

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 4, 2013

Present: Mayor Jennifer Scott, Councilmembers Billy Ethridge, Arthur Craft, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb and Tony Haynie. Also, City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Representatives of the Media/Press, and interested citizens.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, November 4, 2013 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Scott at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Scott led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag, followed by a moment of silence. The invocation was then given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Mayor's Comments:

- Remind everyone that Election Day is tomorrow, with voting to take place at the Hart County Recreation Center for city residents from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church will hold their annual Christmas walk on December 8th at 10:30 a.m. beginning at the Library and ending at the Catholic Church.
- American Legion Post 109 will host a formal Flag Disposal Ceremony on November 11th at 2:00 p.m. at the Nancy Hart Cemetery. Old flags no longer serviceable may be deposited at the Hartwell Golf Course, the Hartwell Sun, or may be taken to the ceremony.
- Monday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. It is a time to thank everyone who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans go above and beyond the call of duty in regards to service to our country because it means, at some point, each of us has written a check out to the protection of the American people for the amount of and including our lives. The late President John F. Kennedy reminds us: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Councilman Craft moved to approve the minutes of the October 7th council meeting with a correction to the Mayor's comments, to state that the Chief of Police had submitted his retirement notice, rather than resignation notice. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie to accept the minutes for approval as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to table until the December meeting the appointment for DDA Board position.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to table the appointment of a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation by City Manager David Aldrich, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the appointments of Anthony Davis as Chief of Police and Stan Sayer as Assistant Chief. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

As Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Budget Ordinance No. 13-04-11, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to amend the budget to fully fund a request received from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), increasing the City's contribution to the DDA from \$33,750 to \$57,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to approve a request by Jose Alberta Gonzalez for a beer/wine and distilled spirits license for Casa Grande Cantina & Grill (formerly Fletcher's, beginning Jan. 1, 2014).

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to approve a request by the Chamber of Commerce for street closing for the Christmas Parade on December 6, 2013. Chamber Director Nicki Meyer also updated Mayor and Council on Chamber activities and events during the year, and also planned events for 2014.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the low quote of \$24,148 from Ed Murdock Superstore for a 2012 F-250 service truck for the Gas Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously. It was noted that this was a budgeted item.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft to declare a confiscated 1978 GMC Sierra Pickup Truck as surplus in order to dispose of the vehicle. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Upon request by Fire Chief Terry Vickery, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to reallocate funds from the 2013 Fire Department budget to partially fund tuition for Emergency Medical Technician training and certification during 2014 for all full-time staff of the Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding a proposed contract submitted by Hart County Water & Sewer Authority concerning the Authority's purchase of water from the City. The City Manager explained that the quantity shown in the proposed contract was "xxx," and in speaking with Public Works Director Dennis White and Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator Ken Lystiuk, it was felt that the contract quantity should show that the City would furnish potable treated water at an annual flow not to exceed an average of 750,000 gallons per day. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to approve the contract with HCWSA. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried 4 to 1, with Councilman Haynie opposing.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 11-04-13, seeking CDBG/EIP funding jointly with Hart County to assist with a proposed project regarding a new industry.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to increase the hotel/motel tax from 5% to 8%.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to ratify Council's previous decision to approve repair of the City's street sweeper at an estimated cost of \$19,000.00. As stated by the City Manager, the sweeper is 15 years old and the cost to replace with a new one would be approximately \$150,000.00.

As the Mayor asked for any comments from Council, Councilman Haynie urged the Downtown Development Authority to seek other avenues for additional revenue, and not expect a budget increase each year from the City. He also commented that he was a little concerned with the DDA's name change without first coming before Council.

Councilman Craft reported that Ninth District Opportunity was again helping with heating bills, based on household incomes. He also wished to thank residents in his neighborhood for the recent cleanup of the area.

City Manager's comments:

- Received notification that the City was approved for a Federal Emergency Management Homeland Security grant for an outdoor warning siren. He thanked Representative Alan Powell, Patrick Larson of Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, and Fire Chief Terry Vickery for assistance in obtaining this grant.
- Recommendations for street resurfacing under the DOT's LMIG Program will be placed in Council mailboxes at city hall.
- Continuing with replacement of sections of sidewalk.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

