

CALLED COUNCIL MEETING  
September 10, 2012

The Hartwell City Council met in special called session on Monday, September 10, 2012 in the large conference room of city hall with all members present except Councilmember Tray Hicks. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Scott at approximately 6:00 p.m., who stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the animal control ordinance, Fairview Avenue concerns, Downtown Development Authority, agenda notification/information, and Fire Department Sirens discussion.

Mayor Scott stated that City Manager David Aldrich had provided her with a copy of the Decatur County Animal Control Ordinance, which was pretty intensive compared to Hartwell's Ordinance. She asked that a committee be established to review the City's current Ordinance and compare with the Decatur Ordinance to find a happy medium, with Councilman David Little as Chairman of that committee, along with Councilmen Tony Haynie and Arthur Craft.

Councilman Mike MacNabb motioned to establish a committee to review the Animal Control Ordinance as recommended by the Mayor. Councilman Little stated that he had no problem in chairing that committee, but he did feel that this meeting should be a work session rather than a called meeting, costing the taxpayers extra money. Mayor Scott replied that she understood his concern, but there were time sensitive issues on the agenda that needed action by Council. Councilman Little stated that he would rescind his objection to the called meeting if they could agree to work hard to have other actions by Council in regular meeting sessions if possible, and keep called meetings at a minimum. Ms. Donna Madkiff of the Hartwell Humane Society stated that her organization's goal was to offer any assistance to help get animals off the streets, as well as try to educate the community. Following discussion, Councilman Haynie provided a second to Councilman MacNabb's motion to establish a committee. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Mayor Scott reported that child safety was more and more of a safety concern now that school was back in session. She stated that she would like for Council to direct the City Manager to begin investigating sidewalks from Franklin Street to the 4-way stop at Fairview Avenue. As Councilman Little stated that he understood they were talking about going from the Middle School to Franklin Street, he asked "why can't we make sure there is a walkway from Middle School back over to Campbell Street, and then back up to Franklin?" As the Mayor and other Council members concurred that Mr. Little's suggestion was a better option, it was the consensus of Council to authorize the City Manager to investigate the preliminaries regarding installation of walkways before expending any funds.

Mayor Scott explained that the Downtown Development Authority was looking at hiring a new Executive Director following the resignation of Mr. Michael Crump. She stated that pros and cons had been discussed by some DDA Board members whether or not to bring the DDA under the City's umbrella in hopes of enticing a very qualified director. Another option discussed was whether or not the City could provide additional money for that position. Upon being asked by Councilman Little how much the DDA was asking, the Mayor replied that a \$40,000 salary for that position was requested, plus benefits, which was comparative to other cities our size. Councilman Haynie commented that his thought was to structurally leave the DDA as is and possibly take \$10,000 from the City's Economic Development Fund to add to the DDA Director's salary. The City Manager felt that money should not be taken from the Economic Development funds for that purpose, as these funds are used primarily for revolving loan funds. Following considerable discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Billy Ethridge to give the DDA a pro rata portion of \$10,000 for the remainder of the year and look at guaranteeing additional funds from economic development funding or budgetary funds for next year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Mike MacNabb and carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Mayor Scott stated that she would like to see a little more involvement from council members regarding the monthly meeting agenda. She also stated that she would like to see the agenda no later than Wednesday prior to the council meeting if at all possible. Councilman Little also stated that unless the Mayor had objections, he would like for any member of Council to be able to add an item to the agenda without having to have three members of Council to approve the addition. Councilman Ethridge stated that he had no problem as long as agenda items are included in council packets, but he did not wish to receive information right before the meeting.

The City Manager offered a potential solution regarding weather warning sirens. He suggested that the City go ahead and purchase the basic component with software to operate a new siren, and the next couple of years budget for one more each year, without straining the budget. A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept the City Manager's recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk

