

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2013

The City of Hartwell Mayor and Council met in regular session Monday, February 4, 2013 in the council chambers of city hall with all members present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jennifer Scott.

Everyone in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. As everyone then paused for a moment of silence, the Mayor asked everyone to please remember citizens of Adairsville, Georgia who suffered losses from a recent tornado in that community. The invocation was given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Mayor Scott publicly praised Gas Superintendent Mr. Audie Laviolette and his assistant, Ms. Audrey Segars, as well as the entire Gas Department, for a job well done. She reported that a recent audit was conducted of the City's Gas system, and the City of Hartwell Gas Department was highly praised over all other cities in the state.

In honor of Black History Month, the Mayor read a quote by Mary Jane McLeod Bethune. Ms. Bethune was an American educator and civil rights leader, and best known for starting a school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida, which eventually became Bethune-Cookman University. She was also an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In recognizing Design-Build projects in a recent award ceremony, a runner-up award was presented by the Southeast Chapter of Design Build Institute of America to Piper O'Brien Herr Architects /J. M. Wilkerson Construction for design and construction of Hartwell's new City Hall and Police Department. Mr. Richard Kramer of Piper O'Brien Herr Architects presented the awarded runner-up plaque to Mayor and Council for display in the new city hall.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 7, 2013 regular council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman David Little to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Tony Haynie, seconded by Councilman Mike MacNabb, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2013 called council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman David Little, seconded by Councilman Billy Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve amendments to the City's 2012 budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Tray Hicks, and carried unanimously to approve the disposal of surplus vehicles. The vehicles will be sold through Georgia Municipal Association's online GovDeals Program.

In explaining the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, City Manager David Aldrich stated that SCADA was basically an alarm system, which monitors and alerts personnel of potential problems at the Wastewater Treatment Plant or Lift Stations, as well as the Water

Treatment Plant. He stated that the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) had been encouraging the City for quite some time to implement the SCADA system. He asked for Council's direction regarding a SCADA system, and whether or not to allow a local firm to install the system or seek bids. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to authorize the City Manager to seek bids for the SCADA system. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to accept a contract from Otis Elevator for evaluation and maintenance of the City's elevator system at a cost of \$60.00 per month.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to authorize the City Manager and Mayor to enter into an agreement for one year with ReCommunity Recycling of Athens, Georgia. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. The City Manager explained that signage will be placed at the recycling facility as to what articles can be accepted, but citizens will not be required to separate items. The recycling facility will be located on Carter Street next to the City's water tank.

As discussion ensued regarding Hart State Park, Councilman Hicks explained that the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) lease with the Corps of Engineers was in limbo at the present time. He reported that a local investment group was interested in managing the Park, sub-leasing from the City. Councilman Hicks recommended that the City Manager send a letter of intent to Georgia DNR and Corps of Engineers stating that the City of Hartwell was interested in a minimum of a 50-year lease of Hart State Park, with negotiations on outstanding bond of indebtedness of \$90,454.19, and to see if the City would have to send out Request for Proposals (RFP's) for management of the Park. A motion was made by Councilman Little to have the letter of intent produced in order to begin negotiations to maybe eventually acquire or lease the State Park. Motion was seconded by Councilman Mike MacNabb. Upon further discussion, the motion and second were amended by Councilmen Little and MacNabb to also have the City Manager find out if RFP's would have to be sent out for management of the Park. Motion carried unanimously.

It was reported by Councilman Hicks that due to limited parking directly around city hall, he motioned to have the City Manager have signs made for parking spaces around city hall, limiting parking to fifteen (15) minutes, and that Mayor and Council are to refrain from utilizing parking spaces around city hall. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. It was noted that these parking spaces are specifically on the side of city hall and behind city hall at the entrance to the Police Department.

Councilman Little read an open letter to the Mayor, signed by all councilmembers. The letter basically stated that the Mayor had overstepped the authority of her office, and gave several examples. The letter also stated that Council insisted that the Mayor conduct the office of Mayor as the Charter instructs.

In response to the open letter read by Councilman Little, Mayor Scott stated that these were allegations based on assumptions, not fact, and that she could not control other people's assumptions and interpretations. She also stated that she, too, had been a victim of slander by Council.

The City Manager reported on the following issues:

- An audio firm should begin work the following week to correct problems with microphones and other issues, which will be taken care of by J. M. Wilkerson Company;
- Most of the doors have now been keyed the same and tile repair has been completed in men's jail cell shower;
- In compliance with EPD's Consent Order, a concentrated effort has been made to correct infiltration and inflow, with 752 manholes having already been inspected and 11.8 miles of sewer main cleaned and videoed. Scottie Green and his crew are to be commended for doing a phenomenal job with this ongoing project.

Councilman Haynie voiced concern regarding condemnation of property and warrants not being served, stating that reports showed that some condemnations of property were ten years old. The City Manager explained that many property owners and heirs could not be located and warrants could not be served out of state. Councilman Haynie stated that there must be some method to take care of this when there was a health and safety issue. The City Manager stated that this was a slow process, but warrants were currently being issued by the Judge.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

