

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA  
October 8, 2007

FOURTH QUARTER TOWN MEETING  
5:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
6:00 p.m.

**“AMENDED”**  
**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. INVOCATION *Councilman LJ Williams*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL QUORUM: YES X NO
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *September 24, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*September 24, 2007 Water/Sewer Committee Minutes*  
PRESENTATION:  
HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: *Chairman Tracy Mizelle*  
PROCLAMATION: *Red Ribbon Week*  
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**: *Legal*
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS: NONE
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:
  - A. ALCOHOL LICENSE EXTENSION: *Kick Back Café*.....TAB “A”
  - B. WATER SHED ASSESSMENT: *Point Peter (REMOVED)*
  - C. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE ADVERTISING: *Sterling’s Southern Café Inc*.....TAB “B”
  - D. ALLTEL LEASE AGREEMENT .....TAB “C”
  - E. U.S. COAST GUARD: *Lease Renewal*.....TAB “D”
  - F. **JJ& G TASK ORDER**: *Scrubby Bluff Emergency Repairs (ADDED)*.....TAB “E”
  - G. **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND BOND RESOLUTION**:.....TAB “F”  
*Interim Financing for Water/Sewer Improvements with PSA Authority (ADDED)*
- X. REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES: NONE
- XI. REPORT OF MAYOR:
- XII. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:
- XIII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

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**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel* (Moved Legal Before Old Business)**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 8, 2007**  
**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 8, 2007 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Gary Blount  
Councilmember William DeLoughy  
Councilmember Larry Johnson  
Councilmember Jerry Lockhart  
Councilmember Gull Weaver  
Councilmember LJ Williams

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

William Shanahan, City Manager  
Max Tinsley, Asst. City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Tim Hatch, Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Lt. Roger Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Williams 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 24, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*September 24, 2007 Water/Sewer Committee Minutes*

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

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the Water/Sewer Committee minutes as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **PRESENTATION:**

### **HOSPITAL AUTHORITY:** *Chairman Tracy Mizelle*

Chairman Mizelle presented the St. Marys Hospital Authority report. A copy of the report and financial transactions beginning November 2005 through September 2007 are attached as part of the minutes.

### **PROCLAMATION:** *Red Ribbon Week*

Mayor Eskridge proclaimed October 21-31, 2007 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. Gina Maher, Advisor Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Caroline McCoppin accepted the proclamation on behalf of SADD.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy requested that item "G" be removed.

Councilmember Weaver amended the original motion to include the removal of item "G". Councilmember Williams withdrew the seconded to the original motion. Councilmember Johnson seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

**Sandy Feller**, resident questioned whether the City was aware that Kingsland, Woodbine and Camden County met with Sea Island to build an airport at Billyville Road and if this would cause a serious situation with two airports being so close together when it came to funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Feller also commented about the bond resolution that was removed from the agenda and the unusual action the Public Service Authority has taken on the issuance of a promissory note.

The City Manager responded that according to the FAA, the existing airport supersedes another airport for funding.

**Rosemary Rillo**, resident addressed Council regarding the lack of access to the vacant lot next to Howard Gilman Waterfront Park during the festival because of the police tape blocking off the area from golf carts and performers unloading equipment, which was not publicized. With the downtown merchants struggling to stay open, this action is discouraging to visitors. If golf carts park in vehicle spaces then it limits vehicle parking. Mrs. Rillo suggested creating a parking area primarily for golf carts and an access path for performers to unload equipment on the vacant lot.

Mayor Eskridge stated that Council made the vacant lot part of the park. The park rules and regulations state that no motorized vehicles were authorized in the park. Mayor Eskridge further stated that this issue would be sent to the Property Committee for a recommendation.

Council Members discussed the fence that will be erected to join the lot to the park and numerous complaints received from performers and citizens during the festival.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal*

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

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 6:25 p.m., returning at 6:37 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

**LEGAL**

Councilmember Blount made a motion to authorize the City Manager to seek an inspector to fill the position for the lift stations. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ALCOHOL LICENSE EXTENSION:** *Kick Back Café*

The City Manager stated that the Kick Back Café requests a 60-day extension for their 2007 Alcohol License to open for business. On April 23, 2007, Council approved the alcohol license for the Kick Back Café contingent upon the Fire and Building Department's final inspections. Since the construction of the building is not complete, this hinders the inspections. Therefore, the establishment will fail to open within the six-month deadline, resulting in an automatic forfeiture and cancellation of the unused license with no refund of the license fees previously paid. However, an extension could be granted by the City Council if good cause is shown.

Ms. Atrash has submitted a letter to Council requesting an extension to finish the remodeling of the establishment and open for the holidays. Ms. Atrash understands that the license will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and will need to be renewed prior to the expiration, thus possibly paying two license fees at the same time. The City Clerk recommends a 60-day extension for fear that the business will not be opened in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. The City Manager recommended approval of the extension.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the alcohol license extension for Kick Back Café. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. WATER SHED ASSESSMENT:** *Point Peter (REMOVED)*

**C. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE ADVERTISING:** *Sterling's Southern Café Inc.*

Sterling's Southern Café requests approval to advertise for a 2007 Alcohol License for sale of spirituous liquor at 220 Osborne Street. Sterling's currently holds a 2007 Alcohol License for beer and wine sales with food for the café across the street. Since the purchase of the new building, a transfer application has been completed in accordance with the Alcohol Ordinance Section 10-14. Staff is reviewing the application and recommendations will be made after the public hearing. The City Manager and City Clerk recommend approval to advertise for a public hearing on October 22, 2007 at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the new alcohol license advertising for Sterling's Café. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. ALLTEL LEASE AGREEMENT**

The City Manager stated that Alltel requests approval to renew the lease agreement with the City of St. Marys. Currently Alltel pays the City \$500.00 per month for the lease space of an antenna they have on the Dandy Street Water Tower. They would like to renew the lease with the City by making a lump sum payment of \$35,000 to cover from December 15, 2007 until December 15, 2022. Once the term of this lease is up, the rent will commence at \$500 per month. That is 15 years for \$35,000.00. At \$500.00 per month, it will be \$90,000.00 for 15 years. The Assistant City Manager recommendation is to maintain the \$500.00 per month. The City Manager recommends disapproval of this request as Alltel has reduced the charge by two-thirds when other governments are charging three (3) times as much as we. The cost should be at least \$1,000.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to disapprove and reject the lease agreement with Alltel. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**E. U.S. COAST GUARD: Lease Renewal**

The City Manager recommends approval to renew the United States Coast Guard lease. For the past four (4) years, the Coast Guard has leased space adjoining the St. Mary's Police Department. The Coast Guard has a continuing need for the property for the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 in the amount of \$453,026.35 payable monthly in arrears for an increase of \$13,194.94 from last year.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the U.S. Coast Guard renewal lease. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. JJ& G TASK ORDER: Scrubby Bluff Emergency Repairs (ADDED)**

The City Manager stated that the task order is to retain JJ &G to provide engineering and technical assistance in the investigation of the Scrubby Bluff Force Main failures. At an estimated cost of \$37,000, this will come from the general consultant line in the budget. Over the last year or so, this 3,900 foot section of pipeline has needed repairs numerous times. In an effort to mitigate the potential for a reoccurring spill, the Public Works Department recommended that approximately 3,900 feet of pipeline be replaced with a

thicker walled pipe, either C900 PVC or HDPE. On September 10, 2007, Council approved the Scrubby Bluff Force Main Emergency Repair Project. The City has contracted with RJ's Underground Utilities to make the necessary repairs. Currently, most of the wastewater flows have been diverted to the Point Peter and Weed Street Plants. Until this force main is replaced, flows at these plants may be over permitted capacities. The City Manager recommended approval of the task order.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve Jordan, Jones & Goulding's task order for the Scrubby Bluff Emergency Repairs. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion.

Councilmember's questioned the reason JJ & G was being hired with no guarantee of recovering the \$37,000 fee, when legal action could be taken to force the former contractor to hire an engineering firm and whether an engineer was on site during the construction. The Public Works Director stated that Council recommended hiring an expert on the grounds to document everything that is being pulled out of the ground and there were no engineers on site during construction. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

- G. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND BOND RESOLUTION:**  
*Interim Financing for Water/Sewer Improvements with PSA Authority (REMOVED)*

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

There were no reports for Council consideration at this time.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

- September 17, 2007 – Attended a meeting with Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the Colerain Road widening project half-way between St. Marys' Road to Kings Bay Road to the west side of I-95 beginning in 2010.
- October 3, 2007 – Attended a lunch meeting with the City Attorney and a Wounded Warriors Day meeting.

The City calendar of meetings, events and activities were read.

A vacancy on the St. Marys Airport Authority was announced and anyone interested in the appointment is to submit a letter of intent to the City Clerk's office prior to the next meeting.

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

- Downtown Development Authority has received an award for most creative fundraising for the Tree Board's Chair-ity Auction, which was held for the first time
- Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has named the City of St. Marys an official Georgia Main Street Better Hometown Community as of October 11, 2007. This is due to the work performed by Alyce Thornhill and Marys Downtown Development Authority her team.
- Through the combined efforts of the Human Resources and Public Works Departments, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) has presented the City with a Safety Grant check

in the amount of \$4,048.27, to help with the purchase of work place safety, OSHA costs, NSE membership and a flag course.

- Scrubby Bluff Wastewater Treatment Plant – Wasteload allocation has been received to take the plant to 6.0 MGD. An interim Wasteload allocation for 2.0 MGD has been received. JJ&G is currently working on the preliminary documents to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD).
- Point Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant – Construction is moving along extremely well and everything is on schedule to be completed in May or June 2008
- Kings Bay Road speed limit was reduced to 45 mph
- St. Marys Road And Kings Bay Road Traffic Signals – The contract was awarded to MetroPower, Inc. Shop drawings were approved by the DOT with the exception of the signal heads. The City received the notice to proceed from the State. Metro Power will begin to set the strain poles this week.

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

**Codanielle Green**, President of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) thanked the leaders and police officers in our community for their support in preventing drug and alcohol use in underage students. Many students want to use positive peer pressure to help with this growing problem.

**Walt Natzie**, resident addressed Council regarding paving a parking area at the Police Department and requested the removal of the “No Parking on the Grass” signs in front of the building.

The Police Chief responded that he is looking into the issue.

**Lee Bernasek**, resident spoke about the success of the Rock Shrimp Festival and thanked all the organizations for their hard work

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel (Moved Legal before Old Business)**

#### **PERSONNEL**

There were no personnel issues at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk