

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 3, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Jennifer Scott, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Tray Hicks, David Little, and Mike MacNabb. Also present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Rob Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Members of the Press and interested citizens.

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 3, 2013 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jennifer Scott.

Everyone present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag, followed by a moment of silence, with the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 6, 2013 meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Comments:

- The City has once again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award has been received by the City each year but one since 2004 and is the highest recognition in our country for governmental accounting and financial reporting. The City's Finance Officer, Ms. Joan Hughes, does a remarkably outstanding job in attaining this award-winning Certificate of Achievement.
- On May 18th the City was honored to host retired Marine Corporal Todd Love, a triple amputee Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran, who presented the City with a piece of the New York Twin Towers (destroyed by terrorists September 11, 2001) for display in the City Fire Department for one week. The Fire Department is commended for arranging the escort for Mr. Love and the Association he works with, called the "Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation." This Foundation builds accessible homes for amputee war veterans.
- Each year the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) provides municipal training opportunities for elected officials and employees. City officials will be attending the annual GMA conference in Savannah later this month, and the Mayor will be reporting on the classes she attends and encouraged each member of Council to do the same.
- Although it is not a requirement for elected officials to be randomly selected for drug screening, the Mayor will voluntarily include her name on the City's random list. The Mayor stated that all City employees are subject to random drug testing, and they (Mayor and Council) should not ask employees to do something that they are not willing to do themselves.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to approve renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with Hart County Archway Partnership.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to approve a beer/wine license for Ramano F. Stowers of G & T Snack Bar.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to approve a Cooperation Agreement with the Hartwell Housing Authority.

Councilman Hicks reported that he had received a letter from Georgia State Parks Director Becky Kelley regarding the City's interest in acquiring the lease and assuming operation of the Hart State Outdoor Recreation Area (formerly Hart State Park.) Ms. Kelley stated in her letter that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Corps of Engineers are currently renewing the lease for a ten-year period, continuing to operate the area under the current model. She further stated that DNR would continue discussions with the City regarding the City's interest in assuming the lease. As discussion ensued, Councilman Hicks stated that he would like to see this resolved, and Council also expressed their desire to have items returned to the Park that were removed by DNR when the Hart State Park was closed.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to authorize Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) to assist the City with a grant application for a new warning siren. As reported by City Manager David Aldrich, GMRC was able to obtain funding for a siren for the City of Royston.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the rezoning of property (one acre) near the intersection of Old Hwy. 29 and Ulyanovsk Street from B-2 (General Business District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District,) to allow for the use of a proposed animal shelter. In order to clear up any misconception regarding sewer questions, property owner Andy Adams explained that he had Land Surveyor Slate Bauknight shoot a grade on the property regarding the percentage of slope to run a sewer line. The difference in the elevation between the existing invert and the proposed invert is 11.3 ft., with the distance between these two inverts being 1393 ft., which gives a slope of 0.8 ft. Mr. Adams reiterated that this should clear up any misconceptions.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept the low bid from Stratton & Sons in the amount of \$59,795 for resurfacing of Legion Street and one end of Gibson Street. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. As stated by the City Manager, the project is funded through the State's Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program, with a 30% match from the City.

City Attorney Rob Leverett elaborated on his suggested changes to the Service Agreement with CWI Services LLC for network support and consulting services for the Police Department Information Technology (IT) system. Attorney Leverett stated that most of the revisions were made to clear up or clarify certain language in the Agreement. Mayor Scott also pointed out that the term of the Agreement should be 12 months from October 1, 2012, the actual date Council approved CWI for the services. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept the Agreement as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

A request was received from the Hart County Democratic Party for use of the parking lot adjacent to the Fire Department and City Hall for the purpose of holding a yard sale during the month of June. Concerns were expressed by Council regarding traffic in and out of the area, as well as possible complications involving Fire Department emergencies. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to deny the request. Upon further discussion, Councilman Haynie amended his motion to state that this request and all future requests for use of the parking lot be denied at this time. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

The City Manager reported on the following:

- Work has begun on curbing at the Fire Department, expanding the concrete apron, which will be beneficial to Fire Department personnel, allowing easier access in and out of fire trucks.
- Plans have been submitted to DOT for encroachment permits regarding water project on Webb Street. Some of the old galvanized line, which serves the area, will be replaced.
- Moving forward and working with the City Attorney regarding different options concerning dilapidated houses. Currently working on getting prices for demolition of three houses.

Ms. Donna Madkiff of the Hart County Human Society reported that another grant had been received for spay and neutering of animals owned by low and moderate income residents. As she questioned the progress of communication between the City and County regarding animal control, the City Manager responded that he had not yet heard back from County Administrator Jon Caime, but Mr. Caime has to get certain things in place before decisions are made.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

