



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

February 23, 2009

PUBLIC HEARING

5:45 p.m.

ALCOHOL LICENSE

LKC ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A THE MILL SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 p.m.

**AMENDED
AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. INVOCATION: *Councilmember Greg Bird*
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL QUORUM: YES X NO
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *February 9, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2009 Alcohol License Public Hearing "Celtic
Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC*

PRESENTATION:

ST MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **LKC ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A THE MILL SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL:**
New Alcohol License

B. **HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT:**
New Senior Center

C. **AIRPORT AUTHORITY DISCUSSION:** *Councilmember Hase (ADDED-
INADVERTENTLY LEFT OFF BY CLERK)*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **MR. JOE ROWELL:** *Water Tap Fee for 160 Charles Street*
- B. **WASHINGTON FLY-IN UPDATE:** *Councilmember Hase*
- C. **AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPEN MEETINGS/RECORDS TRAINING:**
Councilmember Hase
- D. **CODERED WEATHER WARNING JOINT AGREEMENT**
- E. **BUDGET ORDINANCES:**
Record Funds and Expenditures Associated with the Way-Finding Grant
- F. **& G. NEXT STEP IN THE AIRPORT RELOCATION PROCESS/RESOLUTION DIRECTING CITY OFFICIALS TO SEEK FUNDING AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH A NEW REGIONAL AIRPORT:** *Councilmember DeLoughy*
- H. **AIRPORT APPRAISALS**
- I. **FINS LIQUOR, INC NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE:** *Public Hearing Advertising*
- J. **VACANT CSR POSITION IN THE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**
- K. **VACANT COURT TECHNICIAN POSITION:** **(REMOVED)**

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

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

- 1. Paid Leave Policy
- 2. Reduction in Force Policy

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Legal*

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

February 23, 2009

5:45 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

LKC Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A The Mill Seafood Bar & Grill

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met in a Public Hearing on Monday, February 23, 2009 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver
Councilmember Larry Johnson

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Kim Dockery, Accountant
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the public hearing to order at 5:45 p.m., and stated the purpose of the public hearing was for "LKC Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A The Mill Seafood Bar & Grill" alcohol license application. The floor was opened to the public for questions and/or comments.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

There were no questions and/or comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eskridge declared the public hearing closed at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Folsom, Deputy City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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 23, 2008 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver
Councilmember Larry Johnson

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Kim Dockery, Accountant
Rindy Howell, Sr. Center Coordinator
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arm

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Bird 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:

February 9, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2009 Alcohol License Public Hearing "Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC"

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the February 9, 2009 regular City Council meeting minutes and the February 9, 2009 Alcohol License Public Hearing "Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar, LLC" minutes. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION

ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT:

Bill Carreira, President of the St. Marys Submarine Museum reported no major problems in the last year, but expressed concerns about the continued flooding problem at the back of the

building. He reported that the Submarine Museum will be sponsoring two major WWII SubVet events, which will be held locally; the Southern Regional meeting in May and the annual WWII Memorial Service. John Crouse, the Submarine Museum manager will be traveling to attend two other WWII events, one in St. Augustine, FL and the national convention in Green Bay, WI, which will bring attention to St. Marys and hopefully attract other SubVets to visit the area. Mr. Carreira also reported that the WWII SubVets national organization has deposited their national records in the St. Marys museum. He also reported that the periscope should be repaired later this year.

Councilmember DeLoughy asked for an estimate of the number of visitors the Submarine Museum gets each year. Mr. Crouse estimated that there are approximately 7000 per year.

Mayor Eskridge asked if adding a buffer of concrete in the back would help prevent the flooding issue and asked Public Works to look into this issue. Mr. Shanahan explained that the flooding issue has been addressed and should be corrected with the work being done at Mr. Talley's new building.

Mr. Carreira commented that this will be his last year as president. The next president will be Doug Cooper. In closing, Mr. Carreira thanked the City of St. Marys for their support of the Submarine Museum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda and add *Work Session* and *Agenda Format* to the agenda for discussion. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. *Work Session* was added to the agenda as item "L" under new business and *Agenda Format* was added to the agenda as item "M" under new business.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Doug Vaught, resident thanked City Council, City staff and everyone that was involved in planning the Mardi Gras Festival.

Roger Rillo, resident thanked Chief Horton, Chief Hatch, Major Wooten, Bobby Marr and city staff for the great job they did to make the Mardi Gras Festival successful. He also expressed concerns about the county's recent tax assessments and gave examples of some properties in the downtown St. Marys area, which increased in value from mid 200's to over 1 million dollars. He also expressed concern about how residents who live downtown and are on a fixed income will be able to pay for this tax increase. He went on to say that he does not mind paying for great services such as police & fire, but does not feel his taxpayer dollars should be spent looking for funds for a regional airport, something he does not feel is needed at this time.

Dave Schmidt, resident spoke about the airport resolution and feels taxpayers dollars are being spent on the airport being relocated, because staff and Council time is being spent on finding ways to raise money for the relocation. He also inquired about the status of cameras being

installed on red lights to catch violators running stop lights. He stated that it was his understanding this project would be at no cost to the taxpayers and felt it would be a great project. He also asked if someone could look into why the speed limit on Hwy 40 thru the intersection of Hwy 40 and Spur 40 is 45 mph. He feels 45 mph is too fast for that area.

Tom Cypfers, resident spoke about his concern of the reassessments and asked City Council if someone from the Assessor's Office could be invited to a Council meeting or public hearing to explain the reassessments.

Ed McCoy, resident, and member of the Camden County Board of Equalization, spoke about the Tax Assessor's process. He explained that every resident who gets an assessment has a right to file an appeal and that every resident also has a right to go to the Tax Assessors office to discuss the assessment. He went on to say the City Council has nothing to do with the assessment process.

Randall Dockery-Pastor of Church of God of Prophecy, asked that the public hearing for Fins liquor store be denied, because of the close proximity to his church.

Reggie Whitehurst, Spoke about the concerns of having Fins liquor store located so close to their church and said he would like to see the store further from the church.

Robert Burns, resident and Youth Pastor of Church of God of Prophecy expressed concerns about the potential foot traffic going past his residence, after leaving the liquor store. He stated he has small children that spend time outside his residence and at the church.

Walter Johnson, resident expressed concerns about items being placed on the agenda at the last minute. He feels government should be run more openly. He also spoke about the relocation of the St. Marys Airport and does not feel it should be called the St. Marys Airport, because it will no longer be in St. Marys if it is relocated. He also expressed concerns about the City Manager's time being spent looking for funds for the airport relocation. He stated he does not feel the airport land is viable for development.

Mayor Eskridge recognized a Boy Scout group in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. LKC ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A THE MILL SEAFOOD BAR & GRILL: *New Alcohol License*

LKC Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A The Mill Seafood Bar & Grill requests approval of a 2009 Alcohol License for sale of beer, wine and spirituous liquor, on-premise consumption, with food. Having met all requirements, the City Manager recommended approval of the 2009 Alcohol License.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve The Mill Seafood Bar & Grill alcohol license. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT: *New Senior Center*

During the work session on February 17, 2009, some Council members expressed concerns that the building improvements were not included in the lease and there were also concerns that utility and insurance costs for this building may exceed the current Senior Center budget. City Attorney Amanda Blackledge was asked to contact Mr. Stein to address Council's concerns. Ms. Blackledge stated she had spoken with Jim Stein following the work session and it is the Hospital Authority's intent to keep the lease as it is.

Jim Stein clarified if building improvements are needed, they would be considered by the Hospital Authority on a case by case basis, as funds are available. He stated the Hospital Authority has already committed to refurbishing the storage room to a game room, kitchen upgrades, purchasing a pool table, parking lot and entrance lighting, video security, possibly subsidizing meals and a 52" television and he felt the City could provide some in-kind services in return. Further, there is a provision in the lease that the building could be used as a community center for other functions and rental income could be used to offset some of the costs of the center. He went on to say the lease agreement is holding up the purchase of the building.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the lease. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Hase asked Rindy Howell if she thought the seniors would be upset if this building was used for other purposes than a senior center. She remembered the seniors having an issue with this in the past. Ms. Howell commented that she did not feel it would be an issue, because rental income would be going back into the Senior Center.

C. AIRPORT AUTHORITY DISCUSSION: *Councilmember Hase*

Councilmember Hase commented that during the work session on February 19, 2009, it is her understanding that the general consensus of Council was to give the Airport Authority until their March 2, 2009 meeting to withdraw their legal appeal. She said she attended the Community Action Group meeting on February 12, 2009, where the Executive Director of the Governor's Military Affairs Commission, Lt. Colonel Bill Cain addressed the group and said that the City's issue with the Airport Authority is a "legal quagmire". At this meeting, he further stated that the airport issue most assuredly will be a factor in whether or not the base will receive additional missions in the future. He also said in a conversation after the meeting, that the airport could very well cost the community economically and questioned why we would take that risk.

Councilmember Hase stated it is imperative that City Council resolve the situation with the Airport Authority and made a request to have this issue placed on the March 9, 2009 agenda for action, based on the Airport Authority's decision regarding the appeal. She went on to say she

feels City Council owes it to the constituents in this economy, to do whatever can be done to protect the City's position to obtain additional missions at the base. She further expressed wanting to go to Washington DC in April, with the airport issue resolved; so officials in DC can be assured the City is moving forward, without legal baggage.

Mayor Eskridge commented that he feels the airport quagmire could be resolved with cooperation between the City Council and Airport Authority. He said he feels City Council owes it to the Airport Authority to sit down with them and keep them abreast of what is happening with the airport relocation. He further stated that if the Airport Authority had been involved in discussions about the relocation, the issue may not have gone to court.

After a lengthy discussion between Mayor and Council and Jim Stein, attorney for the Airport Authority; Mr. Stein stated that all the Airport Authority wants is to be a part of the airport relocation. Councilmember Hase replied that the Airport Authority has been included with the airport relocation project, because they had members present at the initial meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. MR. JOE ROWELL: *Water Tap Fee for 160 Charles Street*

City Manager Bill Shanahan explained that Mr. Rowell has asked for additional time to prepare for this item. Councilmember Weaver made a motion to postpone this item. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. WASHINGTON FLY-IN UPDATE: *Councilmember Hase*

Councilmember Hase reported that at last count, twenty-three people, including herself and Councilmember DeLoughy were planning to attend the annual trip. Some of the items to be discussed this year for the community are education, new missions at the base and quality of life. Items for St. Marys include the airport issue, Colerain Road extension and a shovel-ready list, which includes infrastructure projects. She went on to say she feels these trips are very beneficial and in the trips she has been involved with in the past, she has never returned empty handed and hopes that this time will be the same.

C. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS OPEN MEETINGS/RECORDS TRAINING: *Councilmember Hase*

Councilmember Hase expressed concerns about members violating open meetings and records laws, due to lack of awareness of the laws and suggested that new appointees receive training in open meetings/records. City Attorney, Amanda Blackledge stated that she will get with the City Clerk regarding this issue, when she returns from leave. Councilmember Weaver made a motion to add this item as old business at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. CODERED WEATHER WARNING JOINT AGREEMENT

City Manager Bill Shanahan explained that CodeRed Weather Warning is a service which provides severe weather warnings to resident's telephones within seconds after being issued by the National Weather Service. Residents who sign up for this service on the City's/County's website would receive warning messages any time severe weather threatens their local area. This service would not simply call everyone in the City, but instead would only notify the immediately affected areas based on instant satellite feeds and lat/long coordinates. CodeRed would automatically initiate the calling with no involvement of City staff. The minutes used would in no way affect the City's current pool of minutes for emergency notifications. The cost for this service would be \$2500.

Councilmember Bird **moved to disapprove the agreement for CodeRed due to the critical financial situation of our times and** because he feels there are other services, which provide this same service for free. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. BUDGET ORDINANCES: Record Funds and Expenditures Associated with the Way-Finding Grant

City Manager Bill Shanahan explained that the City of St. Marys received a Way-Finding grant, which will be spent on mapping and signage. It is necessary to record the grant in the grant fund. Also, the funds are recorded as a transfer to General Fund and the necessary expenditures are increase to provide payment for the service.

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

F. & G.: NEXT STEP IN THE AIRPORT RELOCATION PROCESS/RESOLUTION DIRECTING CITY OFFICIALS TO SEEK FUNDING AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH A NEW REGIONAL AIRPORT: Councilmember DeLoughy

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

After a discussion, the following changes were made to the resolution (additions in red):

A RESOLUTION ~~BY THE~~ **BY THE DIRECTING CITY OFFICIALS **OF THE CITY OF ST. MARYS** TO SEEK FUNDING AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH A NEW ~~REGIONAL AIRPORT;~~ **REGIONAL AIRPORT;** AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, following the events of September 11, 2001, the St. Marys Airport was effectively closed to all flights by the Federal Aviation Administration, and was thereafter reopened ~~upon the commitment of representatives of the City of St. Marys to seek an alternate site for an airport;~~ and

WHEREAS, restrictions were, as requirement of such reopening, imposed by the FAA on takeoff and landing patterns at the airport, and a no-fly zone was created over Kings Bay Submarine Base to the north of the airport; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Marys, with significant funding assistance from the United States government, conducted a feasibility study for the relocation of the airport, in which 9 sites were studied and one site was chosen in 2005 as the preferred site for the relocation of the airport, for which site the owner agreed at the City's request to donate approximately 500 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, with additional federal funding assistance, an Environmental Assessment for the Replacement St. Marys Airport was completed in the year 2007 and was approved by the Federal Aviation Agency in its Finding of No Significant Impact dated March 27, 2007; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on April 14, 2008, the Mayor, Mayor Pro-tem, and City Manager of the City of St. Marys were directed to pursue the relocation of the airport located in the City as described in such reports, and to make use of all available assistance in the pursuit of such relocation, and to make regular reports to this body on the progress made; and

WHEREAS, the relocation effort has proceeded slowly, and if work is not begun on the new airport within three years of the Finding of No Significant Impact and no extension has been effected, additional funding will be required to update the environmental study; and

WHEREAS, this body believes it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of St. Marys and all of Camden County that a new ~~regional~~ airport be established as described in the studies mentioned in this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. MARYS as follows:

The **City Officials** ~~Mayor Pro-tem and City Manager~~ are directed to represent the City of St. Marys before the local, state and federal governments and all agencies and officials to pursue the funding of the new ~~regional~~ airport on the west side of Highway Interstate 95 between Harrietts Bluff Road and Billyville Road, as generally described in the 2007 Environmental Assessment for the Replacement St. Marys Airport.

The **City Officials** ~~Mayor Pro-tem and City Manager~~ are directed to seek funding in the amount of not less than \$3,500,000.00 for planning and design and preliminary construction of such airport, and to pursue the relocation of the airport, seeking and using all available assistance. They are further directed to seek language in federal legislation to make it clear that in the event of relocation of the airport, the City of St. Marys will retain ownership of the **current** airport property and that there will be no charge to the City of **St. Marys** for retaining such ownership.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of February, 2009.

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

BY: _____
Its Mayor Rowland T. Eskridge, Sr.

ATTEST: _____
Its Clerk Darlene M. Roellig

(SEAL)

Councilman Greg Bird

Councilman Bill DeLoughy

Councilwoman Deborah Hase

Councilman Larry Johnson

Councilman Chuck Trader

Councilwoman Gull Weaver

Councilmember Bird went on record to oppose the resolution; because he feels relocating the airport during the current state of the economy is unfair to the citizens of St. Marys and places an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers of St. Marys.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember DeLoughy called for the question. Voting was recorded as follows:

For

Councilmember Weaver
Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader

Opposed

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

H. AIRPORT APPRAISALS:

As per resolution, Mayor Eskridge, Councilman Deloughy, and the City Manager were directed to move forward with moving the St. Marys Airport at no cost to the City, with the understanding that the City would retain ownership of the airport property. A major step in this process is an appraisal of the St. Marys airport. As directed by the FAA, the property needs to be appraised at its highest and best use under the assumption that the property would no longer be used as an airport. Cantrell Real Estate, Inc. has identified the cost for this appraisal at \$15,000. The money is available through a grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation and donations from City Citizens.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to have Cantrell Real Estate, Inc. conduct an appraisal of the current St. Marys Airport, with half of the cost paid up front and the remainder of the cost paid upon receipt of the completed appraisal. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion.

Voting was recorded as follows:

For

Councilmember Weaver
Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader

Opposed

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

I. FINS LIQUOR, INC. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE: *Public Hearing Advertising*

Councilmember Hase made a motion to deny. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion for discussion. Following discussion with the City Attorney, Councilmember Hase withdrew the motion.

Councilmember Bird moved to postpone this item to the next council meeting. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. VACANT CSR POSITION IN THE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT:

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to allow this position to be filled. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. VACANT COURT TECHNICIAN POSITION: *Removed*

L. WORK SESSION

Councilmember Weaver questioned whether the work session was beneficial. Councilmember Johnson expressed concerns about the work session. He also expressed concern that the public would have to attend two separate meetings. Councilmember Hase explained that work sessions were done in the past because there were no committee meetings. Councilmember DeLoughy expressed concerns that the work session only created two separate long meetings and suggested that perhaps a work session could be done about an hour before the regular Council meeting. Councilmember Bird feels that most issues can be resolved at a work session and said if agenda items were more descriptive, perhaps it would not require as much discussion. Councilmember Weaver feels an informal work session could be beneficial. Councilmember DeLoughy commented that a work session would let members know if additional information may be needed and if it was, the item could be postponed to a later date. Councilmember Hase made a motion to hold a work session on March 9, 2009 at 4:30pm.

M. Agenda Items

Councilmember Weaver expressed an interest in adding a summary portion for each item on the agenda. Councilmember Hase stated the person who provides the item for the agenda should provide the summary. Mr. Shanahan was directed to include a summary with each item on the agenda.

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilmember Hase, Committee Chair reported that at the meeting, the City Manager and HR Director were tasked to look into public safety employees accruing leave differently than other employees and bring back their best recommendation to the committee. The Personnel Committee has scheduled another meeting on March 4th at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the paid leave and reduction in force policies.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

- Met with Census Bureau regarding 2010 census
- Read to St. Marys 4th grade class for Black History Month
- February 17th—St. Marys Elementary students held a mock council meeting in the Council Chamber
- February 20th –in attendance while a new tree was planted in the median across from DDA building for Arbor Day
- February 21—participated in the Mardi Gras Festival

Mayor Eskridge read the calendar of events, meetings and activities for the next two weeks.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

- Currently in the process of hiring an assistant for Clerks office
- Attended Goals & Objectives meeting
- Has directed Finance Director to provide forecasts for remainder of the year for revenues
- Has directed Planning/Building Director to provide updates of permits and developments
- Continue to work on employee morale
- January was one of busiest months Fire Department
- DDA participated in Arbor Day celebration
- Upgrading financial software in Finance
- Planning Dept. is identifying septic tanks located in St. Marys and will notify owners to get hooked up to sewer pursuant to city ordinance
- Roger Weaver and Keith Post have been appointed to the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council by the Governor
- HR Dept. is looking at various ways to hold down health insurance costs

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Roger Rillo, resident applauded the Tourism and DDA websites stating they were very instrumental in getting Mardi Gras information out to public.

Dave Schmidt, resident expressed that he did not like how the booths were set up at Mardi Gras festival. He also spoke about Comcast losing the Georgia Public television station. Councilmember Weaver explained that Comcast was contracting with one Georgia Public television station that did not go digital and were in the process of locating another one. She feels someone needs to follow up on this issue. Also spoke about the Airport issue.

Keith Post, resident commented about how great the Mardi Gras Festival was. He also thanked everyone who attended the 1000th patrol ceremony on the base. He said that if there was ever a question about the importance of our base and the mission it has, it was put to rest when leaders such as the Secretary of the Navy, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval

Operations, Commander in charge of all nuclear weapons in the country, Group Commander and Congressmen Kingston attended this ceremony.

He discussed a seminar put on by the Chamber and hosted by Watson Realty, which addressed the issue of reassessments and expressed plans to hold another seminar this year. He also commented about the CodeRed Weather issue and asked Council to reconsider this issue in the future. He feels it is an important issue and pointed out that some technologies do not always work when the power is out. He discussed the airport issue and stated for the record that the Navy has put it in writing that they support the City's decision to move the airport. He said he will be sworn in on March 13, 2009 to the Coastal Georgia Regional Water Planning Council and is honored to be selected by the Governor. He ended by announcing a new Coast Guard cutter is set to arrive sometime in June. Senator Chambliss will be the guest speaker.

Jeff Stanford, resident commented about the airport. He stated he has attended almost all meetings that have had anything to do with airport and said that anyone who says the Airport Authority is not against the move, have not attended the same meetings. He feels it is clear that the Airport Authority as a whole does not want the airport moved. He went on to say that the four council members voting for the relocation have done their research and are voting for the best interest of the city. He also expressed concerns that one councilmember has a lease with the Airport Authority, has a business at the airport, pays the Airport Authority money, derives income from his business at the airport, represents other businesses in negotiations with the Airport Authority, yet consistently votes on airport issues. He suggested there may be the appearance of a conflict of interest and that this issue should be resolved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Legal*

Councilmember Hase made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. After questions regarding the need to adjourn to Executive Session, Councilmember Hase asked City Attorney, Amanda Blackledge if she could provide a summary of the Cumberland Harbor issue in open session. Ms. Blackledge explained that the City is working with the bonding company. The Public Works Department is working on a detailed punch list of items that were left to be done. She said at this point, everything looks very hopeful; however there is no date of when construction will begin on the infrastructure.

LEGAL

There was no "Executive Session" at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Bird made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Folsom, Deputy City Clerk