

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**APRIL 1, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Statesboro City Council was held on April 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Present were Mayor William Hatcher, Council Members Tommy Blich, Will Britt, Joe Brannen, Travis Chance, and Gary Lewis. Also present were Interim City Manager Chris Addleton, Director of Finance and Administration Judy McCorkle, City Attorney Sam Brannen, Planning Director Jim Shaw, and City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 18, 2008**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich, to approve the minutes of March 18, 2008. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Mayor Hatcher recognized Mr. Allen Burns, Executive Director, Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center. Mr. Burns introduced himself, and stated he has been on the R.D.C. Board for almost a month, and he wanted to emphasize that he will be in the community and he is looking forward to working with the City.

Mayor Hatcher stated the City's Finance Department has been awarded the prestigious Government Finance Officer's Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fourth consecutive year. He presented the award to the Finance Staff: Judy McCorkle, Anita Hall, Allison Chambers, Andrea Mitchell, Cindy West, and Annette Waters.

Mayor Hatcher recognized Dr. Ben Thompson regarding the Statesboro/Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, Entrepreneur Friendly Initiative. Dr. Thompson stated the Entrepreneur Friendly Initiative has been around since 2002. He said this is Governor Perdue's initiative to provide a community-based program that helps create an entrepreneur environment, building entrepreneur and small business strategy into the community's over all economic development strategies. He stated they are looking at a three county region of Bulloch, Screven, and Evans County. Dr. Thompson stated they decided they would be entrepreneur certified in each County separately. He stated Evans County was certified in December, Screven was certified in February, and Bulloch should be certified on April 15, 2008. He stated there is a six step process for the certification. Dr. Thompson stated the end result will allow us to become more equipped to help small businesses in the three counties. He said once they become designated they will be eligible for a \$25,000 grant yearly to help small business development training.

Mayor Hatcher recognized Brooke Carney, Director of Keep Bulloch Beautiful. Ms. Carney gave a brief presentation on the Solid Waste Management Plan. She stated the plan was submitted to DCA already and they said everything looked great. She stated the next step is the final public hearing which is Wednesday night, April 2, 2008, at the County office. Then, the City and County will adopt a Resolution they'll submit it to the Coastal Georgia RDC, who will forward it to DCA.

Mayor Hatcher recognized Heath Browning, Coordinator for the Bulloch County Drug Free Community Support Program. Mr. Browning stated there will be a Town Hall meeting tonight at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He stated the purpose of the meeting is to address the problem of underage drinking in Bulloch County.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **APPLICATION RZ 08-02-01; MATTIE M. LEWIS REQUESTS REZONING FROM R-4 (HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) TO CR (COMMERCIAL RETAIL) AND A SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR A COMMERCIAL STORAGE FACILITY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 204 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE.**

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated the Public Hearings on the agenda have been properly advertised as required by State Law. He said this property is split zoning, the front portion on Martin Luther King Drive is Commercial Retail and the rear portion, which is undeveloped is zoned R-4. He said the applicant is requesting rezoning of the R-4 portion to Commercial Retail to permit the construction of a self storage business. He said commercial storage is not specifically listed as a permitted use in the C.R. District and requires approval as a special exception. He said the adjacent property to the north contains residential uses, the property to the east is part of the Elm Street Church of God property, and the south contains a mix of Commercial uses. He said the existing R-4 portion of the property provides a transition between residential uses to the north and commercial uses to the south. Staff is concerned that a self storage facility may not be compatible with existing residential uses, due to lights and general activity that may occur on the property. Staff recommends denial and the Planning Commission recommends approval by a 4-1 vote.

Mattie Lewis stated there was a muffler shop there for more than 40 years and now that Mr. Lewis is not here she was interested in doing something for herself to bring in income. She stated the property is fenced in and the properties are at the back of the building. Councilman Britt asked if she spoke to neighbors around there regarding this request. Mrs. Lewis stated no. Councilman Britt asked Councilman Lewis if he has any concerns in his district regarding this matter. Councilman Lewis stated no. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blich to approve Application RZ 08-02-01. Councilman Britt stated he would like Mrs. Lewis to consider lighting possibilities maybe allowing the light to shine down and not up. Councilman Lewis stated the more lights in the area the better. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

### **APPLICATION V 08-03-02; EDWARD CURL, JR. REQUESTS VARIANCES TO REDUCE THE BUILDING SETBACK REQUIREMENT FROM 60 FEET TO 52 FEET AND TO REDUCE THE PARKING AREA SETBACK REQUIREMENT FROM 20 FEET TO 7 FEET ALONG THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 801 SOUTH MAIN STREET.**

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated a Yamaha dealership is currently being constructed on the site. At the site plan meeting all the zoning requirements were approved prior to the issuance off a building permit. He stated the applicant submitted this request for the variance of the parking setback; stating that widening of Rucker Lane had eliminated the available space on the site for parking. He said after comparing the site plan that was approved as part of the building permit application staff noticed two changes. 1) Widening of the parking area on the north side of the building by five feet. 2) Movement of the building eight feet to the north toward Rucker lane. Mr. Shaw stated when the application was approved the building was already on the setback line which is 60 feet, so by moving the building eight feet it no longer meets the front setback along Rucker Lane. He said the results of the changes means the parking area is seven feet from the property line instead of the required 20 feet.

Mr. Shaw stated the hardship is self created due to moving the building location it was approved for the building permit and the applicant's desire for additional pavement. He said if the plan had

been followed the variance would not be needed. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend denial.

Bill Bailey, a representative for Edward Curl, stated he is not aware of the building being moved. He said we're not trying to meet a parking requirement. He said the variance is for space to allow the 18 wheelers to have room to unload. He said they meet the 20 foot setback requirements on Hwy 301. He said the side street the new curb line is 15 feet closer to the property then the existing edge of the pavement. He said we meet the parking requirement without the variance; we need the variance to open up space to allow the trucks to unload.

Councilman Brannen asked Mr. Shaw if the building permit originally submitted differs from this request. Mr. Shaw stated yes. Councilman Brannen asked Mr. Bailey about the building being moved from the first request to the new request. Mr. Bailey stated the building has not been moved, it might have been a drawing error by their staff; however, the building has not been moved. Mayor Hatcher asked Engineering Director Mazhar Elhaj if the building was moved. Mr. Elhaj stated he is not aware of the building being moved.

Councilman Chance stated the main purpose of the variance is not parking, but space for the trucks to unload. He stated if the variance is not granted the trucks will congest Rucker Lane for a limited amount of time. Mr. Bailey stated yes. Councilman Chance made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve Application V 08-03-02. Councilman Britt stated with this coming forward something fell through a crack and an error was made. He stated there needs to be a way to take a few seconds to avoid this ever happening again. Councilman Blich, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**APPLICATION V 08-03-04; STATESBORO FLEA MARKET, LLC REQUESTS VARIANCES TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE AN ASPHALT OR CONCRETE SURFACE FOR A PARKING LOT, TO REDUCE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF SPACES FROM 250 TO 225, AND TO ELIMINATE THE 20-FOOT PARKING AREA SETBACK REQUIREMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 51 HIGHWAY 301 NORTH.**

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated this property is split by a zoning district line. The front portion for about 170 feet is zoned H.O.C. and the remainder is zoned Light Industrial. He said there is a warehouse located on the property which is in the process of being converted to a flea market. He said this change of use requires the property be brought in compliance with the zoning standards and most notably the parking requirements. Mr. Shaw stated 250 parking spaces are required for this use and the parking must be paved. He said the applicant submitted a site plan that showed more the sufficient parking spaces; however, due too some other issues, width of the drive isles, some spaces would be lost, so Staff added the variance on a number of parking spaces. He said the applicant has agreed to provide the 24 foot wide drive isles as required by the ordinance. He has also agreed to provide the 20 foot setback along the front property line. Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval of the variance to reduce the number of spaces, but denial of the requested variances. Planning Commission also recommended granting 18 months to pave the side and rear portions of the parking lot.

Jerry Jennings was available for questions. He said he came into an agreement with Jimmy Hendrix the owner of the property next door. He said Mr. Hendrix has two acres of land that maybe used for the over flow of parking. Councilman Brannen asked how many additional spaces will that

provide. Mr. Jennings said about 125 more. Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to approve V 08-03-04 with the additional 18 months to complete the pavement. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE A SUBDIVISION INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT FOR THE ISLANDS.**

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to approve a subdivision infrastructure agreement for The Islands. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION SUB 08-03-03 FOR A PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAT REQUESTED BY BIRD LANE, LLC DIVIDING 32.2 ACRES INTO 90 LOTS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5 LANIER DRIVE AND A PARCEL LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF BIRD LANE, APPROXIMATELY 900 FEET NORTH OF BIRD ROAD.**

Planning Director Jim Shaw stated May of 2007 this property was annexed into the City and rezoned to R-10 with conditions. He said the preliminary plat shows two entrances on Linear Drive and one of the entrances will be shared with the proposed multi-family development to the north. He said both entrances will be gated which means the streets will be privately maintained. He stated the plat indicates alley and parking at the rear of the interior lots. He said sidewalks are provided at both sides of the streets which will connect to the development to the north. He said there are two lots that are labeled as future development along Linear Drive. Staff has warned the applicant in the past not incorporating those into the design of the subdivision does not guarantee some future date that there will be an argument in favor of rezoning those properties into family residential or commercial, so they're leaving those out of the this plan at there own risk. Staff and Planning Commission recommend approval. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to approve SUB 08-03-03. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**REPORT ON GMA GEORGIA CITIES WEEK BY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER MAGGIE FITZGERALD.**

Public Information Officer Maggie Fitzgerald gave a presentation of the events that will take place for Georgia Cities Week. She stated the theme is "Living it up Downtown" and the activities will revolve around the Historic Downtown area. She said this years Georgia Cities week will be April 19- April 25, 2008.

**MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION # 2008-15: A RESOLUTION DECLARING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK.**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve Resolution 2008-15. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VC3, INC. (PARENT COMPANY OF EXCELSIO COMMUNICATIONS) NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$72,000 FOR RFP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND WIRELESS.**

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated this is a wireless agreement with Carl Edwards of VC3 which is a parent company of Excelsio Communication. He stated this is for request for proposal preparation, deployment, and management for a period of 16 months at \$4,500 a month, not to exceed \$72,000. Councilman Britt stated the City paid the consultant \$24,000 to advise the City on the best plan to offer wireless to our community. He said with very little discussion the consultant has requested the City pay an additional \$72,000 to him for implementing a wireless plan. He stated the spreadsheet provided had insufficient information, the cost was vague; broadband is very expensive, the I.P. support and staffing is expensive, the coverage is vague, and the footprint is different. He said the numbers in the spreadsheet the consultant drew up seems to be assumed without a lot of due diligence. He said the reason is the consultant proposes in the education field we'll have a 50% penetration rate within 12 months meaning he assumes we'll have 10,000 customers within 12 months. He said currently at Georgia Southern University the housing for students are: Campus Crossing, Copper Beach, Garden District, Eagles Landing, the Exchange, Statesboro Place, and The Woodlands which currently provide internet to their renters which is almost 6,000 students. He said another 2,000 students live outside the City limits, equaling 8,000 students who are either not in the foot print or not receiving it. He said approximately 4,000 students live in the dorm. He feels the numbers the consultant gave is high. He stated the Council was excited seeing the final number which has a possibility for positive revenue for the City. He said after talking to several experts in this field he concludes it is a break even for this area at best.

Councilman Britt stated the City should take a moment and do three or four things before engaging into this agreement: (1) Speak to Milledgeville. They are one year ahead of the City going wireless. (2) Speak to Northland Cable, Frontier, and Verizon (wireless leaders in Statesboro). (3) Review the information that was given to us. We're assuming to much. Page 13 states, "the assumption is the cost of the network access will be included in the technology fee at Georgia Southern." (4) Survey the target market. He spoke to 37 students about wireless communications and not one of them were asked if they liked wireless. Councilman Britt stated he felt they should use the grant funds to provide hardware and internet service to the areas that have very little internet usage. He said page 13 of the agreement states, "The City assumes there will be a number of low income students or families that will take part in the digital inclusion program."

Councilman Britt said he feels they should take this opportunity to do some research and get some answers. Councilman Britt believes they can get these questions answered by our City Manager within 30 days. He does not believe 30 days will cause a hardship for the City to meet the deadline in the grant. Councilman Britt made a motion to table this item to the May 1, 2008 and during that time the Council members meet and figure out if this is the best thing or they can continue to hire Excelsio Communication, but on a month to month base. The Motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilman Brannen made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with VC3 Inc., parent company for Excelsio Communication. The motion died for a lack of a seconded.

Mayor Hatcher stated the consultant has delivered; he brought the entire amount of the grant and we expected only half. He stated he has a lot of confidence in the consultant, He is doing other Cities and he knows what he is doing. He stated the City signed a M.O.U. that we will get this done. Mayor Hatcher stated for the Council to go out and do research, he personally does not feel comfortable doing that. Councilman Britt stated he has asked five or ten random people who are

technology savvy how many Georgia Southern students would pay \$10.00 for wireless service in a year and the reply was 3,000 to 4,000. He said at \$3,000 to \$4,000 the City loses money, because the consultant is predicting 10,000 people will take this service at \$10.00 a month. He stated the number of people that will become connected to the internet will double in 12 months, to think Statesboro is going to jump to that is extremely high and we're basing our numbers on that.

Councilman Lewis stated he only hears Councilman Britt talking about Georgia Southern, will they be the only ones using this program. Councilman Britt stated the consultant's numbers indicates Georgia Southern having 10,000 students on board in 12 months. He said some of these apartment complexes are under three or four year deals with other providers. He said can he get to that number? Maybe. He said can he get to that number in 12 months, there is no way. He said 10% of the Georgia Southern population does not live in Bulloch County. Another 10% is outside the barrier. That is 20% that can not receive this service and then there are a lot of places on campus that already have internet.

Councilman Lewis asked if Councilman Britt had proof. Councilman Britt stated yes. Councilman Lewis asked Councilman Britt if he has spoken to Milledgeville or any of the locations that was given in the packet. Councilman Britt stated no, but none of the locations has implemented the plan yet. He stated we do not have any concrete data on coverage or cost. He stated his proposal is to simply talk to Frontier Communication, Northland Cable, and Clearwire. Mayor Hatcher stated when we talk with them who will sort things out and know what is valid or not. Councilman Britt stated we need to start by talking to Mayor Richard Bentley of Milledgeville. Their City is one year ahead of us on this wireless internet. He said 30 more days is a couple more phone calls to educate ourselves. Mayor Hatcher stated we need the consultant to help us sort out what is valid or not. Councilman Britt stated having the consultant in the room is not a bad idea, but he's not for paying him \$72,000 for him to go to Georgia Southern and they say they don't know yet. He said we're assuming that Georgia Southern is on board.

Councilman Chance asked what survey has the consultant completed for Georgia Southern. Mayor Hatcher stated Georgia Southern's IT Department has been involved with the City since the beginning and our indication is they are interested in being a part of what the City does. Councilman Britt stated Georgia Southern is the key. He stated he would like a commitment from Georgia Southern that they are on board and he would like a little more information on the ISP part. He said Frontier and Northland Cable are in this business. They are experts and they'll give us their opinion for free. He said he does understand the urgency and the respect for our consultant's background.

Mayor Hatcher stated he felt that Councilman Britt wanted to choose another consultant. He said the City issued RFQ for consultants and Carl Edwards was the best one. He said Carl has done other Cities and he has delivered for our City. Councilman Britt stated he is not saying get another consultant. Councilman Chance made a motion, seconded by Councilman Britt, to table this item until the May 1, 2008 council meeting. Councilman Blitch asked who will be in charge of getting the information. Councilman Britt stated he would be glad to provide some information and the City Manager can follow up on this matter. Mayor Hatcher was concerned on what will happen this month, who will lead the discussion. Councilman Britt stated anyone on the Council or anyone who has a question can submit the question and we can try and get that answered. Councilman Chance amended the motion by adding the City Manager would follow up with the information that is collected, consolidate it, and give a report to the Council to further educate everyone on this matter.

Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,148.11 FOR IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING MILLING AND RESURFACING ON VARIOUS CITY STREETS.**

City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj stated the Georgia D.O.T. approved the City contract and sent a prepared contract for the Council's approval. He stated the total amount G.D.O.T. approved was \$117,000. He said the total work will cost \$355,000 and the City's part is \$218,000. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AWARD A BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,820.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FOUR POST VEHICLE LIFT FOR THE FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER, NAPA OF STATESBORO.**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to award a bid to NAPA of Statesboro. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE A PICKUP TRUCK, TRAILER, SIGNAGE AND AN ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE TO BE FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANT USING THE BID SPECIFICATIONS AND BID AWARDS FROM THE CITY OF SANDERSVILLE.**

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated this is a grant of \$400,000 to be split between the Statesboro Police Department and the Sandersville Police Department in the amount of \$200,000 each. He stated this is for Emergency Equipment for a truck, trailer, 10 portable signs, and utility vehicle to move the signs. He said they would like the equipment to be identical, so we're requesting the Council approve piggy-backing the equipment specifications and awarding to the same bidder approved by the City of Sandersville.

Police Chief Stan York gave a brief description of the uses of the signage. He stated the two Cities were awarded the \$400,000 with the idea both Cities would be a pilot program. He said if this works out with the signage it would be adopted throughout the state of Georgia. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the purchase of a pick up truck, trailer, signage, and an all terrain vehicle to be funded by a Homeland Security G.E.M.A. Grant. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AWARD A BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,479.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FUNDED BY THE 2008 FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, AND A ½ TON TRUCK FOR THE WATER/ SEWER DEPARTMENT TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER, PRATER FORD OF CALHOUN, GEORGIA.**

Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to award the bid to Prater Ford of Calhoun. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the

motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR A GRANT FUNDED ACQUISITION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MITIGATION EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$151,315.00.**

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated this is a grant that was already approved by the Council and we're requesting the motion to execute the attached agreement. Councilman Blicht made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with G.E.M.A. and the Department of Homeland Security. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A PARKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brannen, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a parking agreement with First Baptist Church. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COASTAL GEORGIA DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC. AUTHORIZING THE ENCROACHMENT ON THE CITY'S UTILITY EASEMENT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNAGE FOR THE VILLAGE AT MILL CREEK.**

Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the Coastal Georgia Development Group Inc. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF CITY STAFF TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE HOLLIS STREET RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN CATHERINE AVENUE AND HERTY DRIVE.**

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated on January 10, 2008 the City received a request to close Hollis Street. He said the City Engineer and Director of Waste Water recommend the City retain this road primarily because the City has a sanitary sewer under the road. Councilman Brannen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to approve the recommendation of the City Staff to retain ownership of Hollis Street. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION # 2008-16: A RESOLUTION NAMING THE VOTING AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA ANNUAL MEETING.**

Interim City Manager Chris Addleton stated the City is recommending Steve Hotchkiss as the City's Voting Delegate to the MGAG Annual Meeting. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to adopt Resolution 2008-16. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

**UPDATE ON THE CITY'S STREETScape PROJECT BY CITY ENGINEER MAZHAR ELHAJ.**

City Engineer Mazhar Elhaj stated the City opened bids on the Streetscape project yesterday and

there were seven bidders. He said the bids ranged from \$1.2 million to \$800,000 plus. He said we're still inspecting those bids to match the numbers and see if everything is correct on the bids. He said we'll bring those bids to the next Council meeting for approval. Mr. Elhaj stated once approved we can initiate the notice to proceed around the end of April. He said GDOT has not sent us the notice to proceed yet, but we're hoping to receive it shortly. He said the work will commence in May 2008 for about six months and there will be a delay for the holidays and by April of 2009 the work should be completed if the weather permits.

#### **REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

**INTERIM CITY MANAGER CHRIS ADDLETON:** Mr. Addleton stated Chief Merrifield would like to pursue an Assistance to Firefighter Grant. He is going to request funds to replace a fire truck, a self contained breathing apparatus, and all the thermal imaging cameras. The grant is not awarded until 2009 and there is a 20% match and we would expect to place the 20% match in the F/Y 2010 budget. He said we need approval to pursue this grant with a 20% match. Mayor Hatcher asked what the 20% amount would be. Chief Merrifield stated the amount of the fire truck is approximately \$600,000 the replacement of the S.C.V.A. and the thermal imaging camera is approximately \$170,000 totaling \$770,000 and the City would pay 20% of that. He said this is the application; there is another opportunity for the City to decide whether or not to except this grant. Council was in agreement to proceed.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION/CITY CLERK JUDY MCCORKLE:** Mrs. McCorkle reminded the Council that the Budget Retreat is this Friday April 4, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pond House.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mayor Hatcher stated he had one item for discussion: the Flying Jay Agreement. City Attorney Sam Brannen stated the City forwarded the executed agreement to them. They then executed this agreement and sent it back to the City with three changes: (1) changing 90 days to 120 days; (2) changing 120 days to 180 days; (3) to waive the capital cost recovery fee. Councilman Britt stated it was indicated that there was no problem with the days changing, but what about the capital cost recovery fee. Mayor Hatcher stated George Wood was negotiating with the Flying Jay's attorney, Terrance Bride and one of the things that was discussed was the capital cost recovery fee. He said it was not a shock when this agreement came back. Councilman Britt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blicht, to accept the agreement from Flying jay. Councilman Blicht, Brannen, Britt, Chance, and Lewis voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.