

REGULAR MEETING

June 6, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, June 6, 2011 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.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, everyone paused for a moment of silence, followed by the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Mayor Scott expressed congratulations to Hart County High School Student Caleb Maret for being selected to participate in a juried exhibition of artists at Kennesaw University. The Mayor also announced that Habitat for Humanity would be hosting a benefit golf tournament on July 11th at Catechee Golf Club, with cash prizes to be given away. Proceeds will benefit construction of homes built by Hart County Habitat for Humanity. She further reminded everyone that Father's Day would be June 19th and asked that everyone to please recognize the men in their lives.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 2, 2011 regular meeting, a motion was made by Councilman David Little to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield and carried unanimously.

The City's annual audit report for fiscal year 2010 was presented by City Auditor Lloyd Williamson. Mr. Williamson explained each department's fiscal year activities and reported that end of year cash for all funds totaled \$9,886,008, an increase of \$270,409 from the previous year. He pointed out, however, that probably 55–60 percent of the City's cash funds were restricted for other commitments. He also reported that the City had once again received the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" from the Georgia Finance Officers Association.

Mayor Scott offered congratulations to Gas Superintendent Audie Laviolette and his department for receiving the City's Natural Gas Department "Marketing Excellence Award" from the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia during the Authority's annual membership meeting.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously to approve a proxy appointing Mayor Mickey Thompson, Chairman of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEB,) or Vice Chairman John Bennett, to represent the City's interest by allowing them to cast a vote during the annual meeting of the GMEB.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to designate Mayor Jennifer Scott as voting delegate during the business meeting of the annual 2011 Georgia Municipal Association Convention. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tray Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution and Adoption Agreement regarding an amendment to the Georgia Municipal Association 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Billy Ethridge to authorize the City Manager to obtain bids for resurfacing of Gold Drive at the Housing Authority off Powell Road, and go with the lowest bid. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

City Manager David Aldrich explained that a request had been received for the City's acceptance of the street (Evelyn's Way) in the Cottage Village subdivision. Mr. Aldrich stated that the Hartwell Homeowner's Association and the bank have taken control of the property, and the bank requested a letter from the City regarding the acceptance of the street. He further stated that in order to meet specifications of the Fire Chief, a portion of the curb would have to be removed and replaced with a rolled curb to allow better navigation of a fire truck on the street. Also, the City's resurfacing requirements would have to be met prior to acceptance of the street. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept Evelyn's Way contingent upon final approval of meeting the requirements of the Fire Chief and the City's resurfacing requirements. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

As discussion began regarding the appropriation of \$10,000 for the proposed Boys & Girls Club as approved during last month's meeting, Councilman Little expressed concern regarding where the money would be coming from. He also stated that he was not happy with the fact that the City would not be refunded the allocated funds if the Club failed to get established. Councilman Craft responded that the statement made during last month's meeting indicated that the allocated funds would not be returned to the City if funding was not received by the County. He went on to say that the money would be returned to the City if the proposed Boys & Girls Club failed to get started. As Councilman Little again questioned where the money would come from, the City Manager stated that he felt the only reasonable area of the budget he could see would be from unrestricted reserves, with a budget amendment at the end of the year. Upon discussion of when the funds would be allocated for the Boys & Girls Club, Councilman Van Senkbeil moved that no money would be expended until all requirements by law and all requirements of the City Council are met, and proof has been submitted to the City that the remaining \$90,000, required to form the Club, has been received. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried 4 to 2, with Councilmembers Hicks and Ethridge opposing. City Attorney Rob Leverett explained that Council should also sign a contract regarding what services would be provided.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to accept the quote of \$95,359.73 from Godwin Pumps of America for Jailhouse Lift Station upgrade as recommended by Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Dan Gaines. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

In considering a gas main replacement on Johnson Street, the City Manager explained that a directional bore is preferred for replacement of the gas main in order to minimize disruption of the street, businesses, etc. A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to authorize the City Manager to move forward with the project and accept the low bid of \$20,390.75 from C. J. Hodge Enterprises, Inc. for the installation of the new gas main. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2011-01 regarding City elections to be conducted by the Hart County Probate Judge office.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to set the date of Tuesday, July 5, 2011 for the next regularly scheduled council meeting due to the July 4th holiday on Monday. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Hicks opposing. Mr. Hicks stated that he may not be able to attend on that date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

