

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 2, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jennifer Scott, Councilmen Tony Haynie, David Little, Billy Ethridge, Mike MacNabb, Arthur Craft and Tray Hicks

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, July 2, 2012. As the meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott at approximately 7:00 p.m., she welcomed everyone in attendance to the new city hall facility.

Everyone present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, followed by a moment of silence as the Mayor asked everyone to remember the families of former Councilmember Sarah Mayfield and Ms. Barbara Smith, wife of Probate Judge Bob Smith, in their recent passing.

The invocation was given by Rev. Eddie Thornton of Flat Rock C.M.E. Church.

A correction was noted in the minutes of June 4, 2012 on the first page, second sentence of paragraph 8, to state that "he only wanted to be a part of the solution" rather than "he only wanted to be part of the solution." Upon motion by Councilman Haynie, the minutes were approved with the noted correction. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2012-01, amending the retirement benefit plan, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to approve the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2012-02, amending financial provisions for utility funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to approve a quote from Rogers' Outdoor Equipment in the amount of \$7200.00 for a 2012 model Exmark mower for the Street Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. City Manager David Aldrich explained that the 2010 budget included a new mower, but had not yet been expended. He further stated that the current mower was 15 years old.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve a contract with the Department of Corrections for continued use of inmate/detainee work detail from Whitworth Parole Center for labor work in the city, such as mowing grass, etc. The inmate/detainee work detail is provided 4 days per week, 10 hours per day. The amount of the contract agreement is \$19,750 per year for the duration of the agreement.

As discussion ensued regarding extension of sewer service to property located on Jackson Street, the City Manager reported that the estimated cost to run sewer to the property would be approximately \$12,000, including easements. Councilman Haynie stated that he could not support spending \$12,000 to run sewer to only one house. It was stated by Councilman Little that during discussions at last month's meeting, Mr. Bruce Bate indicated that he would be willing to absorb some of the cost. A motion was made by Councilman Little to table discussion in order to find out if Mr. Bate would be willing to assist in the expense of extending the sewer service. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

The City Manager reported that all natural gas utility systems were required to implement the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) to comply with federal pipeline safety regulations. In order to assist operators of the gas systems in developing the DIMP, a plan called "SHRIMP," which stands for "Simple, Handy, Risk-based Integrity Management Plan," was created by the American Public Gas Association to ensure that all requirements are met regarding operation and maintenance of natural gas systems. The City Manager further explained that he would like for the City to go ahead and replace a section of 4" bare steel (approx. 4,000 ft.) with 6" PE piping on Highway 77 and reduce the pressure from 100 lbs. to 75 lbs. He further stated that this would help the City to be proactive in compliance with DIMP, which requires at least one half to one mile of bare steel gas pipe to be replaced per year. He also stated that the City already had one quote, but if Council preferred, he could seek additional quotes. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to authorize the City Manager to seek quotes for gas line replacement on Hwy. 77. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Craft opposing.

Mayor Scott humbly requested that Council approve funding of approximately \$5,000 to allow her to purchase décor for the new city hall. She further stated that she would like to see some of the local artists display their works in the new facility. Councilman Haynie commented that he liked the idea of displays by local artists, stating that approximately 10,000 applicants presented their outstanding work to the new Ty Cobb Hospital in Lavonia, with 150 being chosen for display in the new hospital. Councilman Little also suggested the possibility of getting a group of people such as the Historic Preservation Commission to do some type display cabinet in the atrium area of city hall, mixed with other art from the community. Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to allow the Mayor to utilize funding from the budgeted Mayor's fund totaling approximately \$5,000.00.

The City Manager reported that City employees moved into the new city hall on June 15th with minimal disruption to the public. He stated that he could not be more pleased with employees of every department in helping with the move, each with a great attitude. He further reported that construction and design expense to date was \$3,380,025. A walk-thru and punch list was created during the previous week for the interior of city hall, with the punch list for the exterior scheduled following the completion of landscaping and signage. Demolition of the old city hall began this date (7-2-12) and should be completed in a week or so.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk