council if there would be a traffic light at Martha Drive. Mayor Eskridge advised that the Department of Transportation has already approved the moving of the light on Julia Street to Martha Drive.

Joyce Flenniken, resident, addressed the Council concerning the recent Heritage Tour Seminar and thanked all involved for their participation in the event. Ms Flenniken also addressed the Council concerning the cleanliness in St. Marys. She asked that the City review the trash pick up schedule.

Dennis Powers, resident, addressed the Council concerning the zoning variance for Marsh Arbors. Mr. Powers requested that the city perform a DRI study. Mr. Powers also requested the City to consider impact fees.

Don Petrie, resident, addressed the Council concerning the meeting that took place with Marsh Arbors as he is concerned whether the road leading into his home, Marsh Lane, is a city street or not?

Leon Pinkney, resident, addressed the Council concerning the junk cars on Wheeler Street and requested the City to look and see if the junk cars can be removed.

Dave Schmidt, resident, addressed the Council and thanked public works for the roads that were paved last year. Mr. Schmidt advised the Council of his concerns with the removal of the traffic light at Julia Street. Councilmember Blount explained that the Department of Transportation regulates the traffic lights on Georgia Highway 40.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE** – Harveys Supermarket #2393

Mayor Eskridge stated that the City Manager recommended approval of Harveys Supermarket 2006 Alcohol License. The City Clerk has confirmed that all requirements were met.

Councilmember Deloughy moved to approve the new alcohol license for Harveys Supermarket. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE** – Osaka Japanese Steak House Advertisement for Public Hearing

Mayor Eskridge stated that the City Manager recommended approval to advertise for a public hearing on February 27, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Councilmember Deloughy moved to approve to advertise for a public hearing on February 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. **BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT** –
Printer Presentation – Mark Bates

Mr. Bates presented the Mayor and Council an overview of the KIP 3000 large format Printer, copier and digital scanner.

Upon completion of the presentation, the Building and Planning Director, Max Tinsley, advised the Mayor and Council that the Building and Planning department's has budgeted \$6800.00 to purchase a large format printer during the current fiscal year. By using this money and funding the lease during the next two years, the Building and Planning Department will have the ability to produce large City maps and to fully utilize the GIS data. Mr. Tinsley also stated that his department would sell these maps to the public once they establish their production costs. (This will give the equipment the ability to pay for itself.) He also briefed that the Building and Planning Department contacted Mr. Mark Bates, IPG, Imaging Product Group, and requested a price quote. Mr. Tinsley then briefed the Mayor and Council that the Building and Planning Department currently have over 5000 large format maps that need to be copied digitally. (This will aid with rapid retrieval and convenient storage.) The KIP 3000 will provide this capability. Mr. Tinsley stated that the KIP 3000 would cost approximately \$20,267.00 (Lease To Purchase Program.) In addition, with their

current budget purchasing the printer, copier, and scanner will require additional funds for the next two budget years. The Building and Planning Department is requesting approval to use the current budgeted money for the first year lease purchase payment and approval to budget the remaining payments during the next two budget years.

Max Tinsley advised Mayor and Council that the City Manager recommended approval, as this will give them the ability to save storage space, sell maps, rapidly retrieve maps and become more efficient.

Councilmember Deloughy made a motion to approve the KIP 3000 lease purchase at \$20,267.00 with \$6800.00 for the first year and budgeted over the next two years. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

Discussion followed with regard to whether other price comparisons were received and as to whether references on the use of this machine were checked. Neither of these has been done.

Councilmember Deloughy withdrew his motion, Councilmember Weaver withdrew her second.

Councilmember Deloughy made a motion to postpone, so that price comparisons can be made and references checked. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion

C. ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Max Tinsley, Building and Planning Director, stated the City of St. Marys is planning to apply to be designated as a Tree City, USA. He advised the Mayor and Council that one of the requirements is the celebration of Arbor Day. This resolution will designate every third Friday in February as Arbor Day. He also stated that the City of ST. Marys would coordinate a tree-planting event in celebration of Arbor Day.

Max Tinsley advised Mayor and Council the City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. HEART AND SOUL TOUR

The Heart and Soul Tour is a GMA event that highlights downtown communities in order to educate and inform the tour participants on the role a successful

downtown development plays in the overall economic development efforts of a community. The tour visits 12 cities in three days.

The tour will arrive in St. Marys on April 16, 2006 at 2:15 p.m. On the day of the tour, the City of St. Marys will highlight Orange Hall, the Forgotten Invasion, and the Cumberland Island Visitor Center. That evening, the Cities of Woodbine, Kingsland, and St. Marys will host a dinner for the tour participants. This event will be held in the City of Woodbine. The Downtown Director has secured sponsorship for much of this event.

Despite the sponsorships already secured, the DDA Director is in need of \$3,050 for completion of this project. (The Cities of Woodbine and Kingsland have already paid their portion of the budget.)

Max Tinsley, Building and Planning Director, advised Mayor and Council that the City Manager recommended approval as this function will open us up to tourism and new business.

Councilmember Deloughy made a motion to approve the transfer of \$3,050.00 from contingency for the Heart & Soul Tour. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. WASHINGTON FLY-IN

Jim Wells, Co-Chair of the Chambers Military Community Council, addressed the Council with regard to the Washington Fly-In on April 25-27, 2006. Mr. Wells requested the Council consider sending a representative to Washington.

Arlene Norris, resident, addressed the Council and requested the Council consider sending a representative.

Discussion followed with regard to who will be able to attend the Washington Fly-In.

Councilmember Lockhart made a motion to send Councilmembers Gull Weaver and L.J. Williams to the Washington Fly-In on April 25-27, 2006. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE

Advertising for Public Hearing – TNT Lanes & Fun Center

Mayor Eskridge stated the City Manager recommended approval to advertise for a public hearing on February 27, 2006 at 6:45 P.M.

Council member Williams made a motion to approve to advertise for a public hearing on February 27, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. WHEELER STREET – *One-Way Traffic*

Mayor Eskridge advised Council the one-way traffic flow on Wheeler Street was on the agenda for discussion and recommended it be returned to a two way street.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the removal of the one-way sign on Wheeler Street and have a two-way sign put in its place. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

H. RESOLUTION: *Support of Annexation as a Private Property Right*

Mayor Eskridge read the attached Resolution and recommended the Council approve the Resolution.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Annexation as a Private Property Right. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

I. TASK ORDER #1: *Atlantic Coast Consulting Inc*

Max Tinsley advised Council that, for the last several months, JJ & G have been performing technical reviews of construction drawings for subdivision and large commercial plans on an hourly charge basis for the City of St. Marys. Mr. Robert Brown, JJ & G, out of their Savannah office was performing this service. Mr. Tinsley they briefed that Mr. Brown has left JJ & G and joined a firm called Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. However, Mr. Brown has agreed to continue to provide review services with his new company. This will alleviate the problem of the cost and time needed to retrain someone else in J J & G on our specifications and requirements. In addition, the hourly rates are lower with the new company.

After much discussion, Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the use of Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. ST. MARYS LIBRARY EXPANSION: *State Grant*

Mayor Eskridge advised the Council the St. Marys Library was requesting approval of a pre-application for the State Expansion Grant as discussed in a prior meeting.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the pre-application for the St. Marys Public Library. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion.

After much discussion, Councilmember Weaver withdrew her motion and Councilmember Lockhart withdrew his second.

After much discussion, Councilman Blount made a motion to postpone the pre-application until the next Council Meeting on February 27, 2006. Councilman Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. GREENPRINT RESOLUTION (ADDED)

Max Tinsley briefed that this Resolution is required by DNR for the Coastal Incentive grant applied for to conduct a Greenprint of the County.

The City recently initiated talks with the Trust for Public Land. TPL are committed to bring \$25,000 of its own funds to be incorporated into the total amount of matching funds for the County's greenprint project. This CIG will be our matching funds if awarded.

After much discussion, Councilmember Deloughy made a motion to approve the Resolution for Greenprint. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Grady Burrow requests to annex .96 acres located on Tax Map 121, Parcel 7A7 into the City at commercial property. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the request to annex .96 acres located on Tax Map 121, Parcel 7A7 into the City as commercial property. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Property Dispositions, LLC requests to rezone 16 acres from high-density multi-family R3 to single-family attached or low-density multi-family R5 townhouse on property located on Tax Map 135, Parcel 2. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the request to rezone 16 acres from high-density multi-family R3 to R5 on property located at Tax Map 135, Parcel 2. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

3. James Barlow requests a special permit to have a boat, RV and vehicle storage facility located next to their Kings Bay Lodge business located on Tax Map 135M, Parcel 36. The Planning Commission recommended approval, but also recommend a requirement of a 6-foot plank fence go around it.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the request for a special permit to have a boat, RV and vehicle storage facility located on Tax Map 135M, Parcel 36, with a requirement that the height of the plank fence be 8 foot minimum. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. Billy Smith submitted a temporary permit to sell shrimp along Kings Bay Road outside the Kings Bay Submarine Base main gate.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to refer this item back to the Planning Committee for them to come up with guidelines for this type of business and come back to the Council with recommendations. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilmember Weaver addressed the Council with regard to the pay scale and salaries for the City of St. Marys. During the last two years, there has been a 10% turnover in staff. The City is training employees who then leave for another job, sometimes the same job in another City for higher pay. Councilmember Weaver requests the Council to make an increase in the pay scale for the City of St. Marys.

Councilmember Williams made a motion for approval of a 2% raise across the board, which the budget at present allows, with 5% in July for the 2007 budget and 4% for the 2008 budget and 4% for the 2009 budget. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

After much discussion, Councilmember Williams amended his motion to approval of a 2% adjustment to the pay scale and pay rate and for the figures to be reviewed at budget time. Councilmember Weaver amended her motion to the original motion. Councilmember Weaver seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY

Councilmember Blount appointed seat #6 to Walter Langshaw.

D. CAMDEN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD - *Two Appointments*

Mayor Eskridge advised the Council that the Camden County Health Board only requires one appointment, not two as originally stated.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to appoint Betty Scott. Councilmember Deloughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sex Education Instructional Materials Review Committee – Two Appointments

Councilmember Deloughy made a motion to appoint Celenda Perry and Reeney Adams. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEES - *Appointments*

The Housing Committee, Economic Development Committee, Natural & Cultural Resource Committee, Public Facilities Services & Intergovernmental Committee and the Transportation Committees have now been formed, meetings have been scheduled.

Mr. Jim Wells requested to be removed from all committees except the Transportation Committee. Councilmember Deloughy requested that Steve Brockman be added to the Economic Development Committee.

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

G. PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE – Schedule Sub-Committee Meeting

Mayor Eskridge requested a Sub-Committee meeting to discuss the Fire station at Cumberland Harbour; a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- In the essence of time, the Mayor forwent his report.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

No report at this time due to the City Manager having to go to England on a family emergency.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The report is attached as part of the minutes. However, the Finance Director wished to advise that the 2005 taxes are 85% collected.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

No response from the public at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel & Legal*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a personnel issue and a legal issue. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 9:55 P.M.; returning at 10:25 P.M. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

Personnel Issue

Councilmember Blount made a motion to offer the position of City Attorney Gary Bacon. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Legal Issue

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Miller, Deputy Clerk