

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 4, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, June 4, 2012 in the council chambers of city hall with all members present. Mayor Jennifer Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Rev. Allen Stewart of the First United Methodist Church.

Mayor Scott reported that the furniture for the new city hall was scheduled to be delivered and installed on Thursday and Friday this week. She stated that \$89,780.93 had been paid for the furniture, with the City saving \$2,563.62 by utilizing some of the existing furniture.

As the Mayor asked Councilman Tray Hicks to give an update on the new city hall, Mr. Hicks reported that construction was still under budget with a balance of \$553,047.60, and an owner's contingency fund balance of \$49,733. As chairman of the present building committee, Councilman Hicks expressed appreciation to the original building committee chaired by Councilman David Little, as well as appreciation to the Mayor, City Manager, and current building committee for their hard work and efforts regarding the new city hall construction. Councilman Hicks further stated that he was against not moving forward with a new fire station at this time. Mayor Scott stated that she was not in office when a decision was made whether or not a new Fire Department should be included in conjunction with the new city hall/police station, but she would go on record to state that it was important to begin some type of infrastructure to achieve this goal, and the current building needed to be brought up to code to keep the current ISO rating of "3." Fire Chief Terry Vickery explained that a 1969 fire truck would need to be replaced in the near future and the newer fire trucks are longer in length, which would not fit into the current fire station. Councilman Little stated that he could not see asking the taxpayers to spend another \$1M for a new fire station at this time, but hoped this could be accomplished in the next four or five years. Following considerable discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to have the building committee explore all options for a new fire station and bring back to council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Little opposing.

The minutes of May 7, 2012 were approved upon motion by Councilman Arthur Craft, seconded by Councilman Billy Ethridge, and carried unanimously.

The minutes of May 15, 2012 were approved upon motion by Councilman Tony Haynie, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously.

Ms. Mary Beth Focer addressed Mayor and Council to request that the 'Mayor's Moment' be removed from meeting agendas, and that 'Public Comments' be added to agendas. She also expressed concern of actions taken by council when the issue is not published as an agenda item.

Mr. Bruce Bate requested that property currently owned by Mr. Gary Ngo located on South Jackson Street be provided with a sewer tap at the City's expense. He stated that previous owners of the property paid for sewer service for many years without receiving the service, but he was not asking for compensation for the City's error; he only wanted to be part of the solution. Mr. Bate further explained that properties located on each side and across the street from Mr. Ngo's property were connected to city sewer. He offered four solutions for council's consideration: (1) extend sewer from the back of the property, which would require

legal easements from two property owners; (2) extend from the front of the property, which would cost more than \$40,000 as indicated from a study by the City; (3) install a pump-up system, or; (4) work out something with Mr. Meeks (adjacent property owner) to tie in with his city sewer. City Manager David Aldrich stated that he felt the first solution would be best, but the property owners wanted compensation for easements. When asked by Councilman Ethridge if Mr. Bate would be willing to pay for the easements, Mr. Bate stated that he would be willing to pay for part of the expense. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to give the City Manager authority to pursue the cost of easements. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to accept a quote from Flint Equipment Co. in the amount of \$108,500 for a John Deere 410 Backhoe for the Gas Department, which is a budgeted item.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve waste treatment sand filter sand replacement at a cost of \$18,613.97, which is also a budgeted item.

The City Manager reported that two companies had demonstrated their asphalt crack repair equipment; one being hydraulic equipment, and the other a small machine on a drum with wheels. He felt that the repair work could be accomplished with three people by using the hydraulic equipment, whereas it would take 4 or 5 people to use the smaller machine. He further stated that the hydraulic machine could be leased on a monthly basis up to two months, after which the lease price would be deducted from the purchase price if the City decided to purchase. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to lease the hydraulic Super Shot 125 from Reynolds-Warren Equipment Co., Inc. for two months and evaluate at that time whether or not to go ahead and purchase. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2012-01 regarding a proposed retirement plan revision.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to declare as surplus property all inventory from the current city hall that will not be utilized in the new city hall/police station, with the surplus property to be sold.

Upon request of the City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Little to add to the agenda an amendment to the budget. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

The City Manager explained that a budget revision was necessary in order to close out the 2011 audit by June 30, 2012. He stated the revision was due to expenditures pulled from the City's reserves as part of the new city hall construction. A motion was made by Councilman Little to approve the budget amendment totaling \$1,649,400. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

