

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 27, 2007  
6:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION:** *Councilmember LJ Williams*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES X NO**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *August 13, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

**PRESENTATION:**

**TREE CITY USA:** *Daniel Westcot*

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORT:** *Craig Root*

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:** *None*

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. RESOLUTION:** *Pt Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant.....TAB "A"*
- B. RESOLUTION:** *Scrubby Bluff Waste Water Treatment Plant.....TAB "B"*
- C. JORDAN, JONES & GOULDING, INC. TASK ORDER #24.....TAB "C"**  
*Scrubby Bluff WWTP*
- D. JORDAN, JONES & GOULDING, INC. TASK ORDER #25.....TAB "D"**  
*Pt Peter WWTP*
- E. C.B. SMITH RAPE CRISIS CENTER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.....TAB "E"**  
*Memorandum of Understanding*
- F. GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION LOAN .....TAB "F"**  
*General Fund Equipment Purchase*
- G. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT.....TAB "G"**  
*Kings Bay Road at Winding Road Traffic Signal*

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

A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**.....TAB “H”

1. **Water Taxi: Lease**

B. **CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**.....TAB “I”  
*Term Expiration (Arlene Norris 8/22/07)*

C. **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

X. **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

XI **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

XII. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Personnel & Legal*

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 27, 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, August 27, 2007 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:**

Mayor Rowland Eskridge  
Councilmember Gary Blount (Late)  
Councilmember Larry Johnson  
Councilmember Jerry Lockhart  
Councilmember Gull Weaver  
Councilmember LJ Williams

**ABSENT WERE:**

Councilmember William DeLoughy

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

William Shanahan, City Manager  
Max Tinsley, Asst. City Manager  
Amanda Blackledge, Interim City Attorney  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Wiley King, Building Director  
Tim Hatch, Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Gene Rudy, IT Director  
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:** *August 13, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

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

## **PRESENTATION:**

### **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REPORT: *Craig Root***

Craig Root, Chairman, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) reported on the organization's accomplishments. In 2003, Council reactivated the DDA, Alyce Thornhill was hired as the DDA Director in 2005 and an Administrative Assistant Renee Coakley was added in 2006 to round out the staff. The strategic planning process and primary objective has been to receive Main Street community designation through the National Trust for Historic Preservation as required in Main Street guidelines. Main Street designation is near completion but it would not be possible without the City's continued funding, jointly with the Industrial Development Authority. The operating budget for 2008 has increased 1.1 % and the total budget 15% over the previous year's budget because the second position was added mid-term. Mr. Root thanked Council for their support and the renovation of the fine offices and meeting room in the Economic Development Building. The meeting room is utilized an average of 14 times per month for meetings, presentations and group activities. Many groups reserve overnight accommodations downtown and patronize local merchants. This creates a nice economic impact and supports local business. Last year, the DDA received a total of \$65,000 in grant funds for the Greenprint Program, Way Finding Assessment and to host the Georgia Alliance for Preservation Conference. An inventory was created from the Downtown District boundaries of all businesses and facilities downtown and mid-town. The inventory shows percentages of retail, governmental space and restaurants, and how they fit in to an economic model and track vacant space. The DDA Summer 2007 Update is attached as part of the minutes.

### **TREE CITY USA: *Daniel Westcott***

Daniel Westcott, Georgia Forestry Commission commended Council for the adoption of a tree ordinance, creating a tree board, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance. By meeting these four standards St. Marys has been named a Tree City USA community. The program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters. Mr. Westcott presented Mayor Eskridge with a plaque, flag and signs to recognize the City's commitment to community forestry.

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

The Finance Director presented the 1-month report for the beginning of fiscal year 2008. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

**Kevin McCarthy**, Amelia River & Charters addressed Council regarding the proposed water taxi. Mr. McCarthy has purchased a vessel that holds 99 passengers and bicycles to connect Fernandina and St. Marys. He plans to begin making three to four round trips per day on the

weekends, loading and unloading on both sides of the river, and docking in Fernandina with a small ticket Kiosk. Mr. McCarthy is waiting on inspections from the Jacksonville U.S. Coast Guard to comply with local codes, which should be completed in one to two months.

**Walt Natzic**, resident spoke in support of the water taxi, which is a critical link on the Greenway Project connecting Maine to Florida. This path is the waterway to Highway 17 linking Florida to Georgia. Mr. Natzic requested Council support of the water taxi.

**Tom Cyphers**, resident requested Council permission to install a plaque at the St. Marys Public Library from the Camden-Kings Bay Chamber of Commerce and Kings Bay Rotary Club. The plaque will honor former District Governor Bill Blankenship and current District Governor Richard Higher, Jr. for dedicating many years to literacy.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. RESOLUTION: *Pt Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant***

The City Manager recommended approval of a resolution to be able to repay ourselves by drawing funds from the bank if construction begins prior to final approval of the loan. As the City prepares to start construction of the waste water improvements at the Point Peter Plant, financing is a priority. The resolution permits the City to pay for the initial phases and withdraw money from the bank to repay ourselves until the loan is completed.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Pt. Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant Resolution. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **B. RESOLUTION: *Scrubby Bluff Waste Water Treatment Plant***

The City Manager stated that a resolution is needed to repay ourselves by drawing funds from the bank if construction begins prior to final approval of the loan. As the City prepares to start construction of the waste water improvements at the Scrubby Bluff Plant, financing is a priority. The resolution allows the City to pay for the initial phases and withdraw money from the bank to repay ourselves until the loan is completed. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Scrubby Bluff Waste Water Treatment Plant Resolution. Councilmember Lockhart seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **C. JORDAN, JONES & GOULDING, INC. TASK ORDER #24: *Scrubby Bluff WWTP***

The City Manager recommended approval to authorize JJ&G to assist with the Wasteload Allocation, Treatment Alternatives Analysis, Permitting Assistance, Design Development

Report, Antidegradation Review, Environmental Information Document and evaluate the need to update the existing Watershed Assessment and Protection Plan at a cost of \$164,800. The City solicited qualifications from any interested engineering firms to upgrade the Scrubby Bluff Plant. After receiving the qualifications packets and conducting interviews, JJ&G was selected to perform the work. This task order is for the front end information required by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for all new permits and does not include detailed design, surveying or geotechnical investigations.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the JJ&G Task Order #24 for Scrubby Bluff WWTP. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. JORDAN, JONES & GOULDING, INC. TASK ORDER #25: Pt Peter WWTP**

The City Manager stated that Task Order #25 will authorize JJ&G to proceed with the detailed design for the Point Peter WWTP upgrade from 1.8 MGD to 4.0 MGD at a cost of \$24.0 million. The Point Peter WWTP is currently under construction to upgrade the plant from 0.8 MGD to 1.8 MGD. The ultimate design capacity of the plant is to upgrade to 4.0 MGD. The City Manager recommended approval of the Task Order without the monthly field inspection costing \$14,800 per month, which changes the total amount to \$1,528,000.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the JJ&G Task Order # 25 for Pt. Peter WWTP. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Following much discussion, Councilmember Weaver amended the motion to approve the Task Order without the monthly field inspection. Councilmember Blount seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**E. C.B. SMITH RAPE CRISIS CENTER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:**

*Memorandum of Understanding*

The City Manager recommended approval of a M.O.U. to formalize the agreement between the law enforcement, medical and prosecutorial agencies within this region of the state for the provision of medical services to rape victims. This agreement basically defines the processes that are already being followed by the St. Marys Police Department with regards to obtaining medical examinations for rape victims, and for financial compensation for these medical services. It also complies with state law, and is part of an initiative that is endorsed by the District Attorney and other local law enforcement agencies.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the MOU Agreement with C.B. Smith Rape Crisis Center Partnership. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION LOAN: *General Fund Equipment Purchase***

The City Manager stated that Council approval is needed to secure a loan on the budgeted Fiscal Year 2008 equipment for the General Fund. GMA is offering a 3.98% rate for the loan. An approved list of the FY08 equipment for the general Fund is attached as part of the minutes. The City Manager recommended approval because the Finance Director could not obtain a better rate.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the GMA Loan for the General Fund equipment purchase. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT: *Kings Bay Road at Winding Road Traffic Signal***

The City Manager recommended approval of the state aid contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the installation of the Traffic Signal at the intersection of Kings Bay Road and Winding Road in the amount of \$55,984.80. At the request of many citizens, the City Council instructed the City Manager and the Public Works Department to look into the installation of traffic signals at two intersections. One intersection was St. Marys Road at Haddock Road and the other was Kings Bay Road at Winding Road. Moreland Altobellie Associates, Inc was contracted to study and design the traffic signal installations. After receipt of the design and specifications, a request for bids was sent to Traffic Signal Installation Contractors that appear on the DOT approved contractors list. Metropower, Inc was awarded the contract to install the traffic signals at the two intersections. Installation of the signals can begin once the contract with GDOT is signed and approved by all parties and all submittals from Metropower have been approved.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to approve the GDOT contract for the Kings Bay Road at Winding Road Traffic Signal. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**1. Water Taxi: *Lease***

The Planning Director requested postponement of the lease until the review is completed by the City Attorney and Mr. McCarthy.

Councilmember Blount made a motion to postpone the Water Taxi lease until the next City Council meeting. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Term Expiration**  
*(Arlene Norris 8/22/07)*

Mayor Eskridge stated that Mrs. Norris is the only candidate interested in serving on the Committee.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to reappoint Arlene Norris to the Camden County Board of Education Committee. Councilmember Blount seconded the motion. Councilmember Johnson commended Mrs. Norris for doing an excellent job on the board. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Pt. Peter WWTP Update**

Councilmember Blount reported that the City Manager presented a slide show on the progress of the construction at the Pt. Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant. All approvals by the EPD and Army Corp of Engineers were on schedule for the Plant. The Corp of Engineers should be contacting the City within the next few weeks regarding the permit.

**Heron Watch Subdivision**

Chris Amos, P & A Engineering, Inc. requested an alternative/temporary facility for on-site waste water management for the subdivision until the City sewer is available. The Committee discussed the issue and requested submission of a design for review and approval to determine if it meets the City's criteria.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

- August 14, 2007 – Attended a Garden Club meeting
- August 16, 2007 – Attended meetings for Wounded Warriors Day and a prospective business for St. Marys
- August 23, 2007 – Inspection of the Pt. Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant construction
- August 27, 2007 – Attended a Water/Sewer meeting

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

- Received the Speed Limit Ordinance from the DOT that includes the proposed decrease on Kings Bay Road from 55 miles per hour (mph) to 45mph.
- Working on personnel issues
- Will attend a Tax meeting regarding the states proposal to remove Cities from making financial decisions to meet the needs of citizens.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no further comments or questions from the public.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel & Legal**

Councilmember Blount made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 7:07 p.m., returning at 7:45 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

**PERSONNEL**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to appoint Ms. Blackledge as the City Attorney and full-time City employee with benefits. This appointment is from August 27, 2007 to the Organizational meeting in January 2008 for reappointment. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to amend the 2008 Budget to increase the City Attorney's salary and add an Administrative Assistant in the amount of \$55,000 coming from Contingency. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

**FOR**

Councilmember Blount  
Councilmember Lockhart  
Councilmember Weaver  
Councilmember Williams

**OPPOSED**

Councilmember Johnson

**LEGAL**

No official action was taken at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Blount made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk