

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 5, 2011

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session Tuesday, July 5, 2011 in the council chambers of city hall, 500 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, with all members present. Mayor Jennifer Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Everyone present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag, after which everyone paused for a moment silence, followed by an invocation given by Rev. Terry Meeks of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Mayor Scott stated that government could not operate without its citizens, and encouraged everyone to attend the council meetings to become more involved in government and community affairs.

Upon request by the Mayor, a motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield, and carried unanimously to add the following items to the meeting agenda:

- Golf Cart Ordinance Discussion
- Research Liability of City Police Performing Other Job Activities
- Monthly Police Report
- Water Unaccounted For
- Executive Session to Discuss Litigation

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bill Leard, Chairman of Hart County Chamber of Commerce, addressed Mayor and Council concerning the need for installation of a T-dock at the mega ramp. Mr. Leard explained that a large Couples Championship Fishing Tournament was planned for Lake Hartwell in late August and the need for a T-dock at the Gum Branch mega ramp was extremely important. He stated that maintenance-free aluminum or steel docks were being looked at, and he appealed to Mayor and Council for funding in the amount of \$20,000 to assist in the installation of the dock, with the same amount requested of the County. He further stated that the lack of a T-dock at the present time was the biggest struggle for increasing usage at the mega ramp. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman David Little to approve \$20,000 for the construction of a T-dock. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. The City Manager stated that funding for the dock could come from economic development funds. Councilman Hicks also stated that he would like to see numbers on costs for lighting, restrooms, etc. at the mega ramp.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Hart County Archway Partnership. City Manager David Aldrich explained the benefits received from University of Georgia professionals through the Archway Partnership, whereby community needs and available resources are identified.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Billy Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve the following requested Downtown Development Authority activities:

- August 5, 2011 – First Friday ‘Cornhole Tournament’
- September 2, 2011 – First Friday ‘Ice Cream Churn-off’
- October 31, 2011 – Monster Mash & Scarecrow Bash

Downtown Development Authority Director Michael Crump explained that the Monster Mash event would also include a festival type atmosphere with games and activities for the whole family and a costume parade/contest. Prizes will also be awarded to winners of community scarecrow displays.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve a Joint County-Wide Safety Plan. As the City Manager explained the purpose of the Safety Plan, Mayor Scott stated that a copy of the Plan would also be available for public review.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to accept the low bid of \$8,616.00 from Mobile Communications for a radio base station for the Fire Department. The City Manager stated that this was a budgeted item and would meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) narrowband mandate set for January 1, 2013. Councilman Hicks requested that the City Manager look into the possibility of the City taking over bandwidth communication services.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to accept the low bid of \$42,900 from P & H Supply for a new Sewer Jetter machine.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2011-01 regarding city elections to be conducted by the County, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 07-05-11, which adopts the 2010 Short Term Work Program Update as approved by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2011-02, providing for the approval of a temporary moratorium on accepting or approving applications for any permits or licensing for 'internet sweepstakes cafes' or 'phone card sweepstakes cafes' or any variation thereof.

Following discussion regarding crosswalks, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to instruct the City Manager to look into the possibility of placing crosswalks at the following locations: Benson Street at Alford Road (@ Library;) intersection of Benson Street and Fairview Avenue, and; intersection of Campbell Drive and Franklin Street. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Craft opposing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to accept the street and utilities in the Bowers Estate Subdivision as requested. As explained by the City Manager, all roads, street lights, etc. in the Subdivision have met the required specifications.

Councilman Little reported that he recently attended a session during the annual Georgia Municipal Association convention regarding the passage of Senate Bill 240, which creates a new class of motor vehicle called "personal transportation vehicles," better known as golf carts. He further stated that local governments could enact an ordinance to supersede the January 1, 2012 effective date of the Bill, as long as the ordinance contained the basic standards of the state. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to have the City Manager and City Attorney look into an ordinance for golf cart usage in the city and have enacted before January 1, 2012. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mayor Scott expressed concern of liability of off-duty police officers who currently provide security for the Hart Co. High School football games. As discussed during training sessions at the Georgia Municipal Association conference, the Mayor stated that although an officer is acting in the employment of someone else and he/she is wearing a City uniform and driving a City vehicle at that time, the City is liable for anything which may happen to that officer. She further stated that any employee of the City who takes a second job should operate completely separate from the City. Upon the Mayor's request, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to ask the City Manager and City Attorney to investigate how potentially liable this practice could be to the City. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Councilman Hicks stated that he felt the monthly police report was inaccurate. Referring to the June 2011 report, he stated there were 3,333 calls received, 226 traffic stops, and 11 tickets written, which did not add up to what the court report indicated. The City Manager explained that the report overlapped from month to month, but he would have the report rectified to balance each month.

Councilman Hicks called attention to the fact that the loss of water unaccounted for had gone up steadily over the last several months. He stated that the City had previously contracted with Johnson Controls to conduct a meter efficiency study, and felt that they should be contacted again. The City Manager explained that the City had been in dialogue with Johnson Controls and the situation is being explored on a monthly basis. A random sampling of meters, leak testing, and fire lines without a meter are being explored. To date, no explanation for the water loss has been determined.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to finalize the Intergovernmental Agreement with Hart County regarding city elections conducted by the County.

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to enter into executive session at approximately 8:30 p.m. to discuss litigation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Following the executive session with no action taken and no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Little to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk