

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 4, 2010

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 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 Scott.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by City Manager David Aldrich.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of September 7, 2010, a motion was made by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman Billy Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman David Little to ratify a recent decision by Council to approve contract change order #2 from Classic City Utility, Inc. regarding installation of 1200 feet of 2" PE natural gas pipeline along Bo Hill Estates. The estimated cost of the change order is \$8,340.00, for a revised cost of \$248,265.00 for the gas pipeline replacement project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of Southeastern Gas Engineering and following discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve contract change order #3 from Classic City Utility, Inc. regarding completion of the natural gas pipeline replacement project. The estimated change order cost is \$30,250.00, for a revised contract total of \$278,515.00. As reported by City Manager David Aldrich, city crews could do the work, but current work load of city crews would delay the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks to approve the list of vehicles to be declared as surplus vehicles, and authorize the City Manager to move forward in disposing of the vehicles. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. The City Manager explained that the surplus vehicles would be sold on the internet through the Georgia Municipal Association GovDeals auction service (www.govdeals.com.)

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the low bid of \$10,020.00 from Hartland Farms, Inc. for the City's Phase II tree planting project. The City Manager explained that the City was initially awarded approximately \$25,000 in grant funds through the U.S. Forestry Service and Georgia Forestry Commission, and approximately \$17,000 remained in the grant contract following the Phase I project for the MLK Parking Lot. He further stated that the state preferred that the City go ahead and complete Phase III of the contract, using any remaining funds. He asked Council if they wished to go ahead and finish out the contract and find a location for additional trees, and ask Hartland Farms, Inc. if they would grant the City the same unit cost, as provided in their bid, for the additional trees. Councilman Hicks amended his motion to also include that additional trees be purchased from Hartland Farms, Inc. in the amount of the grant, at the rate they provided in their bid. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of Councilman Little and following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to suggest that Halloween Trick or Treating be observed on Saturday, October 30, 2010 rather than Sunday, October 31st. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. It was also noted that the annual Mayor's Monster Mash would be held downtown on Friday evening, October 29th.

Following discussion and upon recommendation by the City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to leave the City's tax millage rate at 9.60 for fiscal year 2011. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. The City Manager stated that the City did not yet have a tax digest from the County and may find it necessary to petition the superior court again this year and use the previous 2008 digest, with property improvements or additions.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks and seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield to authorize the City Manager to issue Request for Proposals for engineering services. As Councilman Little asked if a committee would be formed to review the proposals once received, as done in the past, the City Manager stated that he was not opposed to a committee, but felt he and the Public Works Director could first review the proposals and narrow down to 2 or 3 and then present to a committee. Councilwoman Mayfield also stated that she felt it was important that such things be looked at by the whole council. Councilman Little agreed that he liked the idea of having the proposals narrowed down to about 3 and have the firms make a presentation to council at a called meeting. Other council members voiced agreement to this suggestion, with no objections. As the vote was called by Mayor Scott for the City Manager to issue RFPs, the motion was carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Councilman Little gave a summary of the proposals received for a new City Hall/Police Department. He reported that nine proposals were received and a committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, October 5, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. to try and narrow the proposals down to 3 or 5. After the finalist are chosen, plans are to have each design-build team make a presentation to the whole council after which the design-build teams will be ranked, followed by a recommendation from the committee to the city council.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn at approximately 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk