

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 2008
6:00 P.M.**

**AMENDED
AGENDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION: *Assistant City Manager Max Tinsley*

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

QUORUM: YES X NO

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *January 14, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 Newly Elected Officials' Oath of Office
January 14, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearing Minutes
January 31, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2008 Public Safety-Police Committee Meeting Minutes*

PRESENTATION:

AUDITOR'S REPORT

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: *City Attorney Expenses.....* TAB "A"

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ST. MARYS AQUATIC CENTER: *Rate Changes.....* TAB "B"

B. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Legislative Laptops.....* TAB "C"

**C. QUITCLAIM DEED:..... TAB "D"
*Transfer Pt. Peter Substation to Georgia Transmission Corporation***

D. CORRECTIVE RESOLUTION: *City Property to Paulk & Peterman Parties.....* TAB "E"

E. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Police Department Vehicle.....* TAB "F"

F. GIS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: *Valdosta State* TAB "G"

- G. **ST MARYS AQUATIC CENTER CONCESSION STAND EXPANSION PROJECT.....** TAB “H”
- H. **RESOLUTION: Creation of the Pretrial Intervention & Diversion Program.....** TAB “I”
- I. **SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM: Hospital Fee Contract (POSTPONED)...** TAB “J”
- J. **RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT: Department of Transportation.....** TAB “K”
- K. **BUDGET ORDINANCE: Camden County Wildcats (REMOVED).....** TAB “L”
- L. **BUDGET ORDINANCE: USS Georgia Return to Service.....** TAB “M”
- M. **BUDGET ORDINANCE: Tour of Homes.....** TAB “N”
- N. **WASHINGTON FLY-IN: Two City Delegates**
- O. **JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EXPENSES** TAB “O”

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

- A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- B. **PLANNING/PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - 1. St. Marys Rail Road Building Traffic Circle on Osborne
 - 2. Veterans Memorial Park Concept
 - 2. Disposition of City Smitty Drive as related to the proposed renovation plans for Kings Bay Shopping Center
 - 3. Naming of live oak trees located on City property
 - 4. Proposed sketch of parking area at rear of existing City Building
 - 5. Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base property
 - 6. US Coast Guard Projects
- C. **PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - 1. Towing Ordinance Amendment
- D. **WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**
 - 1. Expansion Update
 - 2. Utilities Ordinance Amendment
 - a. Temporary Service Fee
 - b. Tampering Fee
- E. **UPCOMING TERM EXPIRATIONS:**
 - 1. Camden County Board of Education Sex Education Instructional Materials Review Committee – Two seats
 - 2. Senior Department Advisory Committee – Five seats plus one Council seat
- F. **LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: One seat**
- G. **TREE BOARD VACANCY: One seat**

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 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, February 11, 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
Max Tinsley, Asst. City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Kim Dockery, Jr. Accountant
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Jane Drake, Aquatic Center 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. Assistant City Manager Max Tinsley 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 14, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 Newly Elected Officials' Oath of Office

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase noted a correction on page 12 of the City Council meeting minutes by changing the word 'county to country'. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

January 14, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearing Minutes

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

January 31, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the Property Committee meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

January 31, 2008 Public Safety-Police Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the Public Safety-Police Committee meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION:

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Meredith Lipson, Mauldin & Jenkins Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Ms. Lipson commended the finance staff for an exceptional job during the June 30, 2007 audit and for not having any reportable conditions or findings. She stated that the financial statements are the responsibility of management and the Management Discussion Analysis is the most important section to read because it gives a summary of the year and explains how the financial statements work. She further stated that the General Fund has the majority of revenues with a surplus of \$6,500,000 from June 30 through the end of the year and monthly outlays totaling approximately \$907,000 making the City strong financially.

Councilmember DeLoughy commented that the fund balance should have at least 6-months cash on-hand.

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 Finance Director presented the 5th & 6th month report for the General, Water/Sewer and Solid Waste Funds. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT

Bill Carreira, President of the Board of Directors for the St. Marys Submarine Museum expressed his gratitude to the City for the continued use of the building. Mr. Carreira gave an overview of the museum's displays, WWII report collection and major shipboard equipment. To date the museum served approximately 125,000 visitors. In the past two years, since opening, they exceeded \$100,000 in income. The extra funds made it possible to hire an additional person to assist with cataloging artifacts. Last year, rack cards were placed in all of the Georgia State welcome centers. The museum also began advertising in various national and international tourist's publications, submarine veteran magazines and newsletters. A documentary was produced by Georgia Public Broadcasting that interviewed two local WWII submarine veterans along with five other museums in the State. The National Organization of WWII

