

Regular Council Meeting

November 3, 2008

Members Present: Councilmen David Little, Jim Evans, Michael Gordon, Van Senkbeil, Tray Hicks, and Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mayfield

Absent: Mayor Matt Beasley

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall. In the absence of Mayor Beasley, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mayfield.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the October 6th minutes, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield reported that a letter was received by Mayor and Council from Haleigh Lewis, seeking assistance for the annual "Second Helping Dinner" to be held at the Hartwell First United Methodist Church on December 18th. Miss Lewis began the community service project three years ago, in which volunteers provide a Christmas dinner to the less fortunate. Miss Lewis reported in her letter that 300 people were served the first year this dinner was held, and approximately 780 plates were prepared last year. She appealed for volunteers to help with this year's dinner, and monetary donations may be mailed to Hartwell First United Methodist Church, 200 East Howell Street, Hartwell, with checks made payable to "Second Helping." Dr. Allen Stewart, pastor of Hartwell First UMC also stated in a letter that this was not a project of the church, but a community-wide endeavor to reach and touch many that are left behind. He commended Miss Lewis and also asked for help with this project.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to approve a request for a sign variance for AnMed Medical Center. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the Zoning Board's recommendation to approve a request from R. Jeffery Buchanan to rezone property located on Carolina Street from R-2, Multiple-Family Residential District, to B-2, General Business District. Motion was seconded by Councilman Evans and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the R-2 (Multiple-Family Residential District) zoning for annexed property of Juniper Court located at Nancy Drive and Ridge Road. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the bid from Fire Facilities in the amount of \$116,146.00 for a fire tower if acceptable to Chief Vickery. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little. The motion and second was amended by Councilmen Hicks and Little to also include the acceptance of the optional Ships Ladder at an additional cost of

\$2,857.00. Motion carried unanimously. It was also explained that this was the only bid received, and less than the anticipated cost.

As Fire Chief Terry Vickery explained that construction and foundation for the fire tower would need to bid, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to authorize the City Manager to seek bids for the construction of the tower as requested by Chief Vickery. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously to accept the low bid from Williamson & Co. for audit services in the amounts of \$17,610 for year 2008, and \$18,000 for years 2009 and 2010.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Gordon, and carried unanimously to approve a request from Hart County Chamber of Commerce for a Christmas parade to be held Friday, December 5th.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2008-12, annexing approximately 10.44 acres of property located at Nancy Drive and Ridge Road, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the Ordinance accepting the annexation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

Council heard the first reading of Flood Damage Control Ordinance No. 2008-13.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Evans and carried unanimously to adopt the Gas Department Priority 4 Operations and Maintenance Procedures. It was noted that this was the final group of procedures required in a Consent Agreement with the Georgia Public Service Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Gordon, and carried unanimously to approve a beer/wine license for Parke Skelton.

The City Manager presented a brief review of the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget, which was discussed earlier in a public hearing. He reported that the millage rate was recommended to remain the same at 9.60 mills, and two rate increases were recommended. Sanitation fees are proposed to increase by 5.6% due to the City receiving a \$7.50 per ton increase in tipping fees from the County. A 2.6% increase is recommended for water and sewer rates. This increase is due to a significant reduction in water usage since the state mandated a 10% cutback on use of water, thereby causing a reduction in revenues. As pointed out by Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield, the Sanitation fees would increase by approximately 88¢ per month, and the water/sewer increase will be based upon amount of usage.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to set the date for the next budget public hearing for November 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a special called meeting at 6:30 p.m., and the third and final public hearing to be held on December 1, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting. After further discussion, Councilman Little amended his motion to change the time of the December 1st public hearing to 6:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

The City Manager updated Council on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

project in the Rome neighborhood. He reported that the project was approximately 55% plus complete, with concrete work expected to be finished by the end of the week or into next week. Base and paving should begin by the middle of this month, with project completion expected by the middle of December with the exception of punch list items and project dress-up such as grassing. As questioned by Councilman Hicks, the City Manager reported that the Mayor was still working on putting a citizens committee together regarding the Rome neighborhood CDBG project.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield reported that she had asked for, and received, an official incident report from the Chief of Police regarding Ms. Freddie Glaze. Copies of the report were also given to each Council member, and Ms. Mayfield offered a copy to Ms. Glaze as well. Ms. Glaze again addressed Council pertaining to the way she and her family have been treated by the police and others.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner

City Clerk