



## CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2008

6:00 P.M.

### **AMENDED AGENDA**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION:** *City Manager William P. Shanahan, Jr.*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *April 14, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting & Second Quarter Town Meeting Minutes*

#### **PRESENTATION:**

**PROCLAMATION:** *Municipal Clerks Week*

**CITY OF ST. MARYS RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM:** *Recognition of Team Members*

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Personnel*

#### VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **AIRPORT RESOLUTION/MAYORAL VETO:** *Councilmember Hase*

#### VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **CITY COUNCIL SALARIES (REMOVED)**

B. **D. RAY JAMES PRISON:** *Work Detail Contracts.....TAB "A"*

C. **MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING:** *Holiday Cancellation/Reschedule*

- D. **JEKYLL WATER TESTING AGREEMENT** .....TAB “B”
- E. **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMPETITION** .....TAB “C”
- F. **MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT**: *City of Kingsland* .....TAB “D”
- G. **SERVICE CONTRACT**: *Satellite Phones*.....TAB “E”
- H. **MOTOROLA SOFTWARE SUPPORT CONTRACT** .....TAB “F”
- I. **ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**: *Agreement* .....TAB “G”
- J. **UNITED 1<sup>ST</sup> FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** **(REMOVED)**  
*Proposal of Corporate Sponsor for the Aquatic Center*
- K. **EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION**: *Ready/Ashley Street* ..TAB “H”
- L. **ENGINEERING SERVICES**: *Spur 40 Annexed Sewer* .....TAB “I”
- M. **RESTRIPING PROJECT RESOLUTION**: *Various Streets* .....TAB “J”
- N. **FACILITY SIGN**: *Cumberland Palms Donation to the Police Department* .....TAB “K”
- O. **EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION**: *Dandy Street* ....TAB “L”
- P. **EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION**: **(ADDED)**  
*Scrubby Bluff Force Main*
- IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**
- X. **REPORT OF MAYOR**
- XI **REPORT OF CITY MANAGER**
- XII. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**
- XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**:
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**:

**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 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, April 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  
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director  
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director  
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Dev. Director  
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director  
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator  
Kathy Johnson, Deputy Clerk  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal  
Richard Riggles, Sergeant-At-Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Manager William 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:** *April 14, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the April 14, 2008 regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**PRESENTATION:**

**PROCLAMATION:** *Municipal Clerks Week*

Mayor Eskridge proclaimed May 4 – 10, 2008 as Municipal Clerks Week and extended appreciation to the City of St. Marys' Municipal Clerk, Darlene M. Roellig, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

**RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM:** *Recognition of Team Members*

Mayor Eskridge commended the City of St. Marys employees who played an active role in the 2008 Camden county Relay for Life event. A team of twenty six members volunteered to participate in the fund raising and walking event, which was held on April 18 from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am on April 19, 2008. The team set a goal to raise at least \$500.00 due to the time constraints they would be dealing with, but they exceeded their goal by tripling that amount. At this time, the grand total raised is \$1,614.26. Plans for next year's event are about to begin and the team is looking forward to an even better success for the 2009 Relay with almost a year to focus on fundraising efforts. For information on volunteering and to assist in events with the 2009 Relay for Life Employee Team, please contact Lori Whitlow at the City Manager's Office. The following participants were recognized:

Captain Lori Whitlow	Co-Captain Kathy Johnson
Mindy Andrews	Janice Beckham
Jennifer Brown	Amber Castleberry
Kimberly Drummond	Scott Dubuois
Tammy Dukes	Sandy Fayard
Donna Folsom	Nicole Goebel
Jaime Heisler	Rindy Howell
Johnny Ingram	Sarah Lee
Connie Miller	Teresa Palmer
Charlene Pate	Amy Peeples
Darlene Roellig	Bill Shanahan
Max Tinsley	Deborah Walker-Reed
Mary Meyer	

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Finance Director presented the 9-month (March) report on the General, Water/Sewer, Solid Waste, Tourism, and Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Funds. A copy of the finance report is attached as part of the minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition to advertise for City Council salaries. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Cookie Johnson**, resident thanked Councilmember Bird and the Senior Advisory Committee for the Community Garden at the airport. Ms. Johnson reported that over the last few weeks there were many telephone calls supporting the relocation of the St. Marys Airport, one call opposing and all callers recommended a referendum on the issue.

**Tom Turner**, resident has lived near the airport for the last 30 years and supports its relocation because of the restrictions in height at the industrial park. He also commented that the Joint Development Authority (JDA) study states the airport is not viable and should be moved.

**Dave Schmitz**, resident commented on the unprofessional way the St. Marys Airport issue is being conducted and urged Council to resolve it tonight. Mr. Schmitz also commented on the trash pickup not comparing to the service the City provided. Yard waste and recycled bottles are left behind on the street for residents to clean up.

**Cathy Kloess**, St. Marys Sky Diving School stated that the school brings 350 people from all over the county to St. Marys. They contribute to the economics by staying in local hotels, motels and patronize restaurants, especially those who offer discounts. The City is making it impossible for economic growth at the airport. Ms. Kloess supports the airport remaining in St. Marys.

**Roger Rillo**, resident stated that not all the evidence and statements made concerning the airport issue is accurate; and the engineer hired to perform the City's study was tasked to find a new location, not whether it is viable to stay in St. Marys. He also commented on the airport's security, safety, encroachment, future costs for relocation and who controls the airport. Mr. Rillo supports a referendum.

**John Morris**, resident suggested looking at the airport's value as an asset to the taxpayers, its future long term plan and vision for St. Marys.

**Jim Stein**, St. Marys Airport Authority attorney stated that the Authority has the right to take a more active role in the airport decision. He urged Council to work with the Authority to keep it viable without the cost to taxpayers and if you cannot, let the people decide. If the airport was more viable, it would bring big businesses and more people to St. Marys and contribute to economic growth. Mr. Stein recommended a referendum for the people.

**Dick Russell**, Chairman St. Marys Airport Authority stated that the airport welcomed the sky diving school on a temporary basis when it could not go to Fernandina. Ms. Kloess has done an impressive job of running the school. He further stated that the Authority believes any proposal to close the airport and to fund a new airport should be considered. A letter was distributed to Council stating the Authority's position that it is a legal entity, created by an Act of the Georgia Legislature to make this decision. It was created to take a major municipal asset a step away from politics. The St. Marys Airport Authority requested no further action be taken by the City Council regarding relocation of the St. Marys Airport until the matter of jurisdiction is resolved. A copy of the letter is attached as part of the minutes. Mr. Russell also addressed the Navy's position on the airport relocation, not justifying the move.

**Mike McKinnon**, resident commented on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) letter to the City Manager. A copy of the letter is attached as part of the minutes. He also addressed the increases of taxes and property values, other sources of revenues, economic growth, the base safety and the Chamber of Commerce St. Marys Airport survey.

**Don Petree**, resident addressed Council regarding a contractor who dug and blocked a drainage ditch and put in two culverts on Marsh Lane and Sunset Drive, which is a city street.

The City Manager stated that the issue would be looked at tomorrow.

**Jim Wells**, resident stated that he addressed Council several times in the past. First, after the 2003 Washington Fly-In when Congressman Kingston requested St. Marys support in passing a resolution to relocate the airport because it was a security issue, then in 2007 when Council voted to rescind the previous resolution and not support the relocation. At that time he requested that the decision be based on facts, which was ignored. Mr. Wells requested that Council overturn the veto and base their decision on fact not fiction.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Personnel*

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

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 7:02 p.m., returning at 7:24 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

#### **PERSONNEL**

No official action was taken at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **A. AIRPORT RESOLUTION/MAYORAL VETO:** *Councilmember Hase*

Councilmember DeLoughy moved that the Mayor's veto of the resolution regarding the relocation of the St. Marys Airport, which resolution was passed on April 14, 2008, be overridden and the resolution be reinstated. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

Councilmember Johnson stated anyone who has followed the procedures knows the Mayor has tried to stay neutral. There is a definite question regarding jurisdiction, which was the reason for the veto. If it is not settled through negotiations with the airport authority it will most likely be decided by a judge. Councilmember Johnson requested that the veto stand in order to avoid court action to give the Property Committee and Airport Authority time to negotiate the issue.

Councilmember Trader read the following prepared statement:

“Many of us share a vision for St. Marys where we maintain our heritage as a historic coastal town that is economically diverse and offers a quality lifestyle where all citizens are safe and secure. In working toward that vision, we need to attract new businesses that

provide local jobs and attract and keep more tourists staying and spending their money in St. Marys. This increase in economic activity will provide the engine and the money for a healthy and vibrant community.

The facts are:

- We need more jobs for local residents.
- We have an imbalance between residential and business development.
- We have an imbalance of taxation revenues between residents and commercial business.

Residential development has a much higher per capita cost for public services and the lack of business growth puts an increased burden on each homeowner.

We have proven to be an attractive city for residential development. We now need increased tax revenue and economic activity from job producing businesses. There is not enough innovative economic development taking place. St. Marys has had neither the money nor the plan to create desired development. We now have the opportunity.

The airport property could be better utilized to benefit all the citizens of St. Marys. Many cities have to spend millions of dollars to purchase property to attract businesses. We have that property and need to manage it to benefit not just a few but all of the citizens of the city. We can use the property to attract commercial development such as grocery stores and retail services; office buildings; a major hotel facility; light industrial development and others that will provide more jobs, more tax revenues, and more people and tourists supporting our businesses.

People have said “without the airport, businesses and real estate development will be negatively impacted”. Then where are the large business owners, real estate developers, and realtors that support this theory? They have not called me. Most I have talked with support the relocation.

You have heard many different perspectives tonight and I respect the passion each has for their position. I truly believe the facts (maybe not emotion but the facts) of safety (not just the Navy but more importantly the citizens) and economics support the decision for relocation. I believe the County, the Navy, and others will benefit from the relocation and the more the better.

Will Sea Island benefit from the move? Maybe, maybe not. I am grateful for their generous contribution and I personally hope they are successful. Growth in the northern part of Camden County will provide growth to our tax digest which can reduce our county taxes.

I believe it’s time to move forward on the airport relocation and work together in building a better St. Marys.”

Councilmember Johnson responded that it is an assumption businesses will come to the airport property and not houses. Rumor is that a large developer wishes to develop the land on the airport property, which means more houses. St. Marys is a bedroom community. The balance is being shifted from business to more residential. It has been proven that residential property pays 85% of taxes and businesses 130%. If the property leans towards houses more individual taxes will be paid, opposed to businesses.

Councilmember Bird addressed the veto being in order because of the legalities surrounding the ownership belonging to the Airport Authority, who should be involved in the decision. He stated that the City Attorney also went on record saying that it is prudent to send the airport issue to committee. Councilman Bird compared the security of Washington DC (Reagan) International Airport, next to the Pentagon, to the St. Marys Airport. Airports around the country are surrounded by hundreds of thousands of people. To say that St. Marys Airport is a threat to the US Navy, is a great stretch. The Navy is here to protect us, not us to protect the Navy. Being a good neighbor is a two way street. There are assets downtown that are part of the infrastructure, which includes the parks. Why not sell Howard Gilman Waterfront Park and turn it into a private enterprise? This would increase the tax base. Councilmember Bird does not believe the City should sell the park, aquatic center, ball field or schools. The City has owned the airport since 1941. The legalities should be looked at and turned over to the people, if Council cannot decide what the people want.

Councilmember Weaver responded that there is a big difference between flying into Reagan International as opposed to St. Marys Airport. St. Marys has safety issues not security issues because of the base's weapons.

Councilmember Bird stated that the Navy had promised the people of St. Marys that they would be safe from their weapons. He questioned Councilmember Weaver whether the Navy is now saying St. Marys is not safe.

Councilmember Weaver responded that was not what she was saying; only that she disagrees with the comparison of the two airports.

Councilmember DeLoughy commented on the reality of the situation as follows:

#### Existing Airport

- Thirteen planes pay \$800 in ad valorem taxes (Two or three houses contribute more)
- Site contribution – Fixed Base Operator with five employees less than \$300,000 per year (Burger King would contribute five times the amount)
- Airport Authority – Receives \$30,000 in revenues per year (\$20,000 for expenses-including \$10.00 for rent-plus City Services in excess of \$20,000, for a net loss of \$10,000)
- Independent Study finding– It cannot fulfill its mission as a Level II airport (will not grow in the present confines)
- FAA will not put out additional money for the expansion of the St. Marys Airport.
- No developers are advertising that they want the airport. (All 7,000 units came to St. Marys between 2003 and 2007 when the airport was closed and voted to relocated)
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Costs estimated at \$4,000,000 to expand the airport (additional land acquisition costing taxpayers \$250,000)

### New Airport

- Estimated cost \$30,000,000
- FAA's budget has funds for airports, if St. Marys or the county does not use it someone else would. It is an opportunity to return tax dollars to the community.
- New location could include a fly-in community.
- Economic Impact- Could contribute \$70-\$100 million dollars (\$1-\$2 million to the county and schools in taxes)
- Residential property could cost over \$200,000 for a positive impact on growth to better serve the community

Councilmember Johnson commented that the existing land is concrete and the location is close to an area that would be conducive to middle to low income housing.

Councilman Bird commented that part of the airport property was turned into an industrial complex with buildings never being occupied or had meters installed. The City has a lot of opportunities for expansion, and the airport makes it more attractive. It has brought in a lot of growth with the large developers using it to showcase their property. It is an infrastructure owned by the City and do we want to get rid of it. If Council cannot agree, the people should make the choice.

Councilman DeLoughy responded that people fly to St. Marys and drive three or four miles but they could just as easily drive 15 miles to better serve the community as a whole.

Councilmember Hase commented that she agreed with Councilmember Trader and appreciates the passion of those who do not agree, but there were many misconceptions with some of the statements made. One was let the people decide. The FAA requires public hearings. Two hearings were held with very little attendance by the public, other than airport authority members or business owners associated with the airport. In regards to the airport authority's contribution, the chairman's comments were the same as they were when he was part of the technical advisory committee on the study. The authority's position has not changed. Both the public and authority had their input. Councilmember Hase's position was to move forward and stop wasting time on the issue.

Mayor Eskridge commented that the City was told that it would cost the citizens of St. Marys to move the airport. This Council passed a resolution that the costs would not be borne by the citizens of St. Marys. There is no way of getting around it costing us money, so it will not go anywhere. What happens next year if three new council members are elected? It will be brought up again for a vote. The only way to stop such action is to have a binding referendum for public vote.

Councilmember Hase called for the question, voting was recorded as follows:

**YAY**  
Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**NAY**  
Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Johnson

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. CITY COUNCIL SALARIES: *Advertising***

Councilmember Trader made a motion to advertise the City Council salaries. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver questioned how much is being advertised. The City Clerk stated that the salaries would be advertised at \$1,250 for the Mayor and \$1,000 for Council Members per month as directed in the budget workshops. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. D. RAY JAMES PRISON: *Work Detail Contracts***

The City Manager recommended approval to renew the existing contracts with the prison for another year. The prison details continue to be an asset to the city by providing additional labor at a minimal cost to the city. The cost for each detail is \$36,592.56 for Fiscal Year 2009. No changes are proposed to the current agreement.

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

**C. MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING: *Holiday Cancellation/Reschedule***

Councilmember Hase made a motion to cancel the meeting and call a special meeting if there is an excess of items. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. JEKYLL WATER TESTING AGREEMENT**

The City Manager recommended approval to enter into a contract with the Jekyll Island-State Park Authority (JIA) for Laboratory Testing and Related Services. Our primary water sample testing service is with the Georgia EPD. Per EPD's recommendation the City has been using JIA as a backup service. The City wishes to enter into a contract with the JIA and to continue using JIA as a backup testing service. The contract is valid for one year and may be renewed on an annual basis.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy recommended changing the date on the contact. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**E. VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMPETITION**

The City Manager recommended approval of the project to get widespread community involvement with this project. City Council approved the location of a Veterans Memorial Park between the end of the existing park and Lang's Seafood Restaurant. This was with the understanding that a competition for the design would be held to enable all citizens of all ages and background to participate. No fee will be required for entry, and no prizes awarded, except for first, second and third place recognition awards on either Veterans or Wounded Warriors day.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Veterans Memorial Park competition. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT: City of Kingsland**

This is to update an existing agreement between Kingsland and St. Marys fire departments. The cities of Kingsland and St. Marys have always worked very closely during emergency incidents, training and day to day operations. This agreement is for incidents that require additional manpower and/or equipment.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Kingsland. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. SERVICE CONTRACT: Satellite Phones**

The City Manager recommended approval of the satellite phone agreement as directed by Mayor and Council during the FY08 budget. Satellite phones can be used during emergencies when all other communications are out of service, which will increase the ability to protect both our citizens and employees who remain behind. This is a safety precaution that we hope is never used. However, it is to our benefit to have this stand-by equipment in place, if communication is lost. The budgeted cost is \$1,078.20 for three phones.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the service contract for satellite phones. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver questioned why the basic plan was being used instead of the emergency plan. Following much discussion, Councilmember Weaver amended the motion to use the emergency plan for \$32.95 with \$1.39 a minute. Councilmember Hase seconded the amended motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**H. MOTOROLA SOFTWARE SUPPORT CONTRACT**

The City Manager recommended approval of the annual renewal contract for software support of an existing service plan. This software ensures accountability on fire scenes by identifying personnel and job assignments. In addition, it has the ability to locate down firefighters to increase their safety. The total budgeted cost is \$2,496.96.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the Motorola Software Support contract. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**I. ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU: Agreement**

The City Manager recommended approval of the agreement between CVB and City as discussed in House Bill 839. House Bill 839 directs the revision of City/CVB contract. This contract is an understanding that the City of St. Marys contracts with St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority to promote tourism through the use of Hotel/Motel Tax collected by the city.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve the St. Marys Convention & Visitors Bureau Agreement. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**J. UNITED 1<sup>ST</sup> FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (REMOVED)**

*Proposal of Corporate Sponsor for the Aquatic Center*

**K. EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION: Ready/Ashley Street**

The City Manager and Public Works Department recommended approval to award Seaboard Construction for a project to replace approximately 20 linear feet of 8" vitrified clay pipe with PVC in the amount of \$19,413.27. An additional \$11,648.14 is for the other side of the manhole that was damaged when we went in to do repairs. This sanitary sewer line is located at the intersection of Ready Street and Ashley Street northward along Ready Street. The Public Works Department was in the process of cleaning and videotaping the sanitary sewer along Ready Street when a "sinkhole" next to a sanitary sewer manhole at the intersection of Ready Street and Ashley Street formed. When it became apparent that the scope of this project was larger than we could handle in-house, we began soliciting bids from area contractors. Public Works contacted SGC, RJ's Underground and Seaboard Construction. The total budgeted cost of the project is \$31,061.14. The following is a list of the responses received:

- SGC – no response
  - RJ's Underground – \$28,25,110.00
  - Seaboard Construction - \$19,413.27
- Plus an additional cost of \$11,648.14 for the manhole repair

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the emergency Sewer Repair Project Resolution. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember's discussed the current old pipes and the master plan. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**L. ENGINEERING SERVICES: Spur 40 Annexed Area Sewer**

The City Manager stated authorization is needed to authorize Thomas and Hutton to go ahead with the concept layout of the sanitary sewer system for the Spur 40 Annexed

Area. The Cost Proposal from Thomas and Hutton Engineering Company for the conceptual layout is \$7,500.00 and will be funded through the current Sewer Budget. The City solicited qualifications for Profession Services from any interested engineering firms to provide the City a concept plan for the Sanitary Sewer System for the Spur 40 Annexed Area. The City received Statements of Qualifications from nine Engineering Firms. The City's Review Committee met on April the 11<sup>th</sup> to review the statement of Qualifications. The review committee short listed the Engineering firms to three candidates: Thomas and Hutton Engineering, Saussy Engineering, and Hussey Gay Bell and Deyoung. Interviews of the three candidates were conducted on April the 18<sup>th</sup>. The review committee recommends Thomas and Hutton as the best candidate to perform the work. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the engineering services for Spur 40 Annexed Area sewer. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**M. RESTRIPING PROJECT RESOLUTION: *Various Streets***

The City Manager and Public Works Department recommended approval of a project to re-stripe various streets in the City to Peek Pavement Markings. The cost of this project is \$18,777.00 and will be funded through SPLOST V. Time and traffic has caused the current traffic markings on various streets throughout the City to become deteriorated to the point that some markings are no longer legible. The Public Works Department developed a bid package based on citizen's complaints, recommendations from council members, and field observations. The following list is the streets being re-striped;

Colerain Road (between St. Marys Road and Spur 40), Douglas Drive (From Spur 40 to End of Pavement), Borrell Blvd (between City Smitty Road and Ashley Street), Palmetto Street, Martha Drive, Bowen Street (between Miller Street and South Dandy Drive), Dilworth Street (from Hwy 40 to Bartlett Street), North River Causeway, and Industrial Drive (next to St. Marys Police Station) Peek Pavement Markings was the only company that responded to the Request for Bids.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to accept the agreement with Peek Pavement to restripe various streets. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**N. FACILITY SIGN: *Cumberland Palms Donation to the Police Department***

The City Manager stated that Mr. John Price, representing Cumberland Palms Subdivision, has approached the Police Department requesting to donate a sign for the firing range located on the North River Causeway. The estimated cost of the sign is \$200.00. Mr. Price proposes to construct a sign which will aesthetically blend with the construction of the Cumberland Palms development, and which will read:

St. Marys Police  
Training Facility  
And Firing Range

No cost for the sign will fall to the City, and the sign has been approved by the Chief of Police with relation to construction, wording, placement and size.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the Police Department facility sign donated by Cumberland Palms. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**O. EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION: *Dandy Street***

The City Manager and Public Works Department recommended approval of a project to make emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer system on South Dandy Street.

The Public Works Department received notification of a sink hole next to a sanitary sewer manhole on South Dandy Street. The Public Works Department has determined that the outlet main is broken approximately 10 feet downstream of the manhole. When it became apparent that the scope of this project was larger than we could handle in-house, we began soliciting bids from area contractors. Public Works contacted RJ's Underground, Seaboard Construction and Rowell Contracting.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the project resolution for Dandy Street. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**P. EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR PROJECT RESOLUTION: **(ADDED)**  
*Scrubby Bluff Force Main***

The City Manager stated that the purpose is to declare the Scrubby Bluff Force Main repair project an emergency thereby eliminating the normal bidding time frames to expedite the repair of the pipe line. This section of pipeline was recently replaced under an emergency repair by RJ's Underground. Currently, the pipe is broken inside the steel casing that crosses St. Marys Railroad at St. Marys Road. Since RJ's Underground was the installer and this repair may be a warranty item, they need to be the contractor to make the repairs. If the problem is not a workmanship problem, it will not be covered under their warranty and the estimated cost would be \$42,900. This pipeline needs to be repaired as soon as possible so that sewage flows can be rerouted back to the Scrubby Bluff Treatment Plant. Currently, with the exception of the Welcome Center and the two gas stations at Haddock Road, only a portion of Osprey Cove is being directed to the Scrubby Bluff Plant. Until the flows are reestablished to Scrubby Bluff Plant, the other wastewater being generated within the city could go over permitted levels if this repair is not expedited. If the repair is not covered, the City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the emergency sewer repair project resolution for the Scrubby Bluff Force Main. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

The Property Committee scheduled a meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

The Investigative Committee scheduled a meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

The Water/Sewer Committee scheduled a meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

**REPORT OF MAYOR:**

- April 15, 2008 – Met with the City Attorney regarding the Airport Authority
- April 21, 2008 – Attended Airport Authority Meeting
- April 23, 2008 – Attended the ground breaking at St. Marys Elementary School
- April 24, 2008 - Met with Camden County Public Service Authority Director William Brunson about a problem.
- April 25, 2008 – St. Marys Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited City Hall.
- April 28, 2008 – Interviews for associate judge position and budget workshop

Mayor Eskridge read the calendar of events, meetings and activities up until the next council meeting.

**REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:**

- The Aquatic Center was opened this past weekend. Attendance was 640 people, revenues \$4,896 and 248 season passes sold to date.
- Planning Department: The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program is completed. Both Roger Weaver and Michele Wood have verified all resident lots, vacant and occupied in the City. There are over 7,000 built homes and over 3,000 vacant lots/
- Tourism: The water taxi will be running from St. Marys to Fernandina for the annual Shrimp Festival on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at \$15.00 per person, roundtrip. They will begin taxiing at 10:00 a.m. every other hour until 6:00 p.m.
- St. Marys 101 will be held in the Police Department on May 29<sup>th</sup>
- The court will be changing the times for trials to 9:00 a.m. and pleas & arraignments to 11:00 a.m.

Councilmember DeLoughy announced the recent passing of Diane McCoy and commended Ms. McCoy for dedicating time, efforts and contributions to the Downtown Development Authority. The Mayor and Councilmember also commended Ms. McCoy and expressed their condolences to the McCoy Family.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Tom Turner**, resident complimented the engineering department on the sidewalks on Douglas Drive and thanked them for replacing the grass and cleaning up during and after the project. He also questioned whether the airport relocation was included in the Comprehensive Plan.

**Walt Natzie**, resident discussed the bicycle path plan and requested a response to his letter dated April 18, 2008 regarding Mr. Bird voting on the airport relocation

**Cathy Kloess**, Sky Diving School owner questioned whether a vote on a binding resolution would be final, if a petition would help bring it to a referendum and what is the motivation for not allowing the people to make the decision about the airport's future.

**Sidney Howell**, resident commented that if the Navy base wanted the airport to close it would happen. Mr. Howell supports a referendum.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Hase made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk