

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 2, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, May 2, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was recited by all in attendance, followed by a moment of silence and then an invocation given by Dr. Steve Williams.

Mayor Scott stated that May 21st was Armed Forces Day and May 30th was Memorial Day. Also, as Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 8th, the Mayor asked everyone to please honor their mothers on this day. Further, she reported that the 3rd annual Motorcycle Ride with the Cops would be held on Saturday, May 14th to raise money for the Relay for Life cancer drive. The annual Cars & Guitars Under the Stars classic car show will be held around the town square on Saturday, May 28th. The Mayor also asked everyone to please seek ways to assist in the aftereffects of the horrible tornado in Alabama and parts of Georgia and keep those people suffering from this disaster in our hearts and minds.

Mayor Scott presented a plaque to Finance Officer Joan Hughes for once again receiving a Certificate for Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Mayor further informed everyone that Ms. Hughes would be performing as 'Louise' in the "Always Patsy Cline" Savannah River Production on June 4th and 5th at the Lonnie Burns Fine Arts Center, and again on June 10-12, 2011 at the Commerce, Georgia Cultural Arts Center.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 4, 2011 regular meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Billy Ethridge to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman David Little and carried unanimously.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 25, 2011 called meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Arthur Craft to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A proclamation was read by Mayor Scott proclaiming May as National Preservation Month. Ms. Nancy Clark, Hartwell Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson, expressed appreciation to the Mayor for the proclamation, and also to council members and citizens for their support of preservation. Ms. Clark reported that the initial first walking tour of the City of Hartwell would begin May 6th at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office, with 32 properties included in the tour. Ms. Clark also presented Mayor and Council with a brochure which includes a map and listing of tour stops and brief history of Hartwell. She explained that the walking tour project had been a partnership which included the Hart County Historical Society & Museum, John Benson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Hart County Archway Partnership, Hart County Library, Hart EMC, Hartwell Downtown Development Authority, Hartwell Historic Preservation Commission, and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. She gave special recognition to Hart County EMC for making the project possible with a grant through the EMC Foundation, and to the Archway Partnership.

A motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve a contract agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. As explained by City Manager David Aldrich, this agreement was a renewal of the City's allocation of a portion of the hotel/motel tax collected by the City to be given to the Chamber for promotion of tourism.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve a request from the American Legion Post 109 for placement of memorials on the courthouse lawn during the Memorial Day holiday period as a tribute for our county's war heroes.

Mayor and Council received a request from the Board of Directors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Hart County for funding in the amount of \$25,000 to assist in implementing the program, of which \$100,000 of operating income is required in advance of implementing the Hart County program. Ms. Crystal Teasley, Hart County Juvenile Program Manager, as well as Ms. Laura Jackson, appealed to Council to consider this request, stating that it would be a helpful program for the community. As inquired by Councilman Senkbeil, Councilman Craft stated that the County would also be asked to fund the same amount. Councilwoman Mayfield offered a motion to approve funding of \$25,000 as requested. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft. As discussion ensued, Councilman Hicks stated that he was shocked at the amount of money being requested, and while he fully supported a Boys & Girls Club or any other programs for youth, the City had never participated this highly with other established organizations. He further stated that other non-profit organizations already established did not receive altogether more than \$4,000 per year from the City. Councilman Little stressed the need for the Boys & Girls Club to seek private donations, stating that he could not support the City giving \$25,000. Mayor Scott stated that with the growing needs of our population, it was very clear that there is a great need for services for the youth of our community. Councilman Ethridge felt it should not be the sole responsibility of the City to support this Club since this would be a county-wide organization. Referring to the population of 5,000 city residents and 25,000 county residents, Mr. Tony Haynie stated the City was being asked for a disproportionate of funds and he, along with all other city residents, would be paying twice as a taxpayer. As Councilman Hicks asked what kind of reporting would be provided, Mr. Mike Hackett of the Boys & Girls Club of Athens replied that reporting would be provided as specified by Council in a contract. He explained that the Athens Club would act as agent for the Hart County Club. As concern was expressed regarding incorporation of the Hart County Club, City Attorney Rob Leverett felt that the 501(c)(3) status was not necessary to receive funds from the City if the organization is backed by a sponsoring club such as the Athens organization. Upon being asked by Councilman Senkbeil if the City would receive the \$25,000 back if the County said "no" to the request, Councilman Craft answered that the \$25,000 would not be returned. Following extensive discussion, Councilwoman Mayfield amended her motion to state that the City would fund \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft. The motion was again amended by Councilwoman Mayfield to fund \$10,000 for the Boys & Girls Club contingent upon the presentation of a budget from the Boys & Girls Club of Hart County. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft. With a vote of 3 in favor and 3 opposing, Mayor Scott broke the tie by voting "yes," and the motion carried. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilmembers Mayfield, Craft, and Senkbeil. Opposing the motion were Councilmembers Ethridge, Little, and Hicks.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to accept a bid in the amount of \$117,750 from Consolidated for a new International 4400 New Way Cobra rear load garbage truck. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. As reported by the City Manager, this truck did not require costly DEF fluid as required of other trucks.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield to approve the opening of a bank account for construction of a new city hall/police building. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge 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