Submarine Veterans placed their organizations official records into the museum's permanent storage. The museum supports local Navy commands by hosting formal events, reenlistments, retirements, reunions, the annual WWII Submarine Veterans Memorial Service and the National Submarine Veterans District 4/6 meeting. St Marys Submarine Museum Manager John Crouse attends the WWII convention, southern regional meetings and other events in the country where he is successful in advertising the museum and St. Marys. Mr. Carreira and Mr. Crouse addressed the continued flooding problem behind the museum, general maintenance of the building and not providing enough event coordinators at major events to handle problems, especially after the Mardi Gras when the museum entrance was blocked by trailers and animals.

Mayor Eskridge questioned whether a retaining wall could be installed to divert the water. The Public Works Director stated that since the museum is located in the interior of the block, there is not a place to send the water but it is in the City's Master Plan for a solution.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Tom Turner, resident thanked Council and Public Works Department for starting the installation of the Palmetto Street sidewalk.

Cookie Johnson, resident expressed her gratitude for the St. Marys Aquatic Center but was concerned about a rate increase and suggested no increase for St. Marys citizens with identification.

Candy DeLoughy, resident suggested activating the metal detector in the Council Chamber due to the shooting incident at a council meeting in Missouri.

Dave Schmitz, resident addressed Council regarding the new traffic lights, extra services through Comcast, another auto parts store coming to St. Marys instead of a restaurant or hotel and the new waste disposal company not measuring up to the City's service.

The City Manager stated that the light at Cisco's is up and will be flashing for three to four weeks until citizens get accustomed to its operation.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: City Attorney Expenses

The City Manager recommended approval to transfer the required funds into the executive department's budget to cover the operational costs of the City Attorney. Since this year's budget was passed, the executive department has increased by two personnel, the City Attorney and the Legal Assistant. Transferring these funds into the executive budget will fund these positions for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance amendment for the City Attorney's expenses. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember's discussed the high costs of telephones, cell phones and/or blackberrys and getting the best deals on telephone packages. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ST. MARYS AQUATIC CENTER: *Rate Changes*

The City Manager recommended approval of the rate changes to generate additional revenue for the minimum wages increases and the expiration of warranties on equipment will increase the cost of maintenance for repairs. There has been only one other rate increase in the past 6 years (50 cents across the board for general admission in the 2004 season.) These fees increase the general admissions, swim lessons (to compensate for additional fees charged us by the American Red Cross) as well as group and multiple day passes. Birthday party rates will also be affected. A fee schedule will be posted on the City's website.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the St. Marys Aquatic Center rate changes as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. The Mayor and Council Members discussed the increases, a discount for St. Marys' residents, facility users paying the extra costs opposed to tax payers, competition with the community pool and group rates for special groups. Following much discussion, Councilmember Bird amended the motion to approve as is and provide for a discount for our citizens, to be determined. Councilmember Hase seconded the amended motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

YAY
Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Johnson

NAY
Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Weaver

Mayor Eskridge stated that he is not going to vote either way because the motion and amendment should be taken to a study committee. Councilmember Hase called a point of order and questioned the Parliamentarian (City Attorney) whether the Mayor had to vote or not. The City Attorney responded that the Mayor did not have to vote. Mayor Eskridge stated that he votes against the amendment. The City Attorney further stated that since it is a tied vote, an abstention means a yes vote or the Mayor could choose to vote no. Councilmember Hase stated that silence constitutes an affirmative vote not an abstention. The City Attorney stated that abstaining is considered an affirmative vote. Following much discussion, Mayor Eskridge stated that he will abstain, go ahead and pass it.

ABSTAIN
Mayor Eskridge

B. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Legislative Laptops*

The City Manager recommended postponement to the next Council meeting due to the vendors back order.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to postpone the ordinance until the next meeting. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. QUITCLAIM DEED: *Transfer Pt. Peter Substation to Georgia Transmission Corporation*

The City Manager stated that Council approval is needed to transfer and sign a quitclaim deed for the Pt. Peter Substation to the Georgia Transmission Corporation, which is Okefenokee. On October 22, 2007, Council approved a friendly condemnation proceeding pursuant to a condemnation action instituted by Georgia Transmission Corporation in the Superior Court of

Camden County for land that has been commonly referred to as the Point Peter Substation property. A Special Master Hearing was held on December 17, 2007, and the Superior Court entered a Judgment vesting title in the property to the Georgia Transmission Corporation subject to payment of \$99,000. The funds are currently being held in trust by the Clerk of Camden County Superior Court. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to complete a quitclaim deed transfer of Pt. Peter Substation to Georgia Transmission Corporation. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. CORRECTIVE RESOLUTION: *City Property to Paulk & Peterman Parties*

The City Manager recommended approval to rescind a resolution that incorrectly conveyed an abandoned alleyway to Paulk & Peterman parties. On September 24, 2007, the City created a resolution to abandon an alleyway and a resolution to convey the property to abutting property owners Robert Paulk and James and Susan Peterman. The parties' names were not listed correctly. Although this alteration can be done by a simple motion by Council, a written resolution is preferred, as this deals with property rights.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the corrective resolution for City property to the Paulk & Peterman parties. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Police Department Vehicle*

The City Manager recommended approval of a budget ordinance for the purchase of a new vehicle. This ordinance is a direct response to approval granted by the Mayor and Council at the last council meeting to move \$3,459.90 from small equipment in order to purchase another Ford Escape, to be assigned to a detective.

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

F. GIS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: *Valdosta State*

The City Manager recommended approval to extend the Valdosta State GIS training contract completion date to permit more time between the course and a follow-up refresher meeting. The follow up refresher segment of the GIS course was to be held on January 11, 2008. Due to multiple requests by the participants that there was not enough 'homework' time between the completion of the course on December 14, 2007 and the January 11, 2008 GIS refresher due to the holidays, an extension was suggested. There is no additional cost to the City for the date extension.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the GIS Agreement amendment with Valdosta State. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. ST MARYS AQUATIC CENTER CONCESSION STAND EXPANSION PROJECT

The City Manager recommended approval of the project resolution for the Concession Stand Expansion Project at the St. Marys Aquatic Center. Currently, the existing concession stand is

limited in space. With the expanding usage of the Aquatic Center it has become necessary to expand the concession stand area to better serve the patrons. This would give the City Manager permission to get the bids and put everything together for the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the St. Marys Aquatic Center Concession Stand Expansion Project. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Council Members disagreed with the project resolution authorizing entering into a contract without numbers. Councilmember Weaver amended the motion to recommend going out for bid and bring it back to Council for approval. Councilmember Bird seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

H. RESOLUTION: *Creation of the Pretrial Intervention & Diversion Program*

The City Manager recommended the adoption of a resolution creating the Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program within the City of St. Marys. State law, O.C.G.A. §15-18-80, grants the prosecuting attorney of a municipal court the authority to create and administer a Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program to provide an alternative to prosecuting first time non-violent offenders who are 17 years or older in the criminal justice system.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution for the creation of the Pretrial Intervention & Diversion Program. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Council Member's discussed additional expenses over and above the fee, what were considered non-violent crimes, did other entities have this type of program, who would oversee the program, first time offender record keeping, habitual offenders and drug testing. The City Attorney responded that many of these people would be placed on probation, which would entail a great deal of fees. This program should save money by not charging monthly probation fees. Once the program gets underway a cost analysis could be performed. Unless there is a counseling session ordered by the judge, only \$300 could be collected under statute. It is not a probation program, but it is a controlled, supervised environment through the City Attorney's office for a minimum of six months and community service. The City Attorney stated misdemeanor, reckless driving, petty theft, and shoplifting are the types of non-violent crimes. The law allows expunging their records through Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Crime Information Center where it will not show up down the road if they are applying for jobs. This program has been modeled from other jurisdictions within the state and other cities. There would be an average of three to five people a month and the legal assistant would be watching over the program as well. The offense is recorded and known as an arrest but it is not publicized by GBI. The City Attorney's office will be requesting assistance from the Police Chief and police department. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

I. SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM: *Hospital Fees Contract (POSTPONED)*

J. RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT: *Department of Transportation*

The City Manager recommended approval of the right of way agreement with the DOT. This agreement will ensure the right of way and maintenance at Martha Drive and State Road 40 after construction of the light. The agreement is necessary for DOT to participate in the program to provide the City with the equipment to move the traffic light.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the right of way agreement with the Department of Transportation on Martha Drive. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Council Member's discussed moving the traffic light from Julia Street to Martha Drive,

costs, funding, safety issues at Martha Drive, truck traffic at Julia Street and the current traffic pattern at St Marys Middle School for student drop off and dismissal. The City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director provided information regarding the traffic study, DOT warranting a traffic signal at Martha Drive without the school, costs for installation, road work and the acquisition of property, the light installation costing approximately \$150,000, road work between \$75,000 to \$100,000 and \$44,000 for the acquisition of property for the construction. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Camden County Wildcats* (REMOVED)

L. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *USS Georgia Return to Service*

The City Manger stated that approval is needed to transfer contingency funds to the Tourism Department. The USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) will be coming to Camden County and will call Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay home. It is recommended that Council agree to use Tourism as a conduit as 'honorary plank owner' for the re-commissioned ship. The City Manager recommended approval as this will bring close to 4,000 tourists into the community.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance for the USS Georgia's return to service. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Council Members discussed tourism's role, non profits and funding. Voting was recorded as follows:

YAY

Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Weaver

NAY

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

M. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Tour of Homes*

The City Manager recommended approval to transfer of revenues from the Tour of Homes to the Tourism Fund. Each year, advertising dollars are spent prior to receiving revenues from the Tour of Homes. When the total proceeds are collected from the event the Convention Visitors Bureau requests an expense reimbursement from the Tour Revenues to replace expenditures.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the budget ordinance for the Tour of Homes. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

N. WASHINGTON FLY-IN: *Two City Delegates*

Mayor Eskridge suggested to the Council that he and Councilmember Bird attend the Washington Fly-In this year. Councilmember DeLoughy expressed an interest in attending.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to send three people - Greg Bird, Rowland Eskridge and Bill DeLoughy. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Johnson amended the motion to allow Chuck Trader to attend since he has not had the opportunity. Councilmember Hase seconded the amended motion. Councilmember Hase commented that it is an excellent experience for an elected official to see how things are done in Washington. To experience it and understand how Washington and the Pentagon feel about St. Marys as a military community. Councilmember DeLoughy stated that Mr. Trader could attend if his calendar is clear. Councilmember Trader stated that if he has a conflict Mr. DeLoughy will be the alternate. Councilmember Weaver suggested appointing delegates in December when the meetings are

being planned because there is one agenda. If everyone in the group does not agree to each item or there is controversy it is not brought up. There is a certain amount of power when a wide group of individuals from Camden County is seen as a united front and Washington takes notice. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

O. JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EXPENSES

The City Manager recommended approval for the additional cost of \$1,971.17, to the already approved contract between the Regional Development Center (RDC) and the City of St. Marys. Due to changes in the format and information, as directed by the Department of Community Affairs, of the Camden County Comprehensive Plan, the RDC has to perform work outside of the original contract. The cost of this work will be divided equally between Camden County, City of Kingsland, City of Woodbine, and the City of St. Marys.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the Joint Comprehensive Plan expenses. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase commented that through her experience over the years, the RDC never sticks to their original fees. The City Manager stated that the RDC has tried to change the costs several times and it was not approved because the changes were in the contract. He further stated that Mayor Eskridge attended the meeting where the changes were mandated by the DCA, which are outside the contract. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mayor Eskridge called for a five minute break at 8:12 p.m., returning at 8:17 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report of the Planning Director at this time.

B. PLANNING/PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilmember Weaver gave the Planning/Property Committee report as follows:

1. St. Marys Rail Road Building Traffic Circle on Osborne

The Committee discussed Landmar's proposal for the roundabout concept. The Committee recommended bringing it to Council to pursue the issue and negotiations with Landmar.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the roundabout concept, negotiate a contract and bring it back to Council. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Veterans Memorial Park Concept

The Committee reviewed, discussed and recommended approval of the Veterans Memorial Park concept and graphics.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the concept of the Veterans Memorial Park on the western boundaries of Howard Gilman Park. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Bird restated the motion to approve the concept of a Veterans Memorial Park and to include public input. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the restated motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

3. Disposition of City Smitty Drive as related to the proposed renovation plans for Kings Bay Shopping Center

The original proposal was to close City Smitty Drive by the current owner of the shopping center. After discussing the concept, the Committee realized the importance of City Smitty and recommended entertaining a concept to reroute the road to come out by the traffic light.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to entertain a concept to reroute City Smitty Drive to bring back to the Committee for review and Council approval. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. Naming of live oak trees located on City property

The Committee discussed naming the trees and recommended turning the issue over to the Tree Board to create a naming policy, bring it back to the committee for review and Council approval. No action was necessary at this time.

5. Proposed sketch of parking area at rear of existing City Building

The Committee was presented with a proposed sketch of the parking area at the rear of the existing City building. Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to recommend that the City move forward with an appraisal and finish negotiations with the United Methodist Church for the land swap. The land swap is the portion of land next to DDA, the trolley and the back parking lot of the Methodist Church.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to get an appraisal and finish negotiations with the United Methodist Church for the land swap as presented in the sketch. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

6. Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base property

The Navy has proposed giving the City a section of land for surveying and recording costs for the utilization of public services only.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion for Council to accept the parcel as outlined by the Navy for surveying and recording costs for the utilization of public services on a 50 acre tract. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

7. US Coast Guard Projects

The Coast Guard presented a list of repairs that the City is responsible for, which were budgeted. No action was necessary.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Towing Ordinance Amendment

Councilmember Bird stated that the Committee reviewed the towing ordinance amendment. The police department made several changes during the meeting, therefore the ordinance was sent back to the towing operators for input. No action was required at this time.

A Public Safety Police Committee meeting is scheduled on February 18, 2008 following the Property Committee meeting to discuss the operators input.

D. WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Expansion Update

Councilmember Trader stated that a number of developers and an attorney representing a developer attended the Committee meeting. They expressed concerns about the structure of the change to the Construction fee for payment up front, opposed to when the building permit is pulled. The City Attorney is reviewing the perception that it is an impact fee. It was not the City's intent when it was set up to be an impact fee. Cities have a number of requirements that must occur for impact fees. The Committee assured the developers that the City is not anti-development, we want to be user friendly but there is a need to work together to identify the issues and come up with a solution. The issue is that the City is spending upward of \$40,000,000 to increase capacity because of the developments coming in and having platted lots in which the City does not receive a dime of revenue. It is too much risk for the City. The Committee has offered to developers that they come and give suggestions. One suggestion was to sit down with each individual developer to negotiate allocations.

2. Utilities Ordinance Amendment

a. Temporary Service Fee

Councilmember Trader stated that the Committee has recommended that this item go back to the department for further review. Temporary services were being charged primarily to contractors for very little money, for a very little amount of usage and costing quite an amount of money to send out bills.

b. Tampering Fee

The tampering fee is basically charged when the City finds someone tampering with a water meter. Under the current structure, the fee is billed and by the time it becomes due they have skipped town. Not only does the city get stuck with the tampering fee but also not collecting usage fees. The ordinance is identified and the person is charged a \$75.00 tamper fee before the water is turned back on. This is a way to collect the City's money, cut down on the losses on the collectability of the tampering fee and cut the losses that normally occur with the charges for water usage.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the utilities ordinance amendment for tampering fees. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy stated that the ordinance also changes the non-payment policy to 40-days from 60-days after the due date. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. UPCOMING TERM EXPIRATIONS:

Mayor Eskridge announced the following term expirations:

1. Camden County Board of Education Sex Education Instructional Materials Review Committee – Two seats
2. Senior Department Advisory Committee – Five seats plus one Council seat

The public was asked to provide a letter to the City Clerk if they were interested in one of the appointments at the next Council meeting.

E. LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: *One seat*

Mayor Eskridge announced one vacancy on the Library Board.

F. TREE BOARD VACANCY: *One seat*

The Mayor also announced a vacancy on the Tree Board from December 2007.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- January 23, 2007 – Attended a Department of Community Affairs meeting
- January 25 – 28, 2008 – Attended the Georgia Municipal Association conference in Atlanta
- January 31, 2008 – Attended the Property and Public Safety Police Committee meetings
- February 6, 2008 – Attended the Downtown Development Authority Main Street Presentation
- February 8, 2008 – Judged for the Red Cross
- February 11, 2008 – Attended the Greenprint presentation and Water/Sewer Committee meeting

Mayor Eskridge announced the Goals and Objectives meeting scheduled on Wednesday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the Economic Development Building.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- Point Peter Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is ahead of schedule with completion expected the end of April.

The City Manager thanked the finance department for all their hard work this year and the outstanding audit. Staff has done a great job and it is appreciated.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Keith Post, resident thanked Council for supporting the USS Georgia Return to Service. Mr. Post commented on the roundabouts slowing down speeding and adding aesthetics to the area; working to schedule meetings with the US Coast Guard Site Security Plan (SSP), Strategic Studies Group (SSG) and Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) during the Washington Fly-In and announced that the Navy League meets the second Thursday each month. He also announced the guest speaker at next month's meeting is retired Vice Admiral J. Cohn, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Research and Development.

Candy DeLoughy, resident suggested appointing board vacancies when they occur.

Cookie Johnson, resident invited everyone to attend the Sr. Center Valentine Dance on Friday, February 15, 2008 in the Cafeteria at St. Marys Middle School at 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk