



## CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

### SECOND QUARTER TOWN MEETING & CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 14, 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:** *March 24, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearings*

#### **PRESENTATION:**

**COMMENDATION:** *Francis X. Selgrath*

**AWARD CITATION:** *Gerald C. Jones*

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- VI. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** *NONE*
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **COURT DOCKET:** *Digital Copies Available to the Public.....TAB "A"*
  - B. **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** *Tourism.....TAB "B"*
  - C. **TEMPORARY ALCOHOL LICENSE:** *Rotary Club of Kings Bay Foundation, Inc.TAB "C"*
  - D. **ALCOHOL SALES REQUEST IN OPEN AREA & PATIO:** *Kick Back Café...TAB "D"*

- E. **KIWANIS CLUBS FIREWORKS:** *Tourism* **(REMOVED)**
- F. **RESOLUTION:** *Senior Homestead Exemption*.....TAB “E”
- G. **EXERCISE EQUIPMENT:** *Citizen Donation to Police Department*.....TAB “F”
- H. **UNIFORM CONTRACT:** *Public Works*.....TAB “G”
- I. **SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM:** *Hospital Fees Contract*.....TAB “H”
- J. **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** *Oak Grove Cemetery*.....TAB “I”
- K. **GEORGIA POWER AGREEMENT:** *Encroachment on Easement*.....TAB “J”
- L. **CHARLIE SMITH’S AIRPORT RELOCATION REQUEST:** .....TAB “K”  
*Councilmember Hase* **(ADDED & MOVED BEFORE ITEM “A”)**
- IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**
  - A. **PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**.....TAB “L”
    - 1. **Robert Williams**, request final approval for a 2-lot minor subdivision on Nancy Drive in Borrell Park, Tax Parcel #S23 01 007.
    - 2. **St. Marys Land Development, Inc.**, requests approval for a 42-lot/1- tract subdivision known as Emilio Bay, west of Colerain Road and north of St. Marys Road, Tax Parcel #137 17.
    - 3. **Ronnie Leinwohl**, Kings Bay Pro3 requests rezoning of a 43.5 acre property known as Haven Park to be rezoned from PD-R5 to a combination of PD-R3 and PD-R5.
  - B. **PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT**
    - 1. **Low Speed Vehicle Ordinance**
    - 2. **Taxi Ordinance**
  - C. **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**
- X. **REPORT OF MAYOR:**
- XI **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**
- XII. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**
- XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal & Personnel* **(ADDED)**
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 14, 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, April 14, 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  
Tom Lackner, Asst. Fire Chief  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director  
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant  
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting and Second Quarter Town 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:** *March 24, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the March 24, 2008 regular City Council meeting minutes with a correction under new business City Marshal Office by removing “for” at the end of the first line of the fourth paragraph. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

*March 24, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearings*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the March 24, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearings minutes. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**PRESENTATION:**

**COMMENDATION:** *Francis X. Selgrath*

Mayor Eskridge read a proclamation commending Francis X Selgrath for the time and effort he put forth to make a difference in the lives of Camden County residents. Mr. Selgrath was also recognized for receiving a commendation from Governor Sonny Perdue for building consensus among diverse groups throughout the community, uniting leaders and stakeholders to focus on health issues and implementing local programs and policies that make a significant difference in the health of the coastal region. The Executive Director of the Coastal Medical Access Project accepted the proclamation on behalf of the late Mr. Selgrath.

**AWARD CITATION:** *Gerald C. Jones*

The Police Chief awarded a citation to Gerald Jones for his assistance on March 10, 2008. Without regard for his safety, Mr. Jones aided a St. Marys Officer as the officer was physically fighting a suspect who was attempting to flee from the officer. Mr. Jones' aid enabled the officer to effectively subdue the suspect until additional officers could arrive to take the suspect into custody. After the suspect was taken into custody the officers recovered a quantity of marijuana and cocaine from the suspect which was likely headed for the city streets of St. Marys. Mr. Jones' bravery and act of selflessness brought great credit upon himself and his community. Sergeant Shannon Brock accepted the citation on behalf of Mr. Jones.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Jerry Whitacre, Chairman St. Marys Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) distributed an annual report and gave a briefing of current events. Mr. Whitacre stated that there were 30 Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) presented to the Commission, none denied but two withdrew. The current ordinance is 25 years old and Tom Cyphers has been working on updates. The rules are in the process of being reviewed by the City Attorney. Training is being afforded to the HPC members this year. Ann Stacy has worked on ideas and implementation of signs once a COA is submitted to notify the public of the review. She also suggested, at a minimal cost, a presentation of awards to citizens who contributed in some significant manner to the historic district as far as restoring investments or houses. The following COA's were recognized for their noteworthy accomplishments within the last year; the jewel of the City is the commercial property of Marianne Thomas's restaurant, two new residences for Jay Lassiter and Don Pierce and the existing residence of Beth Mercier's parents. Those four properties cost an investment estimated at \$4,000,000. In addition, there are three pending commercial COA's that will change the look of downtown St. Marys and represent several millions of dollars. In conclusion, Mr. Whitacre thanked the HPC members for their hard work and Max Tinsley, Roger Weaver and Michele Woods for their assistance provided throughout the past year. A copy of the annual report is attached as part of the minutes.

Councilmember Johnson suggested a more personal involvement in the Historic Society to maintain St. Marys as it is today. The members are a credit to the organization for what they do.

Councilmember Trader acknowledged the rewriting of the 25 year old ordinance to bring it up to date and questioned what the key issues were in the new ordinance.

Chairman Whitacre stated that the current ordinance is dated and there were discussions on the age. The Planning Director stated that an update in language was needed to include 25 years of case law so it does not conflict with Federal Law.

Councilmember Hase commended the Commission for their hard work and Ann Stacy for the sign idea that will help reduce questions and redundant telephone calls to City Hall.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Eskridge recommended moving Item "L" to the first order of new business and to send it to committee.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the amended agenda with Item "L" Mr. Smith's airport relocation request to the first item of business. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC & TOWN MEETING:**

**Cookie Johnson**, resident lived near the airport for the last 25 years and loves being a neighbor of the airport. She totally enjoys no pollution, condos or traffic jams. When a plane has problems everyone goes wild. The only people that want to get this airport moving again are Sea Island and the realtors.

Mayor Eskridge commented that he will be recommending that the airport is moved to committee so all comments could be made at that time. It would also save council from tying up a lot of time tonight. If you wish to talk about the airport it will be set as soon as possible.

**Charlie Smith**, legal representative of Sea Island Company, Camden Partnership, himself as a citizen and business owner in the City of St. Marys is very much in favor of moving the airport. When he spoke with the Mayor sometime back it was going to be assigned to the Property Committee. It was Mr. Smith's thoughts that the issue needed to be put on the agenda for that to happen. Assuming it is going to be put in the Property Committee, he urged the Committee to schedule a meeting or hearing very quickly so it could be back on the agenda because the clock is running on the time for it to go forward.

Councilmember Hase requested permission from the Mayor to make a comment. She stated that it is her plan to make a motion to approve Mr. Smith's resolution but the Mayor has basically told the audience not to make comments tonight based on his recommendation to put it in committee.

**Gene Bird**, resident stated that he lives in front of the airport and was in a meeting a few months ago where everyone voted against relocating the airport. He thought it was a vote to keep the airport in St. Marys. Why are we getting back to voting on that same issue? He thought the issue was closed.

Mayor Eskridge responded that there was a change in Council.

**Rosemary Rillo**, resident stated that it is really wonderful that there is a curbside recycling program. However, the service is somewhat impractical. Some days it will be picked up at dawn and others the trash will be picked up and not recycling. There is no regular schedule.

The City Manager requested that anyone with complaints should contact his office.

**Keith Post**, resident thanked everyone countywide for making USS Georgia week such a outstanding event for the community and Navy. Mr. Post had the honor and privilege of sitting next to George Shirr, WWII Submarine Veteran during the ceremony. It was the last event George attended. His funeral service is being held in Waycross on April 15<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Post asked to remember George and his family in their prayers. Mr. Post commented on the Washington Fly-In being very successful, and thanked the attendees and Chris Daniel for their hard work. In closing he challenged everyone to put themselves in the shoes of a 19 or 20 year old Marine standing in the guard tower guarding his post. If a plane took off from St. Marys Airport, which lost control surface response, it lost power for whatever reason, that Marine is tasked with shooting the plane out of the sky, if it is heading to a restricted area. Do not think that it could not happen because it did on the west coast. A plane landed in a restricted area in 2001, it was not shot down but it could have been a different story had it happened now. The Marine is ordered to protect the base, with no fault to the pilot, he might lose his life because of it. From a security standpoint, a plane taking off from Fernandina, Brunswick or Jacksonville with intent of doing harm to the base is a different. However, purely from a safety aspect, a plane taking off the runway in St. Marys aiming towards the base that lost control of the plane, do we want it to land in a restricted area?

**Roger Rillo**, resident as a retired Marine that did serve security aboard ship there are rules and regulations on when to discharge your weapon. To use a young marine as an example that it is a security threat, it is wrong; it is a scare tactic and should be regarded as such. We know that this airport movement is for making money for a developer on the north side and it is the only reason. The man who landed the plane recently landed it safely and proved it could be done. No one was hurt or injured. Other people had accidents and managed to land safely even though their planes were damaged but it shows what a quality pilot can do. There is a greater chance of getting into an accident on the freeway, Highway 40 or in front of the hospital than there is at the airport. If the residents around the airport do not feel threatened, why is it being discussed? It is not a security issue when the back gate is opened for people to go in and out of the base to go to the golf course or campground. As a Marine every entrance was guarded. Mr. Rillo does not buy the excuse that it is a security threat or a plane would get shot down accidentally. It will not happen because there are regulations that are followed before firing weapons.

**Mike McKinnon**, former military, resident and recently appointed President of Camden Partnership concurred that the Marines do have rules of engagement. However, you are dealing with human beings. Sometimes, human beings make mistakes regardless of the rules, based on his perception of what is happening. It is his opinion and the Partnership the airport has an opportunity with this proposal. The focus is on quality growth of St. Marys and Camden County. This would help the majority of the citizens, not the minority who happen to have planes. If it could be taken out of the equation, it was strongly suggested that the airport move. It is the right decision to make for the City of St. Marys even though others might not agree. The City has an opportunity to also show that they are good friends of our neighbors, the Navy. As a former base commander, he really wants to see that airport moved. Was it a security risk? Chances are no, planes could take off from anywhere else and still decide to come here. But, if they did and a plane was laden with explosives the reaction time for someone to protect it and see it is a whole lot shorter. It does not matter whether it is going five miles per hour or 200 miles an hour. The plane would only get there quicker and have the same kind of damage. A small aircraft will not cause the damage a 747 caused running into the World Trade Center. It would demonstrate to our neighbors that do understand what they are doing here and what their goal is. Currently, the airport could be moved or risk losing it; however small the risk is, it is still a risk. His question is, you had an opportunity as a council and what did you do with it? Did you throw it away? Thousands of dollars of the government's money was spent to do all these studies to relocate the airport. Then at the whim of council, the subject was brought up again where it was decided to change direction and voted it down. Key members of the council were not there. It not only bothered him as a Navy person but also as a citizen of St. Marys. Mr. McKinnon is glad to see it brought back up. The move shows you are not only supporting the Navy, but you are concerned about the enhanced quality of life in St. Marys. The economic return of the airport is not producing anything but a tax for our citizens. Think of the taxes that could be reduced, infrastructure improvements could be made and tax revenues could be gained from a well planned project at the airport. The current airport is limited in its ability, it will not grow unless it is moved out to another area where it could grow and be a viable economic engine for the county, not only the City of St. Marys.

**Tom Cyphers**, resident suggested that Council hear from authorized representatives of whoever is affected by this airport. He often wondered, why the U.S. Navy representatives do not come forward to state that this airport is an issue. The same thing holds true with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). A member of Council mentioned that it is a safety threat. When asked who said that, she referred him to an individual who is with (CAG). Mr. Cyphers would like the base commander, who has the authority to speak for the US Navy, to address this issue. What if we are wrong? What if the U.S. Navy does not see the airport as a threat? What if the bigger threat is not having the airport? Many council members are worried about costs, but the FAA has not given definitive numbers on the costs or what we have to gain. There were reports that the City does not make a dime. Times have changed. He appreciates what Mr. McKinnon has done but we must ask the U.S. Navy and FAA to come forward with their statements.

**Jeff Stanford**, resident and fixed based operator of St. Mary Airport is of the opinion since 9/11 that relocating to an undeveloped area, which had protected flight zones, centrally located is a good idea. This City Council made a resolution supporting the relocation and so did Kingsland, Woodbine and all other affected authorities. Blessings for this action were received from the

FAA and Navy. It is a tough task to get the Navy to say that they want the airport moved because it puts them on hook for it. The people who are no longer in the Navy will finally admit it. As far as having aircraft engaged, Mr. McKinnon could verify one occasion with a couple of orders short of shooting down a helicopter, hovering over a restricted area. Mr. Stanford was present when the police arrested the man, detained and called in NCIS to take pictures of him. The local police received a telephone call from the base that they were not to be engaged, which meant they were getting ready to shoot it down. It is not as bad because it is a prohibited area, but it drastically limits the use of the airport. The main runway that goes towards the restricted area does not have an instrument approach. The cross runway has lost 700 feet from each end because of trees growing on private property, and loss of the instrument approach. The Airport Authority chairman could tell us that the FAA is not in any hurry to get it back because they are not certain of the viability of this airport with the constraints it is operating on. It is not only the prohibited area that is halting the growth but also the constraints of the development around it. St. Marys is in a unique position. There are encroachment issues from the base and development of LandMar's property with two to three thousand residents in the traffic pattern of an airport. The FAA has called similar developments in similar locations incompatible development with high end condominiums in the traffic pattern. We would not lose an airport. We are getting another airport. He would be opposed to closing the airport completely but they are not closing only offering to build a new airport. It would not cost the tax payer one penny. The money comes from 95 % of federal and 2 ½ % of state income tax to be spent for aviation uses. Since Sea Island donated the land it would be a good thing for them but it was also one of the locations that the engineers recommended. The donation would take care of the City's 2 ½ %. There will be a new airport that is out in the boonies where people will not hear Navy helicopters on touch and go maneuvers when they are trying to sleep. If the airport ever grows this is what we will get more and more of because it happens all over the country. A good example is Craig Airport in Jacksonville, it is totally encroached on and one of the biggest nuisances of the area. Unfortunately, they waited so long that there is no other real estate to build another airport. We are lucky to have a beautiful spot that could be developed properly, deeded and built at no cost to the tax payers. The money would be spent in Camden County instead of in California. This is an opportunity to put the property back on the tax rolls. Mr. Stanford if looking forward to moving to the new airport because of the current constraints, it would never grow comfortably where it is. One council member has a financial interest in this airport and when the issue comes to vote, he needs to seriously consider whether or not he has a conflict of interest on the vote.

**Dick Russell**, resident stated that there are people on both sides of the issue. Let it move to Committee so everyone could have their say in the matter of whether to move or not. It has finally become evident as has been stated that the biggest driving force to moving the airport is a high end development in the north end of the county, not to the good, necessarily of St. Marys.

**Walter Johnson**, resident commented that he has been in the airplane business for 50 years. Some things heard today were absolutely ludicrous. From a security point of view, if this airport was a threat to the Navy the cost to moving it would be less than the costs of operating a trident submarine for one day and it would be moved in a heartbeat. Would an airplane taking off from St. Marys be a threat? Anything could get into St. Marys. The prohibited area has a ceiling of 3,000 feet. If someone is in town to do damage, they could get there from 3,000 feet a lot quicker than 10,000 -12,000 feet from a dead standstill. So, the threat would never come from

someone attacking this airport, it would come from somewhere else because they could fly right on the base at 3,000 feet. What possible advantage could there be to the City of St. Marys to move it 15 to 20 miles up the road? There is an airport in St. Marys, it belongs here and it is St. Marys Airport. If Sea Island and the rest of Camden County want an airport, they should build one. Not one penny's economic advantage to the City is to move this airport. Every penny derived from it must go into the new airport because it is the FAA's policy. The FAA is starved for money and they will not give up a nickel. If it is moved to the county, then it becomes Camden county airport. It is a major factor and asset to LandMar development and an asset to the City. Mr. Johnson is opposed to moving the airport and council needs to stop bringing the issue up every time there is an election. Otherwise, no one could ever develop a business plan at the airport unless it is laid to rest.

Councilmember Trader made a recommendation to limit comments to a couple minutes. Mayor Eskridge commented that if the airport issue goes to committee, everyone would need to repeat what was already said. The Property Committee along with the Airport Authority would discuss the issue, since they are over the airport.

**Walt Natzic**, resident commented that the last time the airport issue came before Council they made a vote and put the project to bed. It is one of the best cases he has seen of optimizing the asset base of the airport. It has very little value the way it is operated today. The reason is the airport cannot be expanded. It is limited to what it could do. There has been discussion of how the airport has a primary direct influence on the economic output of the property with 20 plus employees. An economic factor cannot be used because there are 20 to 30 people floating but only 4.5 people work full-time. The full-time employees generate an estimate of \$112,000 a year and a secondary cost of \$100,000 for a total of \$220,000 per year. Past discussions estimated a \$6,000,000 output. The county puts a value of the airport at \$5,724,000. If the land was developed, it could grow to \$70,000,000 from tax benefits and money coming out of the airport has good value. If an accident or terrorist action happens, the government intends to close the airport, and we do not take advantage of the land donation and the opportunity to build a new airport, it would be closed immediately and permanently. The result would be losing the current airport and the opportunity for another airport. Mr. Natzic supports moving the airport and beginning construction for a new airport promptly.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **CHARLIE SMITH'S AIRPORT RELOCATION REQUEST (MOVED)**

Mayor Eskridge restated his recommendation to send the airport issue to Committee for discussion and bring a recommendation to Council.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the resolution presented by the Camden partnership to pursue the relocation project of the St. Marys Airport. Due to the fact that studies have been done in past years, costing in excess of \$300,000 dollars; and the fact that all local public entities passed resolutions in support of the study to relocate the airport, which was

completed last year; and that the actions of certain previous council members to stop this project were inconsistent with prior actions of government entities and various other citizen groups. Councilmember Bird called the point of order. Mayor Eskridge stated that it was part of the motion. Councilmember Hase continued stating the motion; countless hours have been already spent by the Citizen Evaluation Committee on this project, which included members of the Airport Authority and public hearings were held where public debate has already taken place. There was no committee meeting to discuss the proposal to stop the project; and the prospect of sending to committee is unsubstantiated due to all the time and money that has already been invested in this project.

Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Council Members discussed the project going on for six years; bringing the issue to committee for discussion and evaluation; whether anything new would come to light in committee; the airport's economic contribution; utilization of the money from the sale for tax payers; no study viable to keeping the airport; technical advisory committee; possible federal funding for another airport in the county, advantage to developers; vision for the city; developing economic activity and tourism downtown; property attractive to large hotels; the safety issue of ingress and egress downtown and Douglas Drive and FAA's position on the city retaining full ownership of the property.

Mayor Eskridge stated that as discussed with the City Attorney, this council cannot sell the airport. It belongs to the airport authority. They have control over the airport, just like the hospital authority had control of the convalescent home.

The City Attorney stated for the record that if this resolution simply dealt with the actual property that the airport is located on, then the Council would have full authority to do what they would want to with that land. But, because it mentions the airport, the airport authority does manage and control the actual airport itself. "I would recommend that it go to the property committee to discuss with the airport authority, before coming back to Council. I, actually, have not approved this resolution to form, not to say that if it was approved, I could edit it for the City Clerk to make it appropriate."

Councilmember Hase stated that to her recollection, in 2003 the City got the property back. Mayor Eskridge commented that the property is not in question. The authority has control of the airport operation.

**Dick Russell**, Chairman St. Marys Airport Authority stated that by FAA regulations, which are federal law, the property will be sold and the money will go to the FAA for the new airport. The authority has a letter from 2004, sent by the FAA to the former Mayor that states this specifically. He has sat in meetings with FAA Representative Scott Seritt where the statement was made that he understood your concern and we will consider it. As a former federal employee for 30 years, the words, "we will consider", it is not a lie, but when it is all over and they send you a bill, they will say, yes sir, we considered it. By federal law there is nothing that could be done. Until it is received in writing that someone in Washington has changed federal law to the benefit of the City of St. Marys it will cost you approximately \$5,000, 000 to sell the land. It is an asset; you will sell it and lose that land. To pass a resolution saying that we will sell the airport, but we will not give you the land is an impossibility. The City needs to get it

straightened out with the FAA first and get it in writing. Mr. Russell commented on the growth of the community and hotel or resorts. He recommended going to the Fernandina Beach Airport to see how it has grown to the point where big jets are flying in every weekend bringing tourist and big spenders who stay at the Ritz Carlton. People are not going to come into expensive hotels in a taxi. They will fly in if possible. Recently, the airport on St. Simons got federal funds. Congressman Kingston went on record to say it was great for the community because it brought in so much business and tourists. St. Simons has four runways. A golf course immediately off one, off the end of two is the city proper and off the end of the last one is high end beach front developments. The area is surrounded as is St. Marys. But Jack Kingston, our representative thinks it is a great thing that that airport is developed. Mr. Russell wishes Congressman Kingston would give St. Marys as much development. As far as the airport being developed, it has been more hampered by council action in diverting money, which should be used for the growth of our airport than anything else. The navy has not affected it. Good pilots fly around bases like that all the time. In 2004 and 2005, almost a half million dollars was spent on a study on whether or not we should move the airport. Who wants it moved? Sea Island. Why do they want it moved? There are smart, they know an airport in the middle of their high end development would make money for them. Mr. Russell suggested not making a move until you talk to some of the people from the new developments and Cumberland Harbour whether it is a value to them. A decision does not need to be made tonight. Send it to committee and let everyone speak and get some good recommendations.

Councilmember Hase suggested that they hear from Mr. Smith because he did request in writing that the whole council sit in on his presentation. He has evidence in the presentation contrary to some of the things that were just said. Mayor Eskridge stated that Mr. Smith agreed to let it go to committee. Now it is being changed.

**Charlie Smith** stated that he was City Attorney in 1980 when the industrial park was created at the airport and got the approval from the FAA although they had surrendered the airport years earlier. On a per acre basis, just from a tax value the industrial park generates about 50 times as much value as the airport. There is absolutely no comparison in the economic value of the industrial park, which could be far beyond what it is now without the airport for planned development and use. Mr. Smith was instrumental in getting the Governor to appoint a committee to go to Washington to have the airport reopened in 2001. As a part of this committee, it was promised by the elected officials in Washington that if the airport was reopened, we would work on the relocation of the airport. Estimates were provided by the DOT on the costs for a new airport. This was pitched to the two senators and congressman in Washington. Partly as a result of that meeting the Joint Development Authority (JDA) with the City of St. Marys approval did an Independent Study in 2002 about what should be done with the airport. Mr. Smith read excerpts from the JDA Study as follows:

Page 27 – The St. Marys Airport functions as a limited civil aviation facility today. There is little reason to believe that the airports utility to the existing community will improve.

Page 30 – In the event that the airport wishes to pursue a facility larger than a Level II Facility; i.e. a facility with 5500 foot runway and a precision approach, the current site could not accommodate these facilities.

Page 31 – Due to the location of the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base property limitations at the existing airport, current and future land issues surrounding the existing airport enter into restricted operations that may limit the duration of the FAA services. The City of St. Marys and Camden County should begin the process of pursuing a new airport site, if it desires an airport which could develop as an economic generator for Coastal Georgia.

It is quite clear in 2002 of the independence of the survey done by the JDA with the approval of the City of St. Marys without the involvement of the Sea Island Company or any other developer, including LandMar or Crescent Resources. In 2005, the City of St. Marys commissioned another study, which is the Airport Feasibility Study. Mr. Smith read excerpts from the Airport Feasibility Study as follows:

Page 3 – The airport cannot fulfill its role as defined in the Georgia Aviation System Plan (GASP)

Page 4 - A future airport allowed to function and grow free from outside constraints should generate significantly more economic benefit for the Community than the existing facility.

Page 6 – Unless addressed, the St. Marys airport will continue to exhibit the need for development of a fully functioning replacement airport.

In 2007, the Environmental Assessment indicates quite clearly both the state and federal government recommend the relocation of this airport. The studies did not have the participation of any developers but were done independently with the approval and under the authority of the City of St. Marys. Everyone talked about this being generated by the bid developer, which is absolutely false. The City went to the Sea Island Company. A city study shows a site, west of I-95 and south of Woodbine that happens to be owned by the Sea Island Company. The Sea Island Company consented with the City request to donate 525 acres of land. Yes, the Sea Island Company would benefit. What if this came up when Rayland Company with all their developing wanted to give land for a new high school? Would this not be helping a big developer? What if Soncel had given land for a high school stadium and a middle school? Would this not help a big developer? What about the Gross family, if they gave land for David Rainer Elementary School or Mamie Lou Gross Elementary School. No one could say that we are not going to help ourselves. We are not going to help tax payers. We are not going to help growth. We are not going to save money in the City of St Marys because it might help somebody. We do not want to help the Sea Island Company because it might hurt LandMar, which is a division of a company larger than Sea Island Company. For a person to say that they helped lead the way to defeat the Tax Allocation District (TAD) that would insure the development of the mill property is a little more than he could personally take. As an investor in the City of St. Marys and the action of the City eventually causes a decrease in the use of the base or some significant accident on the base it will hurt him financially and he wants it protected. There are three independent studies that have recommended the airport be moved. This is a great economic issue with a potential economic engine. There are 286 acres that is producing virtually no revenue. There are no taxes being paid by the lease holders at the airport as far as the county could tell. The law requires you to return real estate leases for property taxes. There is tremendous opportunity for economic development and some are opposed to it.

It is a legitimate argument to leave St. Marys the way it is because it is how it was when I came. In the FAA finding there is no significant environmental impact dated with two different opinions on whether it expires a year from March 2007 or three years. If it expires without any action taken, you take the risk of performing another Environmental Impact Study and throwing everything away. The resolution is worded that if you cannot do it without giving up the land or without spending some money, it does not happen. If this resolution is passed it will cost approximately \$29,000,000 for the cost of a new airport and relocation of a major power transmission line.

Councilmember Johnson recommended sending the airport to the Committee to give everyone an opportunity to speak on the subject. Councilmember DeLoughy called the question, voting was recorded as follows:

**YAY**

Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**NAY**

Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Johnson

The Mayor and Council recessed, with no objections, at 7:30 p.m., returning at 7:40 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

**A. COURT DOCKET: Digital Copies Available to the Public**

The City Manager stated that approval is requested to authorize the court clerk to begin saving all court documents, including the court docket, in electronic format. Under Georgia Statute § 15-1-10, with the prior written consent of the City and the chief judge of its court, the clerk of the municipal court is authorized to create and maintain digital copies of records, pleadings, orders, writs, process, and other documents submitted to or issued by the court. These copies must be readily retrievable in the office of the court clerk, during normal business hours. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the court docket digital copies available to the public. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver questioned whether a scanner was available or is it more expense. The City Attorney responded that as far as she is aware, the court administrator has the office equipment needed to do the job. Under the Sunshine Law it has to be public record and will make things more efficient for someone to see the court docket, which will not have to be updated and reproduced in paper format every time. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Tourism**

The City Manager stated that the budget ordinance is to transfer funds from Special Facilities-Orange Hall to Tourism. The Tourism budget has been funding the office and copier supplies needed for the daily operation of Orange Hall. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the budget ordinance. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. TEMPORARY ALCOHOL LICENSE: *Rotary Club of Kings Bay Foundation, Inc.***

The City Manager recommended approval of the Rotary Club of Kings Bay Foundation, Inc. request of a Temporary Alcohol License for sale of beer/wine, on-premise consumption with food. The Rotary Club has scheduled a fundraising event in conjunction with the “St. Marys Saltwater Classic” held on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Beer will be sold to those who participate in the tournament, in a roped off area between Howard Gilman Waterfront Park and Lang’s Restaurant located at 305 St. Marys Street. A 2008 Alcohol License Application was submitted. The Rotary has met all requirements for a temporary license and they are working on the server’s certification in accordance with city code. In past years, a public hearing was not necessary for a temporary license.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the Rotary temporary alcohol license. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Councilmember’s questioned whether the license is with or without food and if they must complete the servers certification. The City Manager recommended approving as the application was completed without food as long as they remain in the roped off area and they must complete the servers training. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. ALCOHOL SALES REQUEST IN OPEN AREA & PATIO: *Kick Back Café***

The City Manager stated that Kick Back Café requests approval of alcohol sales in an open area and patio. On January 3, 2008, Kick Back Café received an alcohol license from the City of St. Marys. Mr. Atrash wishes to avoid the crowding of the sidewalk out front, and keep it clear from idlers. He is providing a covered, screened in and secure outside area behind the building for use by patrons that is controlled by the establishment. The required exit must be maintained with an alarm to prohibit entry and exit by the patrons or general public in accordance to City Code of Ordinance, Section 10-32.

All plans for the structure were permitted and approved by the City’s building inspection department and fire department, as required by their governing regulations or codes. Staff recommends approval of the alcohol license contingent upon final inspection, and with the applicants understanding that there cannot be any violation or citation issued on the illegal entry or exit from the structure for non emergency purposes, which could lead to revoking or suspending the alcohol license in accordance to City Code of Ordinance, Section 10-18. All requirements for the current alcohol license were met. The City Manager recommended approval contingent to final inspections and compliance with city and state ordinances.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the alcohol sales request in open area and patio at Kick Back Café. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hase questioned the height of the structure being a minimum of 3 ½ feet. The Contractor for the applicant stated that the deck is on the ground with a four foot rail around the structure, which will be fully screened with a door alarmed from the inside.

Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**E. KIWANIS CLUBS FIREWORKS: *Tourism* (REMOVED)**

Mayor Eskridge explained the reason for this items removal is because it is already in the budget and tourism designates how it is spent.

**F. RESOLUTION: *Senior Homestead Exemption***

The City Manager stated that the resolution is to resolve and introduce local legislation in attempts to amend HB No. 26EX (1991) which grants a City homestead ad valorem tax exemption of \$25,000 to citizens age 65 and over whose annual income does not exceed \$25,000. The proposal is to allow all citizens age 65 and over to take advantage of the exemption regardless of income. The current Act requires a cap on income of \$25,000. The City desires to allow all its citizens age 65 and over to take advantage of the tax exemption regardless of income. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the Senior Homestead Exemption as per the resolution. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember Trader questioned how quickly it could be enacted and how quickly it could get done. The City Attorney stated that it had to be amended in general assembly so it would not be done until next year. Councilmember Weaver clarified that at this point all people 65 or older have been receiving the \$25,000 exemption. Councilmember DeLoughy commented that there has not been any income verification either. Councilmember Hase questioned if any other public entities in Georgia do this. The City Clerk stated that a couple came in today from the county office and they were not asked about their income.

Councilmember Bird stated that if you go on-line there are a number of municipalities that do the verification. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: *Citizen Donation to Police Department***

The City Manager stated that approval is needed to accept a donation of exercise equipment to the St. Marys Police Department from a citizen. Mr. Hollis Holden of Osprey Cove is asking to donate his Hoist 4600 multi-station weight machine to the Police Department at no charge to the City. This is a \$7,000 piece of equipment. The City Manager recommended approval of the acceptance of the equipment and to authorize the City to pick it up.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the donation and pick up of the exercise equipment. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Councilmember

Johnson thanked Mr. Holden for his generous donation. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**H. UNIFORM CONTRACT: *Public Works***

The City Manager stated that approval is needed to award a Public Works uniform contract to UniFirst Corporation based on unit prices submitted in their sealed bid opened by the City on March 13, 2008. Due to continued service problems experienced by the Public Works Department with its current uniform supplier (G&K), requests for bids were advertised. Four companies submitted sealed bids for services. The companies were UniFirst, G&K, Aramark, and Riverside. A bid summary sheet is attached for comparison. Based on the bids received, G&K appeared to be the lowest bidder. However, their bid did not include the required documentation that was spelled out in the bid. Therefore, their bid was declared nonresponsive. The next lowest bidder was determined to be UniFirst Corporation. The Public Works Department conducted reference checks of existing UniFirst clients with all references being positive. Therefore, the Public Works Department recommends that the uniform contract (based on unit prices) be awarded to UniFirst Corporation, which is lower than what is paid now. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to accept uniform contract for Public Works from UniFirst Corporation. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**I. SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM: *Hospital Fees Contract***

The City Manager recommended approval of the contract with Southeast Georgia Health System for payment of medical services provided to those persons in custody of the City of St. Marys Police Department. Southeast Georgia Health System provides medical services to persons in custody of the police department. This contract requires the City to be responsible for charges incurred while persons are in custody of the police department, but the City shall receive a thirty five percent (35%) discount for services when the payment is mailed within sixty (60) days of the billing date.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the hospital fees contract with Southeast Georgia Health System. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned who would verify pre-existing conditions. The City Attorney stated that a Police Department staff member has been administratively handling the claims. Currently, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) has a new insurance program, at no additional cost to the City where GMA does a lot of the administrative legwork. It also puts a cap on what the City would owe on an individual inmate that is incarcerated on a regular basis for a long period of time. Councilmember DeLoughy questioned how many people we get on an average that we pay for. The Police Chief responded that this past year they were responsible for an estimate of \$15,000. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**J. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: *Oak Grove Cemetery***

The City Manager stated that the ordinance amendment is to provide for the cleanliness and maintenance of our Oak Grove Cemetery. Our cemetery is a tourism draw and offers a sense of history to residents and visitors. To help maintain the beauty of the cemetery, we need to insure visitors follow established rules. The recommended changes require lot owners to supply their needed tools and to remove these tools when exiting. It also only permits planting of grass since shrubs and trees encroach on other's property rights and creates other maintenance problems. If the property owners do not follow these rules, these changes permit the City to be able to remove tools or unauthorized items from the cemetery. The City Manager and City Attorney recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment for Oak Grove Cemetery. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**K. GEORGIA POWER AGREEMENT: *Encroachment on Easement***

The City Manager recommended approval of an agreement with Georgia Power for a force main to be placed on a current Georgia Power easement. Public works must place a 28" force main through an area of right of way of Georgia Power where the company maintains and operates electric transmission lines by virtue of certain easements over the North River Causeway. This agreement assures Georgia Power that the City will not interfere with any power lines or facilities.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Georgia Power agreement. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**L. CHARLIE SMITH'S AIRPORT RELOCATION REQUEST:  
*Councilmember Hase (ADDED & MOVED BEFORE ITEM "A")***

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

**A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. **Robert Williams**, request final approval for a 2-lot minor subdivision on Nancy Drive in Borrell Park, Tax Parcel #S23 01 007. The Planning Director stated that the request is in accordance with the City of St. Marys Subdivision Ordinance and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the request for final approval of 2-lot minor subdivision on Nancy Drive. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy commented that none of the items have checks where they have the Planning Commission's approval. The Planning Director stated all the items should be checked because they were approved by the Planning Commission. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. **St. Marys Land Development, Inc.**, requests approval for a 42-lot/1- tract subdivision known as Emilio Bay, east of Colerain Road and north of St. Marys Road, Tax Parcel #137 17. The Planning Director stated that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the subdivision and to allow the sale of the first group of lots prior to the completion of the infrastructure to provide funding for another portion of the project. Since the changing of the ordinance to collect fees, Emilio Bay is the only developer caught in the middle of the policy change. Councilmember's discussed the type of units being built, price range, and not approving the certificate of occupancy until the homeowner's infrastructure is completed.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve St. Marys Land Development, Inc. request. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

3. **Ronnie Leinwohl**, Kings Bay Pro3 requests rezoning of a 43.5 acre property known as Haven Park to be rezoned from PD-R5 to a combination of PD-R3 and PD-R5. The Planning Director stated that the project has been submitted for a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) amendment on the prior PD-R5. A traffic study has been completed to open a rear entrance, which will not alter the study. The Planning Commission recommends approval subject to final DRI from the Regional Development Center (RDC) as required by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Haven Park has negotiated a developer's agreement with the Water & Sewer Committee to have a plan. In order to implement the plan certain processes were needed. If the DRI comes in with anything other than what it had in the past, it will need to come back before council. The Planning Commission recommends approval with the caveat.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve Kings Bay Pro3's request to rezone subject to final DRI. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember's discussed the traffic in the area, traffic lights, left turn signals and clarifying the minimum dwelling unit size. Councilmember Hase questioned for the record what did the Planning Commission approve and what size unit. The Planning Director responded that the Planning Commission approved rezoning subject to DRI approval based on 800 minimum square feet. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Planning Director stated that Mayor Eskridge asked that he present the Veterans Memorial Park concept for community involvement in a competition. This would give veterans, students and citizens an opportunity to come up with ideas. A sample of the competition guidelines and registration form was distributed to Council for review and to make recommendation at the next meeting. Councilmember Hase expressed concerns that when the contest is finished, people will think the project will get done immediately and whether Special Purpose Local Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds could be used. The competition award was planned to be announced the award on Memorial Day, Veterans Day or Wounded Warriors Day.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to add it to the next agenda for final approval. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

Councilmember Bird stated that the Public Safety-Police Committee meeting's first order of business was Shadowlawn's railroad crossing. The Committee tasked the Public Works and Planning Directors to survey the entryway where trees and shrubs interfere with traffic visibility of the train. Their findings indicated that the sight problems could be reduced tremendously if the railroad would clear the trees and underbrush on their right of way back 200 feet from Shadowlawn Drive. The St Marys Railroad was contacted and they requested the city's assistance with this effort.

Mayor Eskridge responded that the city is not authorized to go on private property. The City Manager would check into this action.

**1. Low Speed Vehicle Ordinance**

Council approval is needed to amend the ordinance to clear up the confusion of a golf cart and a low speed vehicle definition, and set fines for first time violators not less than \$50, second offenses not less than \$100 and third offense according to St. Marys Code of Ordinance, Section 1-12.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Low Speed Vehicle Ordinance. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver clarified that golf carts are covered on homeowners insurance if they are on their own property. Otherwise, a rider is needed on the homeowner's insurance policy if they are not on their own property. Councilmember Trader commended the Committee for its time and effort on the ordinance but commented on the fines not being high enough. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**2. Taxi Ordinance**

The City does not have a taxi ordinance and the Committee is still in the process of creating one by gathering information from other agencies.

**3. Waterfront Park and Golf Cart Parking**

There were a number of issues raised about taking golf carts into the park and parking on the Westside of the lawn. Last year, the Committee went to the park to look at the entryway of Howard Gilman Waterfront Park. It is very wide and lends itself to creating golf cart and motorcycle parking for an additional bonus of 12-14 parking units.

Councilmember Bird made a motion on behalf of the Safety Committee to continue with the striping of the parking spaces for motorcycles and golf carts at the entrance of the Waterfront Park. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **4. Point Peter Road Multi-Use Designation**

Recommendations were made to include golf carts on the path and changing the speed limit to 35 miles per hour. The road is already included on the DOT list but a traffic study is required.

Councilmember Hase questioned whether the speed limit is being lowered because golf carts would be on the road or the pathway and what about North River Causeway. Committee members responded that golf carts would travel on the road because with the amount of development in the area the speed limit would eventually be lowered. The Assistant City Manager stated that the recommendation is to look at roads so speed limits could be lowered at the same time.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to authorize the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to provide a list of streets that need speed limits lowered, and then go back to the Public Safety Committee for review and recommendations to Council. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember's discussed costs associated with widening the path and safety issues associated with driving on the street opposed to pathways and SPLOST funds usage for sidewalks. Following much discussion, voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **5. Golf Cart Identification Registration**

The Police Department has volunteered to serve as a conduit for people who wish to provide the department with information on their golf carts in case of theft so they could be identified with the vehicle identification number.

### **C. WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 1.** Councilmember Trader reported on the Water and Sewer Committee meeting today with the first item of business being Haven Park developer's agreement that was reviewed by the City Attorney and Committee. The Committee recommends approval of the agreement, which give them 90,000 gallons per day with an additional 67,000 gallons per day over and above what is currently provided and committed. Fees would be paid up front for discretion fees and the water/sewer tap fees. It does provide in the event of a total stopping of the project for a period of six month, the City has the ability to take back the capacity. The City Attorney will be making a change to the agreement in paragraph two, the words "the oral or" will be stricken from the agreement.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to approve the Haven Park agreement with the correction as noted. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Trader stated that a timetable is attached to the agreement for the construction. With the timeline of the project the City does not anticipate being into capacity very far before we get the 4.0 million additional capacity. Based upon this timeline we are confident in being able to provide Haven Park with the additional 67,000 gallons per day. If they would begin all the building at one time and utilize all the capacity in the

next six months, the 1.0 million allows enough capacity for Exhibit "B". Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Brant Creek was postponed because the revised agreement was not ready for the Committees review. When it is ready the Committee will schedule a meeting.
3. The City Manager briefed Council that the Point Peter Plant is expected to be up and running by the second or third week in May with 1.8 million capacity. At that time, the original tank will be closed for repairs. Work has already begun on the 4.0 million capacity.
4. Smoke testing is about 30% completed. It does not include some of the older sections of the City but the Public Works Director is continuing to identify problem areas.

### **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

March 27, 2008 – Attended the Flag Ceremony for the USS Georgia

March 28, 2008 – Attended the USS Georgia Return to Service Ceremony

March 31 – April 1 & 2, 2008 – The City's held the FY09 Budget workshops

April 7, 8 & 9, 2008 – Participated in the Washington Fly-In

Mayor Eskridge stated that during the committee assignments this year he failed to appoint a chairman of the Public Safety-Fire Committee. Since two members of the committee already have a chairmanship, the Mayor appointed Deborah Hase as chairman of the Public Safety-Fire Committee. Ms. Hase accepted the appointment and there were no objections.

Mayor Eskridge announced that the calendars are available in the lobby.

The Aquatic Center has begun season pass sales and one swim class is overloaded already.

### **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

- The City Manager congratulated St. Marys Middle School for participation in a choir contest in Orlando, Florida. They received awards for best middle school and best in tournament.
- The Budget was completed and books were distributed to Council
- Attended a Disaster Preparedness class for city managers and elected officials with Councilmember Johnson. FEMA and GEMA orientation was presented on how to obtain refunds before and after a disaster. NIMS (National Incident Management System) 400 training is mandated by the State and Federal governments for all councilmember's and employees. NIMS is a procedure and process that needs to be followed during any disaster in order to receive funding and grants. The City of Americus was hit by a tornado. They walked the class through the NIMS process from beginning to end, learned during their disaster.
- The kickoff to Georgia Cities Week begins on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The City of St. Marys with the help of its citizens has planned events to celebrate this time. A flyer is available for all scheduled events in the lobby.

Councilmember Trader commended staff on the wonderful job putting together the newsletter. Mayor Eskridge announced that today was Mr. Shanahan's Birthday.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Kay Sullivan**, resident addressed the large area in front of the park was left open to showcase the park. During the construction of the park a Veterans groups in the area was interested in putting a memorial in the park and they were refused. The City might need to contact them for the proposed Veterans Memorial Park.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Legal & Personnel (ADDED)*

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

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 9:02 p.m., returning at 9:45 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

**PERSONNEL**

No official action was taken at this time.

**LEGAL**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to authorize the City Attorney to answer the filing for the West Hall Street claim from Dilworth to the nursing home in regards to the Donini case. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Bird made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk