

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
March 5, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, March 5, 2012 in the council chambers of city hall with all members present except Councilman Billy Ethridge. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Scott at 7:00 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag, everyone paused for a moment of silence. The invocation was given by Rev. Lonnie Bennett of Hartwell Church of God.

Mayor Scott reported that March was known as "Women's History Month," which recognizes the contributions and progress of women across history and around the world. The Mayor named ten women who are currently making contributions, from peacekeeping to crafting economic policies in the midst of crisis.

A motion was made by Councilman David Little to add item #18 to the agenda regarding a recommendation from the water committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously.

A Proclamation was read by Mayor Scott proclaiming April 2012 as American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" month. The Proclamation was presented to Mr. Ray Stowers, Event Chairman for the Hart County Relay for Life event. This annual event brings the community together in the fight against cancer through education and awareness.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 6, 2012 regular council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Mike MacNabb to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tony Haynie and carried unanimously.

Mayor Scott reported that once again the City is honored to receive the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. She extended gratitude and appreciation for the hard work of Finance Officer Joan Hughes in achieving this award.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman MacNabb, and carried unanimously to ratify the recent approval by Council for repair of the mounting bracket at the Cedar Creek Pump Station in the amount of \$8,667.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Hart County Little League for the annual Little League Opening Day parade to be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to accept the Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve a request from Jeff Buchanan to rezone .314 acre from M-1 to B-2, General Business District, at the intersection of Parkdale Drive and Bailey Drive.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 03-05-12, updating the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Workers Compensation coverage for the City's elected officials.

A motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to adopt the Restated Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Retirement Plan.

Ordinance No. 2012-01, as discussed during the previous council meeting, was presented as the second reading. The Ordinance extends the moratorium on Internet Sweepstakes Cafes for another 180 days. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Councilman Hicks reported that the construction of the new city hall was progressing very well, with the brick work just a little behind. He also presented several change orders for Council's consideration. As the first change order was considered regarding the encounter of soft earth causing excavation and backfilling with stone at a cost of \$2,982, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve the change order. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

As discussion ensued concerning a change order regarding the possibility of utilizing a large storage space underneath the stairwell in the new city hall at an additional cost of \$3,989, Councilman Little felt the space should be utilized for storage, but also felt this was a design mistake by the architect. Other members of Council also felt this was a mistake by the architect, and following considerable discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to go ahead and approve the closing of the stairwell, but also authorize the City Manager to approach the architect regarding the issue. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Council also discussed a change order in the amount of \$8,067 for a fence around the Fire Department driveway, extending from the front of the Fire Department to the sidewalk. It was felt that a fence would be needed due to citizens possibly walking across the area to the new city hall while pressurized fire hoses may be rolled out, causing someone to trip and fall. Councilman Little stated that during earlier discussions, he thought a hedge row or plantings had also been mentioned, which would force citizens to walk around them and use the sidewalk as they walked from the parking lot to the new city hall. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to table the fence issue to give the City Manager an opportunity to explore options. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve contingency items as listed on J. M. Wilkerson's Request for Utilization of Contractor's Contingency Fund. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

Councilman Hicks reported that out of 150 names on a petition received from people who stated they were not able to obtain work on the new city hall, it was found that only two (2) of these individuals had actually applied for work. The names on the petition were compared with the applications received by the contractor.

The City Manager explained that the City was looking at extending the water main from Benson Street along Carter Street and tying into Howell Street. He also recommended the extension of the gas main at the same time, with some directional boring from Carter and Howell Streets to Johnson Street and tying back into the system since a lot of the downtown area is not currently looped. He further reported that a low quote had been received from Hodge Enterprise in the amount of \$12,520 for the directional bore. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the \$12,520 quote from Hodge Enterprise to complete the natural gas main looping downtown. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

As discussion ensued regarding a recycling center, the City Manager reported that the city-owned property near the water tank on Carter Street was being looked at to place dumpsters on casters or rollers. When full, the City would empty the dumpsters, compress, and transport to Athens. He further stated that he felt this could be accomplished for less than \$4,000, which would be a cost-effective method to get started with establishing a recycling center, while providing a service to the community. Councilman Little stated that eventually a fence would probably have to be placed around the area or have someone to monitor. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to allow the City Manager to spend up to \$4,000 for a recycling center on Carter Street. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Councilman Little presented the Water Committee's report regarding the sale of water to the Hart Co. Water Authority. The report stated that at this time the committee's proposal is to extend or modify the City's lines to the city limits, but keep it open to consider later requests, within reason, for line extensions. A motion was made by Councilman Little to accept the committee's report and offer the Hart County Water Authority a flat rate (not sliding scale) of \$1.85 per thousand gallons of water. However, at that rate the City would not be willing to put money into any of the Water Authority's infrastructure to go across bridges, etc. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried 4 to 1, with Councilman MacNabb abstaining. Councilman Little further stated that this was a wholesale rate, not retail rate.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk