



**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**March 24, 2008**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**5:45 p.m.**

**2 Sisters Café, Inc.**  
**Pepper's 4, Inc. D/B/A Peppers Mexican Grill**  
**Kingsland Management II, LLC D/B/A Cisco Travel Plaza II**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INVOCATION:** *William P. Shanahan, City Manager*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES\_\_X\_\_ NO\_\_**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *March 10, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
*March 10, 2008 Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*March 10, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes*

**PRESENTATION:**

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CAMDEN COUNTY'S ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN:**  
*Doug Cooper, Co-Chairman*

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VII. OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. 2 SISTERS CAFÉ, INC.:** *New Alcohol License.....TAB "A"*

- B. PEPPER’S 4, INC. D/B/A PEPPERS MEXICAN GRILL:.....TAB “B”  
*New Alcohol License*
  
- C. KINGSLAND MANAGEMENT II, LLC D/B/ A CISCO TRAVEL PLAZA II:.TAB “C”  
*New Alcohol License*

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. CITY MARSHAL OFFICE.....TAB “D”
  
- B. AQUATIC CENTER CONCESSION EXPANSION: Bid Award.....TAB “E”
  
- C. AMENDED COURT CALENDAR.....TAB “F”
  
- D. CITY ATTORNEY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.....TAB “G”
  
- E. CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: Billboard Contract.....TAB “H”

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

- A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT.....TAB “I”
  
- B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS.....TAB “J”
  
- C. PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT

**X. REPORT OF MAYOR:**

**XI. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

**XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**ALCOHOL LICENSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**March 24, 2008**  
**5:45 p.m.**

**2 Sisters Café, Inc.**  
**Pepper's 4, Inc. D/B/A Peppers Mexican Grill**  
**Kingsland Management II, LLC D/B/A Cisco Travel Plaza II**

The Mayor and Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a public hearing on Monday, March 24, 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  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Robert Maloney, Sergeant-At-Arms

Mayor Eskridge called the public hearing to order at 5:56 p.m., and stated the purpose of the public hearing was for "2 Sisters Café, Inc., Pepper's 4, Inc. D/B/A Peppers Mexican Grill and Kingsland Management II, LLC D/B/A Cisco Travel Plaza II" alcohol license applications. The floor was opened to the public for questions and/or comments.

**Charlotte Bartzack**, resident opposed granting an alcohol license to the Cisco Travel Plaza because of the current issues and problems.

Councilmember Weaver questioned the lease dated February 18, 2008 and whether they had an alcohol license. She also stated that they are not legal until Council grants a license and she is uncomfortable with the alcohol being left in the coolers.

The City Clerk stated that United Fuel, Inc. was the license holder as of January 1, 2008. Currently, Georgia Energy USA, LLC has purchased the business and intend to lease it to Kingsland Management. A City license is issued before a state license.

The Planning Director stated that the City Marshal has advised management that Cisco Travel Plaza II could not sell alcohol. They were also informed that alcohol should be locked up and removed from the display cases. The City Marshal is continuing to monitor the situation.

The Assistant City Manager stated that he spoke with the attorneys who were overseeing the business, for the owners, to inform them that the business did not hold a current state license. They were not aware of this and would be contacting the owners.

Councilmember Trader expressed concerns about the unpaid City business license, outstanding taxes, an unsigned lease by leasee, not shareholders on the application and articles of incorporation documents are missing.

**Dave Schmitz**, resident stated that in view of all the alleged problems, Council should take time to carefully review the application and not approve the license for Cisco Travel Plaza II.

There were no further requests to address Council. Mayor Eskridge therefore declared the public hearing closed at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 24, 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, March 24, 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  
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Jane Drake, Aquatic Center Director  
Bilaal Muhammad, City Marshall  
Tom Lackner, Asst. Fire Chief  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Robert Maloney, Sergeant-At-Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The City Manager 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:**

*March 10, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the March 10, 2008 Regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

March 10, 2008 Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the March 10, 2008 Water/Sewer Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

March 10, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the March 10, 2008 Property Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**PRESENTATION:**

**STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CAMDEN COUNTY'S ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN: Ed Torgersen**

Mr. Torgersen briefed Council on the background of the campaign and becoming affiliated with the Keep America Beautiful/Keep Camden Beautiful program. The program is a community based improvement and education organization, whose network of affiliate and participating organizations engage in programs that prevent litter and reduce, reuse, recycle and properly manage waste materials.

The County Manager has met with Stateline Disposal, who has generously agreed to partner with the county and cities by donating \$2,500 towards the \$2,900 registration fee. Mr. Torgersen requested moral support from the cities and county, and asked for a contribution of \$100 from each entity to cover the remainder of the registration fee in order to get the program started. The long term commitment for Keep Camden Beautiful is a \$200 annual fee, to raise private donations and training through Keep America Beautiful. A copy of the executive report is attached as part of the minutes.

The City Attorney and City Manager agreed that a review of the legalities would need to be researched before funds were donated whether it is classified dues, membership or a fee.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to fund the program subject to the City Attorney's legal review. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Finance Director presented the 8-month (February 2008) report for the General, Water/Sewer and Solid Waste Funds. A copy of the finance report is attached as part of the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

**Keith Post**, resident presented a copy of the Proclamation declaring Friday USS Georgia Day that was signed by the county and cities. Public Works and the Police Department were thanked for their support and Downtown Development Authority for posting the Captains Choice art project. Mr. Post reported that the state flag, which has journeyed through 159 counties, will arrive in Camden County on Thursday, March 27, 2008 and USS Georgia memorabilia will be on sale at the St. Marys Market. He also requested permission to post temporary signs directing visitors to the Return to Service Ceremony.

**Kay Sullivan**, resident suggested making the City's excess trash cans into rain barrels to gather water from downspouts or roofs for plants during hot weather.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. 2 SISTERS CAFÉ, INC.: *New Alcohol License***

The City Manager stated that at the last meeting, City Council approved advertising for a public hearing on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. The hearing was duly advertised and held. Staff recommends approval of the new alcohol license contingent upon final inspection of the building by the Building Department and Fire Marshal.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the alcohol license for 2 Sisters Café, Inc. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned whether all requirements were met with the exception of the final inspections. The City Clerk responded that all other requirements were met. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. PEPPER'S 4, INC. D/B/A PEPPERS MEXICAN GRILL: *New Alcohol License***

The City Manager stated that advertising was approved at the last City Council meeting to hold a public hearing today. Staff recommends approval of the new alcohol license contingent upon final inspection of the building by the Building Department and Fire Marshal.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Pepper's 4, Inc. subject to final inspections and approval. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy questioned whether all requirements were met and made a suggestion to add this information to the history. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. KINGSLAND MANAGEMENT II, LLC D/B/ A CISCO TRAVEL PLAZA II: *New Alcohol License***

The City Manager stated that advertising was approved at the last City Council meeting to hold today's public hearing.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to deny the license. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge stated that if the license is denied new application needs to be made to start the process again and another fee is collected.

Council Members discussed the lack of information, not meeting all the requirements for the application that was presented at the public hearing, the trustee's role, non-payment of taxes and fees. Following much discussion, Councilmember Bird amended the motion to postpone approval until all the information is provided for a more prudent decision. Councilmember Johnson seconded the amended motion.

Councilmember Weaver withdrew the original motion. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion to withdraw. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. CITY MARSHAL OFFICE**

The City Manager stated that currently the City Marshal maintains his certification by an association with the St. Marys Police Department. Since the City Marshal performs most of his duties concerning City ordinances and not within the Police Department, it is staff's recommendation, after speaking with the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council to separate the City Marshal from the Police Department. This process requires Council's approval and then the City Marshal's office may be set up following POST requirements. Otherwise, the City Marshal must be funded and regulated by the Police Department. The City Manager recommended approval so that the City Marshal may maintain his Peace Officer certification, needed to complete the duties of City Marshal. In addition, this will better able us to monitor the department's efficiency.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve creating a new office in the name of the City Marshal's office. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion.

Council Member's discussed the office being a single person department with no increases to salary or staff, the Marshal's workload and paperwork and the City Manager as the reporting authority.

The Police Chief responded that the Police Department is entering into the process for State recertification. On review of the standards, it was brought to the department's attention that the City Marshal needed to be either in the police department or separate. The City Marshal is trained through the police department in order to maintain certification and qualifications. However, for bookkeeping purposes and clarification for the recertification process, Georgia POST Council has asked to make that distinction.

Councilmember Trader questioned why it could not be set up as one employee of administration. The City Attorney stated that from a legal standpoint with POST, if the City Marshal continues any kind of law enforcement certification and carries a weapon it must be created as a separate law enforcement agency hence the Marshal's office. Through POST, the Council has to create a separate agency or department created within the City known as the City Marshal's office. It also has to be stated in the motion so it

could be forwarded to POST for proper certification. The City Manager responded to Mr. Trader that he did not think there would be a problem setting up the office within the administration of the City. The City Attorney stated that legally, the motion needed to include that it was a separate law enforcement agency so the Marshal could continue his POST qualifications.

Following much discussion, Councilmember Johnson amended the motion to create a City Marshal's agency under the direction of the City Manager. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. AQUATIC CENTER CONCESSION EXPANSION: Bid Award**

The City Manager recommended awarding a contract for the expansion of the Aquatic Center Concession Stand to W.H. Gross Construction Company in the amount of \$23,687.00 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. This item is budgeted this year. Currently, the existing concession stand at the St. Marys Aquatic Center is limited in space. With the expanded usage of the St. Marys Aquatic Center it has become necessary to expand the concession stand area to better serve the patrons of the Aquatic Center.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the bid award and to authorize the Mayor to sign the contact. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion.

The Mayor and Council discussed the material options, acceptance of the lowest responsible bid, increasing the size of the structure and how the building would increase revenues. Following much discussion, Councilmember Bird withdrew the seconded to the motion. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

Discussions continued on the structure's proposed materials compared to the existing building. Voting was recorded as follows:

**YAY**  
Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Johnson  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**NAY**  
Councilmember Hase

**C. AMENDED COURT CALENDAR**

The City Manager recommended approval to change the June 6<sup>th</sup> court date to June 13<sup>th</sup>. The Judge is unable to make the regular scheduled court date in June, and has requested the change.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the court calendar change from June 6<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. CITY ATTORNEY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

The City Manager recommended amending the ordinance relating to the assignments of tasks to the City Attorney. Since the City Attorney is now an employee of the City, the ordinance relating to task assignments needed to be amended to include procedure for both “employed” attorney and “retained” attorney, as the previous ordinance only addressed protocol for an attorney on general retainer.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the City Attorney ordinance amendment as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**E. CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: Billboard Contract**

The City Manager stated that the CVB wishes to extend the I-95 billboard contract for three (3) months to align with our normal fiscal year budget cycle. The sign has been erected for two (2) years. The current contract expires April 24, 2008. To maintain the billboard, the sign company is willing to extend our current contract for three (3) months at the current price of \$1470 per month, which is budgeted. The City Manager and Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority recommend extending the contract for three (3) months.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the billboard contract. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. The Assistant City Manager stated that the budget amendment presented is to transfer funds to pay for the billboard for the three months including the funds in Tourism’s advertising budget. Some of Orange Hall’s bills are paid by Tourism, which are transferred back into their budget in the amendment. Next year’s billboard will be included during Tourism’s new budget cycle for support for next year.

Councilmember Weaver amended the motion to include the budget ordinance as presented. Councilmember Johnson seconded the amended motion. Councilmember Hase questioned the ordinance amendment funds that are higher than the contract. The Assistant City Manager responded that anything that has been bought to support Orange Hall has come out of Tourism’s budget. The money is actually being taken from Orange Hall and put back into Tourism so they could get through the rest of the year.

Following much discussion, Councilmember Weaver withdrew the amended motion. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion to withdraw the amendment. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT**

Mayor Eskridge stated that Flem Hall’s term expires at the end of the month on the Hospital Authority. Mr. Hall has expressed interest in being reappointed and provided a letter of intent.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to reappoint Mr. Hall to the Hospital Authority Board. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Eskridge stated that two terms expire on the Downtown Development Authority, Diane McCoy and Carol Buddin.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to reappoint Diane McCoy and reappoint Carol Grayson-Buddin to the Downtown Development Authority. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilmember Bird stated that the Committee met this afternoon to discuss Shadowlawn's railroad crossing, changing some of the verbiage in the golf cart ordinance and the taxi ordinance. The Committee has postponed all issues in order to gather more information to bring to council at another time.

Councilmember DeLoughy stated that in regards to the Shadowlawn discussions, the Committee recommended trimming back the brush obstructing the view, revisit the stop sign issue that was previously put up illegally and look at enforcing speed limits for the best interest of the public.

A Public Safety-Police Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

- March 15, 2008 – Attended the dedication of the new Fire Station at Pt. Peter
- March 20, 2008 – Attended the ground breaking of the community garden at the St. Marys Airport. Anyone who is interested in a garden would be able to get a plot ready for planting.
- March 24, 2008- Attended a Scanning meeting with City staff and Public Safety-Police Committee meeting.

The Water/Sewer Committee meeting was confirmed on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

The City Manager urged St. Marys' citizens to attend the budget hearings to see where your tax dollars are being spent.

- An emergency response vehicle was donated to the City by the Navy to help move trees during storms. The vehicle is parked outside, if anyone wishes to see it.

- The Homestead Exemption form and letter for Senior's 65 or older will be mailed soon. The City Attorney is researching the regulations to change the law/ordinance.
- Martha Drive Traffic Signal – the City Attorney has recorded the final deed for the property acquisition necessary to install the traffic signal. Contract documents are being gathered to resubmit out for bids.
- Spur 40 Water Line – Atlantic Coast Consultants are designing this water line. It will be a 12 inch line that will run from near Bunky's Gas Station to Osborne Street at Meeting Street. The Department of Transportation (DOT) permit has been received for the construction of the lines. A permit from the railroad is being pursued.
- The construction at the Point Peter Wastewater Treatment Facility progressed very well during the month of February. The Process/Administration building is 95% completed with the installation of the centrifuge and the interior painting taking place. Throughout the month, the utility subcontractor continued the installation of the High Density Poly-Ethylene effluent and influent force main piping. Haskell's mechanical crew continued to install chemical piping as well as the influent force main bypass assembly connecting to the Rotary Drum Screen. The project is still ahead of schedule with the completion date scheduled for the end of April or beginning of May to be up and running.

Councilmember DeLoughy requested that the homestead letter is sent to Council for comments prior to being mailed and addressed the yellow flashing light by Cisco's that confuses drivers causing a safety hazard. The Public Works Director responded that DOT has been contacted and they are looking into the issue.

Councilmember Johnson questioned whether a turn signal could be added to the traffic light by the hospital. The Public Works Director responded that the Traffic Study is based on traffic counts and how many actual movements you have. In the Study, the signal did not warrant turn signals off Kings Bay Road.

Mayor Eskridge announced the promotion of Major Roger Wooten to Assistant Police Chief last week.

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

**Cookie Johnson**, resident addressed Council regarding the traffic light at the hospital when turning left there is always big traffic jams and not being able to see around the vehicles.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 7:25 p.m., returning at 7:36 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

### **PERSONNEL**

No official action was taken at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk