

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 6, 2010

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall with all members present. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Scott, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 1, 2010 regular council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve as submitted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 9, 2010 called meeting, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the called meeting and public hearing held on November 18, 2010, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

Mayor Scott stated that a few items needed to be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to grant city employees an extra one-half day off during Christmas on Wednesday, December 22nd. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

As discussion ensued regarding allowing city employees a day off on their birthdays, with pay, the City Manager stated that this action would not add directly to the budget. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to allow employees to receive their birthday off with pay. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 12-06-10 regarding the City's application for Streetscape funding from the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program of the Department of Transportation.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Dennis Cobb expressed appreciation to Mayor and Council for the City's support during the year, not only with funding, but also with special event participation.

Chamber of Commerce President Kiera Partlow and Tourism Director Anna Burch presented a slide presentation of Chamber accomplishments during 2010 and objectives for 2011. In discussing fishing tournaments held at the new mega ramp, Ms. Partlow reported that feedback received from fishermen consistently included comments regarding the need for lights, a restroom facility, and large courtesy dock, which would help make the Gum Branch mega ramp a top facility in the state. It was suggested by Councilwoman Mayfield that Hart County Electric Membership Corporation and Georgia Power Company may be contacted to help with the lighting at the mega ramp. It was also noted that the Department of Natural Resources would be constructing the courtesy dock.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2010-02, a motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to approve the Ordinance, which adopts the City's new Code of Ordinances as prepared by Municipal Code Corporation.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2010-03, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve the Ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2011 budget.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2010-04, revising standards for outdoor watering as mandated by the state.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to reappoint Carey Jackson and Earl Johnson to the Downtown Development Authority Executive Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve alcohol license renewals as presented.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a new wasting pump for the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of approximately \$9,015.32. As stated in a memo from Public Works Director Dennis White, the cost estimate to rebuild the existing pump was \$7,113.89, and no warranty would be issued with a rebuilt pump.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve a Servicing Agreement, as written, with the Georgia Mountains Regional Economic Development Corporation regarding a loan in the amount of \$8,000.00 to Hailey Building, LLC (Tina C. Howard) from the City's Revolving Loan Fund.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve gas line extension to service ten poultry houses located on Moore Road, four poultry houses at Ayers Farm on Blanton Shirley Rd., and six poultry houses at Lucky Farm, also located on Blanton Shirley Road. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 12-06-10-1, approving the Short-Term Work Program of the Comprehensive Plan for state and regional review.

As explained by the City Manager, proposals for the City's banking services were received and upon reviewing each proposal, First Citizens offered the best services and best interest on the City's daily deposits. Councilman Little moved to accept the proposal from First Citizens for the City's banking services. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Mayor Scott stated that she was striking item #15 from the agenda due to the City Manager already having discussed the issue of solid waste with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) and the Commission had agreed that the Resolution passed in 2009 satisfied requirements from the City. The City Manager replied that his discussion with GMRC was concerning the Solid Waste Management Plan, and item #15 was asked by Councilman Craft to be placed on the agenda for discussion regarding the City's solid waste, and should still stand.

As discussion began regarding agenda item #15, Councilman Craft made a motion to cease any and all talk about outsourcing the City's Sanitation Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge. Opposing the motion was Councilwoman Mayfield, and Councilman Hicks abstained. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilmembers Craft, Ethridge, Little, and Senkbeil. Motion carried.

As further discussion ensued, Councilman Craft stated that he felt by outsourcing the Sanitation Department, a lot of businesses in the City of Hartwell that support the Sanitation Department would also be hurt by the loss of revenue. This would include uniform purchases, oil, tires, fuel, mechanical services, and the possibility of increased taxes by the County due to loss of landfill fees, and even the possible reduction in County employees. Councilman Ethridge stated that the City may want to look at outsourcing the Sanitation Department in the future, but at the present time the Department is working well and making money. He further stated that he felt they (council) were here to help the city and county and protect all the employees in both governments. Councilwoman Mayfield replied that the County should consider that when setting the City's landfill fees. Councilman Senkbeil stated that the Sanitation Department was in bad shape when he first took office 15 years ago, but agreed that the Department was now making money and doing well. Mayor Scott stated she was not proud of having to take so much to the landfill, and eventually a mandate will come from the federal government requiring the City to be more environmentally conscious. Councilman Little stated that citizens he talked to felt the Sanitation Department was the best in the state and did not want a change. He said this was a reflection on the Department and applauded Sanitation Superintendent Dean Carruth and his department employees. Councilman Little further stated that he didn't see any reason why the City could not have its own recycling program.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to add another item to the agenda to discuss recycling. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. Councilman Craft commented that he felt education on recycling could begin in the schools and the students could then educate parents. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to have the City Manager or his designee to look at the cost of supplying recycling containers to residents inside the city who have a desire to recycle. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to add Councilmembers David Little, Sarah Mayfield, and Billy Ethridge to the city hall committee, stating that David Little was more familiar with architects and engineers than anyone else on the committee. Mayor Scott referred to a section of the City Charter which gives the Mayor sole authority to appoint committees. As Councilman Ethridge asked the Mayor if she had a problem with David Little being on the committee, she replied that she had previously named a committee and those were the people who would remain on the committee. As Councilwoman Mayfield asked if she could remove her name from the committee in lieu of David Little, the Mayor stated that she would certainly allow that if that's what she wished to do. Councilwoman Mayfield stated that she did wish to remove her name from the committee. Other members of the committee include Councilman Tray Hicks, Fire Chief Terry Vickery, and City Manager David Aldrich.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

