

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall, 500 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, with all council members present. Absent from the meeting was Mayor Jennifer Scott.

In the absence of Mayor Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mayfield called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the invocation given by Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting held on December 6, 2010, a motion was made by Councilman Tray Hicks to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Councilman David Little and carried unanimously.

In discussing the minutes of the December 6th regular meeting, Councilman Little pointed out that paragraph 5 of the minutes reported that the Mayor stated that a few items needed to be added to the agenda. However, although a vote was taken on the items, no vote was taken to add them to the agenda. As stated by City Attorney Rob Leverett, council could ratify or confirm the agenda additions, or vote to include them in this evening's agenda to correct any error during last month's meeting. Councilman Little moved to add the two items to this evening's agenda, one regarding granting city employees an extra one-half day off during the Christmas holidays, and one regarding employees being allowed to take a day off work on their birthdays, with pay. Motion was seconded by Councilman Arthur Craft and carried unanimously to add these items to this January meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to also add to the agenda a discussion regarding Service Delivery Strategy. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2010-04 regarding the State's mandate on outdoor watering restrictions, a motion was made by Councilman Billy Ethridge to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to enter into a contract written by J. M. Wilkerson Company and City Attorney Rob Leverett regarding the construction of a new city hall by J. M. Wilkerson Company. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield explained that item #6 was removed from the agenda upon request from NAACP President Randy Combs. Mr. Combs had reported that the presentation regarding the NAACP and Hartwell Police Department coalition was not yet ready.

A power point presentation was given by Mr. Bob Smithson regarding Hart State Park. Speaking on behalf of "Friends of Hart State Park," Mr. Smithson requested funding from the City in the amount of approximately \$9,400.00 to assist in refurbishing twenty-one campsites at Hart State Park which were closed by the State last year. Mr. Smithson also stated that the County would be asked to fund an equal amount, explaining that by providing the labor themselves and purchasing materials locally, the amount requested is much less than any materials purchased through the Department of Natural Resources. Following consideration and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve the request

for \$9,400.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks. After further discussion, the motion and second were amended by Councilmen Little and Hicks to also have a written contract prepared to include an accountability as to use of the funds. As the vote was called, motion failed 3 to 2, with Councilmen Senkbeil, Craft and Ethridge opposing and Councilmen Little and Hicks voting "yes." Upon further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to table the issue until the next meeting and ask the City Manager to look at the budget to see where the City could possibly obtain the money to fund this project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to issue a Request for Proposals for financing of a new city hall.

A motion was made by Councilman Little and seconded by Councilman Craft to approve the extra one-half day off for City employees during the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, December 22, 2010. Motion was unanimously approved. It was also the consensus of Council to review this action on a year-to-year basis.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to allow City employees to receive a day off work on their birthday, with pay, to be taken on their birthday or on a day within the pay period in which their birthday falls, and the paid day off for birthdays is not to be considered a holiday. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. It was also the consensus of Council to allow this action on a trial basis this year rather than incorporate into the personnel policy, with the City Manager to look at the cost. As questioned by Councilman Craft, it was suggested by the City Manager that an employee having a birthday on a holiday should be allowed to take another day off within the work cycle.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to enter into some type mutual agreement with the County to request an extension to the deadline for submitting the updated Service Delivery Strategy as mandated by the State. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to amend the City Charter regarding committees to include wording which gives Council the right to overturn any committee appointments made by the Mayor, as Council deems necessary or appropriate. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. Council will ask State Representative Alan Powell and/or Senator Jim Butterworth to submit a Resolution to the General Assembly requesting the Charter amendment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

