

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 3, 2010

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 3, 2010 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 Sudderth.

Following the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich, everyone present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of April 5, 2010, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Councilman Little moved to proclaim May 15th as "Ferst Foundation Childhood Literacy Day" as presented in a proclamation read by Mayor Sudderth. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Mayor Sudderth announced that this week was National Teacher Appreciation Week and encouraged everyone to say "thank you" to a teacher. The Mayor also read a letter she sent to fellow educators, guidance counselors and other school officials, expressing gratitude for the constant motivation and care as demonstrated on a day-to-day basis for the betterment of the students, as well as themselves.

Mayor Sudderth presented a plaque received from the Government Finance Officers Association to Finance Officer Joan Hughes for award of Financial Reporting Achievement. This award represents the highest award in government financial reporting and is presented to the individual designated as instrumental in achieving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Mr. Tim Czarniak addressed Mayor and Council concerning a proposed Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Czarniak stated that a Boys and Girls Club would provide an opportunity for young people ages 6 to 18 to participate in various programs, with the main purpose being education, aimed at giving disadvantaged youth an opportunity to become better members of the community. Offering statements of support for the proposed Boys and Girls Club were Ms. Crystal Teasley and Mr. Bill Griggs. Funding in the amount of \$225,000 over a 3-year period was requested from the City to help fund the Boys and Girls Club. Councilman Hicks stated that the local YMCA and other youth agencies were already established. He suggested that all youth service organizations meet together to see if there were duplication of services, explaining that he would be glad to meet with them to work out a plan. While agreeing with Councilman Hicks that the organizations should sit down as a whole to work out a plan and not be in competition, Mayor Sudderth stated that the main concern was the youth of the community. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield and seconded by Councilman Senkbeil to approve a revised travel policy for the City. Councilman Little stated that he was opposed to changing the policy since he felt it was not the responsibility of the citizens of Hartwell to pay for meals of a spouse or companion who travel with City officials to conferences/conventions, especially when many citizens are struggling to pay their taxes. As the vote was called, motion carried 5 to 1 to approve the revised policy, with Councilman Little opposing.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the recommendation of Library Director Richard Sanders to reappoint Ms. Kaye Chafin and Ms. Mary Carter to serve as the City's representatives on the Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve nominations for Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) District 2 Officers for 2010-2011 as follows:

- President: Margaret Ballard, Mayor, Cornelia
- First Vice President: Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris
- Second Vice President: David Little, Councilmember, Hartwell
- Third Vice President: Jim Conley, Mayor, Blairsville

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to designate Councilman Tray Hicks as voting delegate for the business meeting at the GMA Annual Convention.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 03-05-10 regarding tax-exempt financing for the proposed new city hall project.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve natural gas line expansion to three (3) poultry growers on Union Hill Church Road for a total of 13 poultry houses.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to accept the low bid of \$232,925 from Classic City Utility for natural gas line replacement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. In addition to her motion, Councilwoman Mayfield stated that these funds would be taken from Gas Department Contingency funds. City Manager David Aldrich explained that this project was part of the mandate from the Public Service Commission for replacement of most of the City's bare steel gas lines.

As explained by the City Manager, the Police Department would like to purchase two new patrol cars, one of which is budgeted and one to be purchased with grant funds received from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 2009 BYRNE Award. He further stated that two patrol cars with high mileage would be taken off the road and sold as surplus if authorized by Council. Councilman Hicks made a motion to purchase only one vehicle with the grant funds, and evaluate

the need for a second vehicle. He stated that he had asked in the past that departments requesting the purchase of a vehicle to submit a list of current vehicles, vehicle mileage, as well as who utilizes the vehicles, in order to justify the need for purchase of an additional vehicle. There being no second to Councilman Hicks' motion, motion died. Following further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to purchase two (2) new 2010 Crown Victoria patrol cars from Brannen Ford Motor Company at \$21,368 each (lowest quote received), with one vehicle to be purchased with grant funds and one from funds as budgeted. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

The City Manager directed attention to the need for asphalt paving at the new fire tower on Fairview Avenue. He suggested that City crews could do the stone work and possibly contract the paving. Councilman Ethridge reported that County Commissioner R. C. Oglesby had expressed to him that the County could assist the City with the paving, and would get back with him. The City Manager asked for authorization from Council to go ahead with the paving project if it doesn't work out with the County. Councilman Ethridge moved that the City Manager be authorized to go ahead with the paving project if assistance is not received from the County. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

As explained by the City Manager and following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to extend approximately 2700 ft. of water line to residents needing water outside the city, with the residents to pay the full cost of materials. The City Manager further stated that the County has given the right-of-way to extend this line. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. It was also noted that gas line extension could occur at the same time for residents desiring natural gas service.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk