



**CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**  
**July 27, 2009**

**CONSENT AGENDA MEETING**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**AMENDED**  
**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INVOCATION**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ROLL CALL**

**QUORUM: YES X NO**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *July 13, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes***

**PRESENTATION:**

**LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** *(Norris & White)*

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT:** *(Howell)*

**COASTAL RDC HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT** *(Natzic)*

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. AIRPORT LEASE.....**TAB "A"**  
To enter into a lease agreement with the Airport Authority ("Authority") as lessee of the St Marys Airport property.**

- B. **BAIT SHOP: UPDATE/DIRECTION** .....TAB “B”  
To discuss issues concerning Bait Shop

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **HISTORIC ST. MARYS.COM DOMAIN**.....TAB “C”  
Donation of Historic St Marys.com. Acceptance of Historic St. Marys.com domain from Tom Chapman
- B. **SUGARMILL BLVD. EASEMENT/ROW**.....TAB “D”  
To accept an easement/right of way of Sugarmill Boulevard from Rayonier.
- C. **LARP 2010: Local Assistance Road Program**.....TAB “E”  
The Public Works Department would like to recommend approval of the proposed 2010 LARP List.
- D. **DOWNTOWN DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND-DDA**.....TAB “F”  
Resolution of support for the DDA and Family Matters Counseling of Coastal Georgia, Inc. to apply for a Downtown District Redevelopment Loan Fund
- E. **COASTAL GEORGIA GREENWAY**.....TAB “G”  
Resolution to support Coastal Georgia Greenway
- F. **MAHAN STREET PAVING**.....TAB “H”  
The Public Works Department would like to recommend approval of the Mahan Street Improvement Project. **(ADDED)**

**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**  
**July 27, 2009**  
**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 27, 2009 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  
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney  
Roger Weaver, Planning Director  
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director  
Robby Horton, Fire Chief  
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal  
Rick 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 13, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*  
Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the July 13, 2009 regular City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**PRESENTATION:**

**LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** *(Norris & White)*

Mayor Eskridge stated two terms had expired with four candidates expressing an interest in appointments. Voting was recorded as follows:

James Caskey: There were no votes recorded.

Maryann Meador: Councilmember's Bird and Johnson

\*Arlene Norris: Councilmember's Bird, Hase, Trader, Weaver, DeLoughy and Johnson

\*Jo An White: Councilmember's Hase, Trader, Weaver and DeLoughy

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT: (Howell)**

Mayor Eskridge stated there was one vacancy to fill with two candidates expressing an interest in the appointment. Voting was recorded as follows:

\*Susan Vank Dyk: Councilmember's Bird, Hase, Johnson and Trader  
Barbara Walters: Councilmember's DeLoughy and Weaver

**COASTAL RDC HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT (Natzic)**

Mayor Eskridge stated the incumbent Walt Natzic was the only candidate interested in the appointment.

Councilmember Bird moved to appoint Walt Natzic. Voting was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Eskridge stated that the Citizens Advisory Board is being reactivated, and appointments will be made at the next council meeting. Each council member will appoint one member and the mayor will select the seventh member. Anyone interested in an appointment should provide a letter of intent to the City Clerk.

**THOMAS CHAPMAN**

Mayor Eskridge presented Thomas Chapman with a certificate of appreciation to recognize his efforts and unselfish contributions to benefit the community. His gracious donation of "Historic St. Marys.com" has shown undeniable dedication to enhance the City of St. Marys marketing efforts so that all may enjoy our beautiful city.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**LaShelle Brown**, new business owner thanked the Mayor, Council, licensing agency and SCORE Counselors to America's Small Business on behalf of Camden Essentials for their help, assistance and resources provided during the start-up of her business. The Mayor was presented with the first photo taken by Camden Essentials.

**Cookie Johnson**, resident reported that she had logged many telephone calls for Councilmember Johnson supporting the abbreviation "St." for the logo and the St. Marys Airport.

**Benjamin Agee**, resident thanked the City and the Kiwanis for the wonderful job and festivities at the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Agee spoke about the parking tickets his out of town

family members received during the activities, and showed photos of the parking signs that were posted.

Mayor Eskridge and Mr. Agee discussed the location of the no parking signs. Councilmember Bird questioned the number citations that were issued. The City Manager stated that despite having 13,000 to 15,000 vehicles parked downtown, only 34 parking tickets were issued for safety violations.

The Mayor and Councilmember's discussed the location of the no parking signs, the lack of parking accommodations, safety issues for emergency vehicles, advertising the issuance of tickets and the correct forum for adjudication.

**\*CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve Old Business "A" and New Business "A" to the consent agenda. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. \*AIRPORT LEASE**

To enter into a lease agreement with the Airport Authority as lessee of the St Marys Airport property.

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

**B. BAIT SHOP: Update/Direction**

To discuss issues concerning Bait Shop.

The City Manager stated the Lease for the Bait Shop located in the Howard Gilman Waterfront Park expires at the end of July. Currently the St Marys Yacht Club holds the lease and had presented a proposal to the Property Committee for review. Two meetings were held with representatives from the Fishing community and Boating community to gather input. Advertising for the RFP for the bait shop or best opportunity would be a natural next step.

Councilmember Trader made a motion to issue an RFP for all options for the best use. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion.

Mayor and Councilmember's discussed the stability of the bait shop, best use of the facility and the change of the terms with last year's bid. Following much discussion, voting was as follows:

**FOR**

Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Johnson  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**OPPOSED**

Councilmember Bird

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. “HISTORIC ST. MARYS.COM” DOMAIN**

Donation acceptance of Historic St Marys.com domain from Tom Chapman.

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

**B. SUGARMILL BLVD. EASEMENT/ROW**

To accept an easement/right of way of Sugarmill Boulevard from Rayonier.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve an easement/right of way. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy questioned the length of the easement. The Planning Director responded that it was 2,500 feet. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. LARP 2010: Local Assistance Road Program**

The City Manager stated that he and the Public Works Department recommend approval of the proposed 2010 LARP List. The list is reviewed and rated by the DOT District State Aid Coordinator, and then the state approves the submitted list or a portion of that list. On average, the City of St. Marys has been receiving approximately 1 ½ miles of roads each year.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the 2010 LARP list. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver questioned whether the funds were appropriated by DOT and were the same roads submitted for 2009. The City Manager responded funds were not available for 2009 and they were not the same roads because when funds become available the city would lose out by submitting the same road list twice. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**D. DOWNTOWN DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND-DDA**

Resolution of support for the DDA and Family Matters Counseling of Coastal Georgia, Inc. to apply for a Downtown District Redevelopment Loan Fund

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Johnson commented this is not a grant

but a redevelopment loan, even though the city has a statement that we are not responsible for repayment. He is uncomfortable relying on the current federal administration to fund the loan. The City Manager responded that a contract or agreement would come before council to agree to the terms. Mayor Eskridge stated a city recommendation is required by the Department of Community Affairs before these types of loans were made to businesses, without obligation to the city. The City Attorney stated the Downtown Development Authority cannot obligate the City of St. Marys. If and when the documents come to fruition a signature is required to support the project. Following much discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

**FOR**

Councilmember DeLoughy  
Councilmember Hase  
Councilmember Trader  
Councilmember Weaver

**OPPOSED**

Councilmember Bird  
Councilmember Johnson

**E. COASTAL GEORGIA GREENWAY**  
Resolution to support Coastal Georgia Greenway.

The City Manager stated 161 miles of the Georgia coastline is a component of the Coastal Georgia Greenway (CGG). The greenway is planned to extend from Savannah to St. Marys where the trail connects to Florida via ferry to Fernandina, Florida. The pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and water trails that will link Savannah with St. Marys will serve as a highly valuable greenway and blueway (streams & rivers) resource for the state. The City Manager had recommendation to postpone until reviewing the grant and costs.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to postpone until the next meeting. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**F. MAHAN STREET PAVING (ADDED)**  
The Public Works Department and City Manager recommend approval of the Mahan Street Improvement Project.

The City Manager stated that Mahan Street (between West Conyers Street and Church Street) is a dirt/grass street maintained by the Public Works Department. The City has received requests to pave the portion of Mahan Street that is currently not paved. The Public Works Department has generated a cost estimate of \$70,000 to make the requested improvements. This project would be paid out of SPLOST V.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to postpone a decision until the City Manager and Public Works Director compose a city street priority list. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

### **A. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

There was no "Planning Director Report" at this time.

### **REPORT OF MAYOR:**

The Mayor announced the Community Market vendors want to help kids get off to a good start by giving away notebooks and pencils at the market this Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. They would also appreciate donations for the distribution. Visit the market at a new location, which is in front of the pavilion from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. every Saturday.

- July 14, 2009 Conference with Steve Roe regarding Rayonier properties
- July 16, 2009 Attended a meeting regarding the new library addition
- July 17, 2009 Meeting with Joe Rowell and the City Manager regarding the need for sewers at Spur 40 and met with the Police Chief regarding training expenses
- July 20, 2009 Attended the Council Works session regarding Chip Drury and Laurel Island
- July 23, 2009 Attended the unveiling of a new edition of St. Marys Magazine and presented Barbara Ryan with a proclamation. The Mayor commended Ms. Ryan for the great advertising she provides for St. Marys through the publication of a great product.

Mayor Eskridge read the calendar of events, activities and meeting for the remainder of July and the first two week in August.

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

- Review of the Memorandum of Understanding from Chip Drury
- Pt. Peter Wastewater Treatment Plant is over 40% completed and ahead of schedule

### **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Jim Stein**, fisherman spoke in support of the bait shop on the waterfront and St. Marys always being a fishing and boating community.

**Gene Hope**, business owner spoke about his bait shop thriving without being on the waterfront, providing quality bait and bait being available in the area.

Councilmember Bird commented that the fishing community should recapitalize on the enhancement of the facility. Councilmember Weaver stated that the City is working with DDA, the National Park Service and Department of National Recourses on the use of the facility to accommodate both businesses.

**Steve Fase**, resident spoke in support of the bait shop and council action to put it out for bid on the use of the facility.

**Phil Jones**, resident spoke in support of the bait shop and putting it out for bid. He also requested hearing from more local residents in regards to the subject. Mr. Jones thanked Public Works for their quick response to a road repair problem.

Councilmember Bird commented that this was a great opportunity to discuss keeping a facility at the waterfront and not taking it away.

**Joe Riggins**, resident spoke in support of renting the bait shop and not turning it into a welcome center.

**Reverend Bob Meadow**, resident and member of the yacht club spoke in support of the welcome center to offer something more to attract visitors and there not being a need for a bait shop on the waterfront.

**John Morrissey**, resident commented about the article in the newspaper where people have attitudes regarding what council should or should not do and having it addressed.

**Sherry Rickter**, resident spoke in support of attracting boaters to the waterfront shops and events.

**Jay Marino**, resident spoke in support of the redevelopment of St. Marys and requested council to visit "Camden Commentary", which has a link to his blog along with DCA tutorial and who is liable for repayment of the loans.

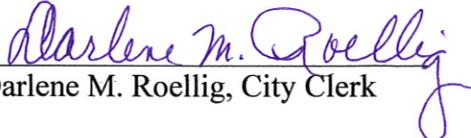
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no "Executive Session" at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Weaver made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk