

CITY OF HARTWELL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, December 5, 2011 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 stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. Following a moment of silence, the invocation was given by Rev. Terry Meeks of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Mayor Scott announced that December 7th marks the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

As noted by Councilman Arthur Craft, the minutes of the November 7, 2011 public hearing (3rd paragraph) and the November 7th regular meeting (paragraph 15) should be corrected to state \$500 rather than \$600 already budgeted for Hart Partners, with the correct amount allocated to Hart Partners totaling \$6,500. A motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks, seconded by Councilman David Little, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

Hart County Sheriff Deputy Chad Phillips, representing the Fraternal Order of Police Northeast Georgia Lodge #105, appealed to Mayor and Council for a contribution from the City for the annual Cops and Kids Christmas Program. Deputy Phillips explained that the organization was comprised of current, former, and retired law enforcement officers covering five counties. Each year during the Christmas season, through an application selection process, children are chosen to go shopping with a cop. Approximately \$100 is spent on each child, and each child's family receives a Christmas dinner if enough funds are available. Deputy Phillips stated that this was one way law enforcement could give back to the community. As discussion ensued regarding the legality of the City contributing to individual organizations, Councilman Little asked Mr. Phillips if individual donations would be acceptable. Mr. Phillips stated that any donation would be appreciated. Councilman Little stated he felt council members could make individual donations and citizens could also be invited to contribute.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield to adopt Resolution No. 12-05-11, approving the results of the November 8, 2011 Municipal General Election. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2011-03, adopting the 2012 City of Hartwell budget, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve the Ordinance. City Manager David Aldrich explained that the general fund budget was \$4,387,785, and the tax millage rate remains the same at 9.60 mills. He also reported that the budget includes a 3% pay increase for City employees, and no utility increases are proposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Billy Ethridge, and carried unanimously to accept the Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve a request from Jeff Buchanan for a rear setback variance at property located at the intersection of Powell Road and Bailey Drive.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve approximately 20 alcohol license renewal applications.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve a quote from ITT Water & Wastewater USA in the amount of \$10,435.72 for repair of the sewer pump at the Cedar Creek pump station. The City Manager explained that the impeller was found not to be working and when the pump was pulled and inspected, it was discovered the impeller was worn beyond repair. He further stated that the quote received was for parts only and funding would come from the Sewer Department line item budget for maintenance and repair. He also stated that the cost of labor for the repair would fall under his allowed approval, and repair would be made by a firm in Athens, Georgia.

Upon recommendation by the City Manager in a memo to Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve purchase of a water meter and vault in the amount of \$16,500.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to set the next regularly scheduled council meeting for Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. due to city hall closed Monday, January 2nd in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Mayor Scott appointed Councilmember Arthur Craft as chairperson for the City's Insurance Committee, and Councilmember David Little as chairperson for the City's Water Committee and Economic Development Committee.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to allow city employees an extra one-half day off during the Christmas holidays beginning at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 22, 2011. This extra time allowed is in lieu of providing lunch as in the past. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Mayor Scott extended a very heartfelt "thank you" to Councilmember Van Senkbeil for his 16 years of service to the City of Hartwell, stating that he would be greatly missed.

The Mayor also stated that Councilmember Sarah Mayfield had served approximately 30 years as a very valuable member of the city council and will be missed very much. As many of her family members looked on, Ms. Mayfield was presented a plaque by Mayor Scott in honor of her dedication to all citizens of the city. Ms. Mayfield expressed her appreciation to everyone, especially her family, friends, Mayor and Council. She stated it had been a long time and a pleasure, through good times, bad times, and all kinds of times, but felt it was time to go home and she was looking forward to the next part of her life.

Councilmember Van Senkbeil expressed his thanks to Mayor and Council, department heads, and all citizens for their support during his 16 years of service on city council. Mr. Senkbeil stated that it had been an honor to serve and encouraged others to get involved in local government. He expressed best wishes to newly-elected council members Tony Haynie and Mike MacNabb, stating they would do a great job.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to adjourn at approximately 7:25 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk