



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

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION:** *Assistant City Manager Max Tinsley*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES___ NO___**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *July 28, 2008 Public Hearing Minutes
July 28, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes*

PRESENTATION:

SENIOR DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: *One Vacancy*

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- VI. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CITY COUNCIL SALARIES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT** (Second Reading)...TAB "A"
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION LOAN:**.....TAB "B"
FY 09 General Fund Equipment
 - B. **RESOLUTION:**.....TAB "C"
St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority Act
 - C. **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WATER LOSS CONTROL PROGRAM**....TAB "D"
 - D. **2009 PROPOSED LARP LIST**.....TAB "E"
 - E. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *Police Department*.....TAB "F"
 - F. **ADVERTISING NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE PUBLIC HEARING:**.....TAB "G"
Kick Back Café, Inc.

G. FIVE-YEAR TAX HISTORY: 2008 Millage Rate Advertisement.....TAB “H”

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

A. PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT.....TAB “I”

1. SUBDIVISION – MINOR: Vivian Hubbard, 128 Sandhill Rd., requests FINAL plat approval for a minor 2 lot subdivision on a parcel west of Sandhill Road. The property is 5.61 acres, zoned R-1, and known as tax parcel number 135 018.
2. SPECIAL USE PERMIT: William H. Spires, 703 Ann Street, requests a SPECIAL USE PERMIT to use part of his garage as a shop to maintain small golf carts and to charge batteries. The shop would be accessed from Dilworth Street. The property is zoned R-1. Tax Parcel #S31-05-002.
3. ANNEXATION REQUEST: Request of Brannen & Epsy’s Properties, Inc., 4771 Hwy 40 for annexation of a 0.6145 acre parcel known as Tax Map 122 10C from Camden County into the City of St. Marys. Parcel will be Zoned C-2 after annexation.
4. SPECIAL USE PERMIT: Request of RB Kings Bay Auto Sales, Inc., 4771 Highway 40 East for a SPECIAL USE PERMIT to place a used car lot at 296B Charlie Smith Sr. Highway. The property is zoned C-2. Tax Parcel #135 048A.

B. ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

C. PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

1. GREENWAY PRESENTATION
2. DOWNTOWN MULTI-MEDIA CENTER

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

1. AIRPORT UPDATE

XI REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legal & Personnel

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

PUBLIC HEARING

July 28, 2008

5:45 p.m.

**“J’s Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A J’s Restaurant and British Pub”
“Lucky Dawgs of St Marys LLC D/B/A Lucky Dawgs”**

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a public hearing on Monday, July 28, 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
Timothy Hatch, Police Chief
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant
Bilaal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms

Mayor Eskridge called the public hearing to order at 5:45 p.m., and read the public hearing advertisement duly posted in the local newspaper for “*J’s Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A J’s Restaurant and British Pub and Lucky Dawgs of St Marys LLC D/B/A Lucky Dawgs*” alcohol license applications. The floor was opened to the public for questions and/or comments.

There were no requests to address Council. Mayor Eskridge therefore declared the public hearing closed at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 28, 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, July 28, 2008 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

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

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

William Shanahan, City Manager
Max Tinsley, Asst. City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director
Nicole Goebel, IT Assistant
Bilaal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Manager Bill Shanahan 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:

July 14, 2008 Third Quarter Town Meeting, Public Hearing & Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the July 14, 2008 Town Meeting, Public Hearing and regular City Council meeting minutes.

Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase made a change to the question on page 15 of the regular minutes, in the second paragraph under Report of Authorities, Planning Directors Report-Minor Subdivision, "What was the status of the Subdivision Ordinance". Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

July 16, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the July 16, 2008 Property Committee meeting minutes. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION:

CAMDEN COUNTY CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT: One Vacancy

Mayor Eskridge stated that Mr. Natzic has withdrawn his name as a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Councilmember Weaver nominated Celenda Perry to fill the vacancy on the Camden County Consolidated Housing Authority Board. Councilmember Hase seconded the nomination. Voting was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK COMPETITION: Roger Weaver

The Planning Director announced the kick-off of the Veteran's Memorial Park Competition sponsored through the Planning Department. It is an informal open ended competition for the design of a Veteran's Memorial Park located between the end of the existing waterfront park and the property line adjacent to Lang's Seafood Restaurant. There is no cost to register, but registration will be required so as to properly respond to any inquiries that may arise during the completion period. A registration form will be available through the Planning Department. The timeline for the Competition is as follows:

Kick-Off Campaign	July 28, 2008
Questions to Planning Department	August 22, 2008
Submission Deadline	September 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.
Submissions on Display	September 22 – October 30, 2008
Judging	October 31 – November 7, 2008
Announcement of Selected Submission	November 8, 2008 at Wounded Warriors Day event

A judging panel will be composed of the Mayor; two members of the St. Marys' City Council; one Downtown Development Authority member; four members from Veterans Organizations selected by the organizations; one member from the Historic Preservation Committee; and two at large non-government citizens of the City of St. Marys.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Finance Director presented the 12-month (June) report on the General, Water/Sewer, Solid Waste, Tourism, and Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Funds.

The General Fund had an excess of revenues of \$217, 137 that went into fund equity, which was not done in the past two years. The City used \$1.9 million of the fund equity that was budgeted. Councilmember Hase questioned if there was any particular reason why the fund equity was used. The Finance Director responded that the reasons were because revenues were down, permits did not come in as expected and a drop in sales tax. Councilmember DeLoughy stated there was \$1.4 million in operating revenues short fall. The Mayor and Councilmember's discussed the expenses for next year, assessments, real growth, the tax digest, fund equity, the slowdown in economics and keeping the millage rate low. Copies of the finance reports are attached as part of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember seconded the motion.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Trader added an item where the Council directs the City Manager to pursue discussions in regards to attracting a hotel within the City of St. Marys, not only to support tourism but to support the business. Mayor Eskridge stated that the item would be added under Item "J".

Councilmember Trader made a motion to add the item to the agenda. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Roger Rillo, representative of the Downtown Merchants addressed the complaint from the St. Marys Submarine Museum concerning vendors, food stalls and animals blocking the businesses during festivals. A copy of the festival map indicating the placement of booths, which is submitted to city staff prior to the festivals for approval, was displayed to Council.

Ken Hase, resident questioned how long the current fund balance rate would last?

Mayor Eskridge and the City Manager responded three years.

Walt Natzie, resident gave a brief history of the East Coast Greenway Project, a status report of the extensions from Maine to Key West, Florida, the cities of Kingsland, St. Marys and Woodbine and the Safe Routes to School Program. Mr. Natzie strongly objected to the concept of widening and using the Greenway designated bicycle and pedestrian path as a multi-use path on Pt. Peter Road because of safety issues and potential problems with obtaining future grant funds. He also read a definition for the use of Low Speed Motor Vehicles (LSMV) found in House Bill 1386.

Councilmember Bird stated that Low Speed Motor Vehicles and golf carts were researched by the Police Department and it was determined that they are two separate entities.

Terry Landreth, owner of Camden Bicycle and council member of the Georgia East Coast Greenway Trail stated that the multi-use path on Pt. Peter Road was presented to the Public Service Authority (PSA) from downtown St. Marys to Kingsland concerning a complete, non-inclusive, non-motorized transportation bill for St. Marys. Mr. Landreth requested an all inclusive transportation plan for non-motorized vehicles in the entire City of St. Marys, not only Pt. Peter. This would give national attention for Safe Routes to School, East Coast Greenway and Rails to Trails Conservatory, which will draw people to our area for tourism dollars and overall economic benefits. He also offered to bring the information that was presented to the PSA before council.

Councilmember Weaver questioned whether part of the Greenway included Pt. Peter. Mr. Landreth responded that Pt. Peter Road to Cumberland Harbour was part of Greenway.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. CITY COUNCIL SALARIES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (POSTPONED 7/14/08)

The City Manager stated that the salary needed to be discussed to address the language of the written ordinance for an increase in future compensation paid to the mayor and city council after the next election. In 1999, the elected official's salary per month was increased to the current rate of \$500 for council members and \$700 for the mayor. Current elected officials desire to change the pay structure with the implementation of the fiscal year 2009 budget. In accordance with Home Rule Powers Section 36-35-4 (3) a notice of intent to take action will need to be published in the general circulation designated as the legal organ in the county and municipal corporation once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding the adoption of the ordinance. The increase will not become effective until January 2010. The City Manager recommended approval once a dollar amount was set.

Mayor Eskridge asked if there were any comments in regards to the subject. Councilmember Johnson responded that it is only for advertising. Councilmember Weaver responded that it was already being advertised. The City Clerk stated that a determination needed to be made tonight to set the compensation in order for it to count as the first reading. Mayor Eskridge requested a recommendation from Council as to a dollar figure.

Councilmember Hase stated that it was her understanding from the City Attorney that the amount could be left out for advertising in case it was changed. At the last meeting this was deferred to the City Attorney regarding advertising but nobody made a motion to go ahead and advertise. The City Clerk stated that there was email back and forth between council from the City Attorney that it needed to be advertised. The City Attorney stated that it was advertised previously but no decision for any amount has ever been taken. So in order for the City to approve something it has to be advertised three consecutive weeks prior to the immediate taking of the action. If there is a discussion tonight regarding the amount which needs to be confirmed, that could be voted on. It could be read again and voted on with the same amount at the next meeting coinciding with advertising.

Then, it could actually be approved and confirmed at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Hase stated that there should be a resolution, but there is none. The City Attorney stated that at the moment, it is not being adopted. It has to be read and adopted at the second reading because none of the staff knows what amount to put into an ordinance, since it has not been decided by council.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to leave the dollar amount as is. Motion failed for lack of second.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to change the salary for the mayor to \$1,100 and the council members to \$900. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase noted that the effective date is not until January 2010, which would be eleven years since there was an actual increase. Councilmember's discussed a lower salary, the affects the increase would have on current and future council and inflation. Following much discussion, Councilmember Bird amended the original motion to set the council pay at \$750 and the mayors pay at \$950 to become effective January 2010. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Councilmember Bird	Councilmember Weaver
Councilmember DeLoughy	
Councilmember Hase	
Councilmember Johnson	
Councilmember Trader	

B. NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE: J's Restaurant, Inc.

The City Manager stated that the purpose is to approve an alcohol license for J's Restaurant, Inc. At the last meeting, City Council approved advertising for a public hearing on July 28, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. The hearing was duly advertised in the local newspaper and held prior to this evening's Council meeting.

Having met all requirements, the City Manager and staff recommends approval of the new alcohol license for the sale of beer, wine and spirituous liquor for consumption on-premises with food for J's Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A J's Restaurant and British Pub., contingent upon final inspections of the building by the Building Department and Fire Marshal.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the new alcohol license for J's Restaurant, Inc. D/B/A J's Restaurant and British Pub. Councilmember seconded the motion. Councilmember Trader questioned if the real estate transaction was completed. The City Clerk responded that it was still pending when the documents were submitted, but the purchase was to take place in August. Mr. Simmons affirmed. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

