

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall with all members present except Councilman Billy Ethridge. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jennifer Scott.

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

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 2, 2010 council meeting, a motion was made by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bret Thurmond of Armentrout Roebuck Matheny Consulting Group presented a progress report on the City's watershed assessment evaluation as required by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for operation of the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Thurmond stated that water samples were taken from streams and evaluated for a number of things, which showed the City's watershed to be in good shape, especially with regards to metals. He asked Council for approval of the watershed assessment report as presented, which will be submitted to EPD for review. Upon review and approval by EPD, the City will be required to create a watershed protection plan. Councilwoman Mayfield moved to approve the watershed assessment report as presented for submittal to EPD. Motion was seconded by Councilman David Little and carried unanimously.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to authorize the City Manager to proceed with an application for a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. As explained by the City Manager, grant funds available under the TE Program will pay 80% of the total project cost.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Tray Hicks, and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Chamber of Commerce for the annual Christmas Parade to be held on Friday, December 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. beginning at Bell's Shopping Center and ending at the Hart County High School on Campbell Street.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Pilot Club of Hartwell for the annual "Depot Day" Fall Festival on Saturday, November 6, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Depot Street.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve a request from Heart Haven Northeast GA Council on Domestic Violence to hold their annual "Celebration of Survivors" on Monday, October 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Parking Lot.

Upon recommendation of the City's Economic Development Committee, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to approve a loan in the amount of \$8,000.00 from the City's Economic

Development Fund as requested by Ms. Tina Howard. Ms. Howard will use the funds to renovate part of the Old Hailey building to allow for relocation of a business to the downtown area, creating six jobs. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

As explained by the City Manager, the State Department of Audits recommends that the capitalization on fixed assets be limited to \$5,000 or greater. This is also the recommendation of the City's Auditor, Williamson & Co., CPA's, and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA.) A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to modify the City's capitalization policy on fixed assets from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

The City Manager reported that the City's 10-year old sewer camera was inoperative. In attempts to have the camera repaired, as previously approved by Council, the manufacturer found that the camera's technology was outdated and the approximate cost to repair the camera would be \$30,000, without warranty for repairs or upgrade. A new camera system with all cabling and state-of-the-art technology, and a one-year or more warranty, is anticipated to be \$43,000. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to authorize the City Manager to seek quotes for a new camera system. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Councilman Hicks reported that the Department of Transportation lowered the speed limit on Reed Creek Hwy. down to what it was supposed to be but never put a sign reflecting that change. Councilman Hicks moved that the DOT be asked to put the speed limit back to where it was and use the data from the years the speed limit was 45 mph. It was felt that the 35 mph sign should stop just past Leard Street. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. Councilman Little suggested that the DOT be asked to also look at the speed limit on Hwy. 29 North.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to issue a Request for Proposals to all local banks for the City's banking services.

Councilman Hicks moved to adjourn into executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss real estate and a personnel issue. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Following the executive session, Councilman Hicks moved to adjourn the executive session and enter back into regular session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular session at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

