

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 2, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall, 500 E. Howell Street , with all members present.

Mayor Matt Beasley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the invocation given by Mayor Beasley, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A correction was made to the minutes of the August 4, 2008 regular council meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, to change the name of 'Robert' McIntosh to 'Edward' McIntosh. A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

A correction was made to the minutes of the August 5, 2008 called council meeting, last paragraph, to correct the language in the second sentence to state "within" the right-of-way rather than "to the edge of" the right-of-way. Motion was made by Councilman Little to accept the minutes with the correction. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to approve a request from Jennifer Shumake for a car show and cook-off to be held on September 13, 2008 at GT's on Savannah Street and at Tony Hill field, and also a parade to begin at Richardson Street onto Reynolds, Slaton, and back to Savannah Street. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon. After further discussion, the motion and second were amended to state that the request is approved contingent upon the approval of the Chief of Police. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to approve a request from Hart Life Pregnancy Center for the annual Life Chain to be held October 5, 2008 in front of Northeast Georgia Bank on Franklin Street .

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Downtown Development Authority Promotions Committee, asking for approval to close Carolina Street , between Franklin and Howell Streets, during the Arts in hARTwell Festival to be held September 27<sup>th</sup>. The request for closure of Forest Avenue during the arts festival was approved earlier this year.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon to accept the City Manager's recommendation to approve Resolution/Contract Amendments with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

As Mayor and Council began discussing a proposed travel policy for city employees as recommended by the Finance Officer, Councilman Gordon stated that he would like Council to consider amending the policy to include item "d" listed under "Business Meals" on page 4, to include who the City employee met with, title of that individual, and business discussion. Councilman Gordon also noted that spouses of elected officials could register on location at conferences for \$15.00. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to

adopt the travel policy with the amendment to include item “d” as recommended. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2008-10, amending the ordinance regulating alcohol server’s license.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2008-11, amending the Occupation Tax Ordinance.

As Mayor and Council began discussing quotes received for resurfacing South Forest Avenue , and possibly Saliba Drive , City Manager David Aldrich explained that the City currently had approximately \$47,000 in remaining SPLOST funds needed to resurface S. Forest Avenue . He further explained that he included quotes for Saliba Drive if Council wished to consider resurfacing this street as discussed last month, at which time Council agreed to continue with the idea of approving the resurfacing of Saliba Drive upon completion of home construction in the Cottage Village Subdivision. Mr. Aldrich reported that he had received a letter from Cottage Village Developer Larry Torrence, stating that there were no current plans for new home construction in the Subdivision. Council requested that the City Manager provide them with a copy of this letter, and again expressed that they were not willing to resurface Saliba Drive if further construction is planned in the Subdivision, due to possible damage to the street caused by heavy type equipment/vehicles. After further discussion and due to the City having available funds for resurfacing a portion of South Forest Avenue, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to move forward with the resurfacing of S. Forest Avenue, from the intersection at the Hartwell Sun at the stop sign, to the end of S. Forest where it intersects with Alford Road, for a total cost of \$47,625 as quoted by Stratton & Sons of Canon, GA. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to seek audit proposals.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to authorize the City Attorney to present a proposed draft contract to the Hart County Water & Sewer Authority for consideration regarding the sale of water by the City to the Authority. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon. As discussion ensued, the Mayor asked for clarification that this proposal is for discussion purposes only and not a binding contract. He also expressed his desire to see the City operate and maintain the water distribution system in order to cut out the middle man and immediately give reductions in water rates to customers, as well as eliminate duplication of service areas. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to adopt the Priority III Gas Department Operations and Maintenance Procedures.

As discussion began regarding a proposed change order for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Rome neighborhood project, Councilman Gordon explained that the change order presented by the City Engineer increased the contract price for the project from \$597,553.36 to \$720,313.61, with a net increase of \$122,760.25. He stated that the original intent of the CDBG was to address drainage and sidewalks, and not widening of streets. A motion was made by Councilman Gordon to accept and move on all items of the change order numbering 1 through

23 dealing with sediment and erosion control, storm drainage, sanitary sewer piping, and also that Savannah Street sidewalks be widened to 4½ feet from 3½ feet, using item change order #43 as a guide, and all other changes to be deleted from the change order and revisited after sidewalk work and drainage has been completed per original plan. Councilman Gordon amended his motion to also include item numbers 25 and 46 to be completed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little. Councilwoman Mayfield stated that she was very interested in widening Savannah Street , and Council basically promised to move curbing on the other side of Savannah Street . She further stated that she represented all the people of the city, but felt that this section of the city had gone without for many, many years and these citizens paid taxes like everyone else. As further discussion ensued, Councilman Little withdrew his second to the motion due to his understanding that the other things listed in the change order could not be revisited until the work is completed as stated in Councilman Gordon’s motion. Councilman Gordon responded by stating that sufficient funding was needed to address all issues listed in the change order, and again reiterated that the original intent of the project was drainage and sidewalks. Mayor Beasley stated that the project could not proceed without the signed encroachment permission forms from residents, which was part of the motion by Council last month. Councilman Gordon amended his original motion to eliminate the widening of sidewalks. Motion died due to lack of a second. Councilman Hicks moved that the change order be changed to eliminate the 4½ ft. sidewalks, leaving the sidewalks at 3 feet with 6-inch curbing, bringing the change order amount down from \$122,750.25 to \$83,860.75. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield. As the roll call vote was taken, motion was defeated 4 to 2, with Councilmembers Little, Senkbeil, Gordon, and Evans opposing. Following further discussion, Councilman Hicks moved that all aspects of the change order be accepted with the exception of pavement widening of Savannah Street, and keep the sidewalks at 3½ feet, including the curb, throughout the project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried 5 to 1, with Councilwoman Mayfield opposing. It was also the consensus of Council to authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the County, asking the County to consider widening Savannah Street . The City Manager was also asked to have City workers remove the centerline on Savannah Street . Councilman Little suggested that both lines be obliterated on the street, and City Engineer Charlie Armentrout recommended holding off on any restriping.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Senkbeil and carried unanimously to take up other business to discuss an emergency alarm system.

Hart County Emergency Management Director Terrell Partain presented a Code Red Emergency Communications Network plan to Mayor and Council for consideration regarding high-speed emergency communication services for all types of emergency notifications. Mr. Partain explained that the proposed cost to the County is \$10,000 per year, which would be funded through insurance premium funds. He asked for the City’s participation in the network plan at a cost based upon the City’s population. Upon being asked by Mayor Beasley if the City would still be notified of emergency situations if the City chooses to decline participation, Mr. Partain answered “yes.” Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to take this matter under consideration and make a decision later next month. Councilman Hicks also noted that this would not take the place of the City’s emergency siren.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner

City Clerk