

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 6, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, February 6, 2012 in the council chambers of city hall with all council members present. Absent from the meeting was Mayor Jennifer Scott.

In the absence of Mayor Scott, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem David Little.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Rev. Reginald Wood of Hartwell First Baptist Church on Richardson Street.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Little, a motion was made by Councilman Tony Haynie, seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft, and carried unanimously to add item #15a to the meeting agenda as "City Hall Building Committee Report."

Mayor Pro Tem Little reminded everyone that the month of February was Black History Month. He also reported that a 2-page financial summary would be provided to the public each month, of which copies will be available on the table located in the back of council chambers during the regular council meetings. Copies will also be available at the front desk of city hall and citizens are welcome to come by any time during normal business hours and review the City's financial reports.

The minutes of the January 3, 2012 city council meeting were approved upon motion by Councilman Mike MacNabb, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Little noted that the date for the annual Pre-4th Extravaganza, as requested by the Hartwell Service League, had been changed from June 23rd to June 30th. A motion was made by Councilman Billy Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Haynie, and carried unanimously to approve the annual Pre-4th event to be held June 30, 2012. Ms. Mary Gidley mentioned that the 50th year anniversary of the Hartwell Dam would also be celebrated during this Pre-4th event.

In discussing the request from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for approval of its annual events, it was noted that the date of June 22, 2012 was requested for "Dancin' on Depot," which is normally held the evening before the Pre-4th event. As Council questioned whether or not the DDA wished to change the date to June 29th for the "Dancin' on Depot" event, a motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks to approve the request from the DDA for the following events, with "Dancin' on Depot" scheduled for either June 22 or 29, 2012. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

- Downtown Outdoors Show - April 21, 2012
- Dancin' on Depot - June 22, 2012, or June 29, 2012
(City Manager to confirm date w/DDA)
- Arts in hARTwell Festival - September 22, 2012
- Monster Mash/Scarecrow Bash - October 31, 2012
- Tree Lighting Festival - November 20, 2012

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to send a letter of support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting continued funding of training and source water programs through the Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA.) As explained by City Manager David Aldrich, GRWA has helped the City numerous times with water related issues and he felt the City needed to support GRWA's effort in keeping training funds in Georgia.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Haynie, and carried unanimously to amend the previous Ordinance regarding a moratorium on Internet Sweepstake Cafés by extending the moratorium for another 180 days.

Mayor Pro Tem Little reported that Mayor and Council had received a petition containing 26 signatures from citizens living in and around the townhouses on E. Johnson Street, expressing concern of a vehicle (truck) parked in a space in front of the townhouses at the corner of E. Johnson and N. Carter Streets, which obstructs the view when entering Johnson Street from N. Carter Street. As the City Manager stated that the City could yellow-in the parking space to give better site distance, Councilman Hicks suggested that the parking space be made a compact vehicle space. As discussion ensued, Councilman MacNabb felt there was definitely a problem with traffic view when pulling out into the street due to the parked truck. Councilman Craft stated that he had pulled out into the street at the same location while the truck was parked in the space, and did not see a problem. Following discussion, Councilman Hicks made a motion to make the parking space a compact vehicle space. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried 4 to 1, with Councilman MacNabb opposing.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to accept a quote from Consolidated Pipe & Supply in the amount of \$7,220.50 for a new industrial water meter and vault.

Councilmember and Chairman of the City's Insurance Committee Arthur Craft reported that the Insurance Committee met recently to discuss the City's Long and Short Term Disability and Life Insurance coverage, and it was the Committee's recommendation to switch insurance carriers due to receiving a better rate with better coverage. Councilman Craft moved that Council accept the Committee's recommendation to switch carriers. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Little reported that the following committee appointments were made by Mayor Jennifer Scott:

- Councilman Tony Haynie – Insurance Committee
- Councilman Mike MacNabb – Economic Development Committee
- Councilman Mike MacNabb – City Hall Building Committee

City Manager David Aldrich recommended the surplus of two dump trucks and one bucket truck, and replacing with the purchase of one good used bucket truck and one used dump truck for the Street Department. As explained by Mr. Aldrich, the current bucket truck was 22 years old and purchased used, with existing safety issues. One current dump truck was also purchased used and has over 200,000 miles, and one 1993 dump truck purchased new has already had one transmission, with problems existing with the current transmission. He further stated that the City could purchase a very good used bucket truck in the neighborhood of approximately \$40,000, or less, and a 2006 dump truck for approximately \$24,000, which would serve the City's needs very well. When asked by Councilman Ethridge if the bucket truck would be certified, the City Manager replied that it would. He also stated that the City had approximately \$151,000 in the budget set aside over a period of time for such purchases. A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to allow the City Manager to purchase the trucks as requested. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. Upon being asked by Councilman Craft if the City had looked at military trucks, the City Manager replied that the Police Chief was actually looking into this.

Councilmember and Chairman of the City Hall Building Committee Tray Hicks gave an update on the new city hall construction. As stated by Mr. Hicks, most of the construction work was on schedule, with the anticipated opening date around mid May. He further reported that weekly meetings were held with sub-contractors, with the City Manager in attendance of these meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Little recommended that updates of the building construction be included in each monthly council meeting agenda.

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to adjourn into executive session at approximately 7:41 p.m. to discuss real estate. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Following the executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to come out of executive session and adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

