

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 2, 2009

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was called to order by Mayor Matt Beasley on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall with all members present.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Beasley, all in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Myfield to accept the amended language to the January 5, 2009 minutes, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, to state that the purchase price of the brush chipper was \$25,008.00 after trade-in. Language in the remaining portion of the paragraph would remain the same. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Mayor Beasley presented a proclamation to proclaim February 9 – 13, 2009 as Abstinence Awareness Week, with emphasis basically on the importance of unity of families, and the community coming together to teach our children to just say “no” to sexual activity outside of marriage.

Mayor Beasley reported that the Hart County High School had received ten accommodations from the Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools for excellent accomplishments, especially in graduation and attendance rates. The Mayor commended School Superintendent Dr. David Hicks, High School Principal Eulin Gibbs, and Graduation Coach Sam Gray, as well as a community effort, in making these accomplishments possible.

Councilman Gordon reported that six bids were received for the City's Health Insurance coverage. He stated that the City's Insurance Committee is recommending that the City accept the bid through Core Source, Inc. for Huston Casualty Company (HCC) at \$158,000 stop loss premium and reduction of 1% on expected liability. Councilman Gordon presented this recommendation as a motion to accept the bid. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. Councilman Gordon further reported that the Committee and City Manager were looking at things the City might consider regarding a wellness program.

Mayor and Council heard an appeal from members of the Hart County Training School Class of 1963, asking the City to take whatever steps are necessary to reduce the number of abandoned houses and trash in the Rome community. The Mayor thanked the group for taking the initiative to help the community, and stated that the City had hired an extra person to help enforce property codes. The City Manager reported that the City had active files regarding some of these properties and although the legal process is very time consuming, the City was persevering. Councilman Hicks stated that it would help immensely if some type of form could be prepared to inform citizens of the procedures that could assist the City in notifying or locating property owners, and possibly preparing a list to be posted in City Hall or the Building Inspector's office regarding property nuisances that have already been reported.

Following the second reading of Flood Control Ordinance Amendment No. 2009-01, Councilwoman Myfield moved that the Ordinance be approved. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Evans and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Chamber of Commerce for the "Cars & Guitars Under the Stars" Classic Car Show to be held on the town square on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilman Little to approve a Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. The Chamber's Executive Director, Michele Depert, also gave an updated report on the activities of the Chamber.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to accept the low bid from HD Supply Water works in the amount of \$30,668.85 for Water Department materials/supplies.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to accept the low bid from Anderson Fire & Safety in the amount of \$20,255.40 for Fire Department equipment.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the following procedures for appointments/reappointments to Boards, Authorities, and Commissions:

Reappointments:

- Memo from Chairman indicating that member accepts reappointment and that directors request same.
- Vote by Council.

New Appointments:

- Short resume' available to Council one meeting prior to the meeting at which vote is required.
- Recommendation by one Council member and/or by affected Board, Authority, or Commission.
- Discussion and vote by Council.

The procedures included that correspondence regarding appointments or reappointments must be submitted to the City Manager for distribution. Mayor Beasley also added that he would like all correspondence be sent directly to the City Manager and not to him or the City Clerk, to eliminate any confusion. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to participate in the Great American Cleanup event. Councilman Hicks agreed to lead this cleanup campaign.

No action was taken regarding nominations of District 2 Officer for Georgia Municipal Association.

Councilman Little reported that Council members had looked at an older building considered for purchase, which would cost approximately \$1.2M to \$1.5M for purchase and renovation. He stated also that the City could consider using the existing city hall property by demolishing the present building and constructing a new city hall, which could be accomplished for approximately \$3M to \$4M using numbers from a reputable contractor. A motion was made by Councilman Little to form a committee to research the options of renovating an existing building or construction of a new

building with the committee to present a report at the March Council meeting. Councilman Little further stated that he would volunteer to serve on the committee and recommended that Council members Sarah Mayfield and Mike Gordon also be appointed to serve on the committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Senkbeil and carried unanimously. It was noted that the current city hall structure, approximately 40 years old, has a lot of problems, including a major leak. The size of the municipal courtroom is also inadequate, as well as the current jail.

City Manager David Aldrich requested instruction from Council regarding the City's offer to sell water to the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority at a price of approximately \$1.90 per one thousand gallons. As stated by the City Manager, the offer was made some time ago, and he wished to know if Council would like to leave this previous offer open or place a timetable on the offer. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to send a letter to the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority, with a copy to Hart County Commissioners, stating that the current rate offered by the City will expire after 90 days from this date of 2-2-09. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of the City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to take up one additional item of business. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

The City Manager reported that a request had been received from the Hartwell Golf Course, located on Golf Course Road off Hwy. 29 South, for water service from the City due to the Golf Course being completely without water as a result of the extreme drought. He further stated that there were five potential water customers (homes) and one business located on the road. The estimated cost of materials to run the approximate 2700 feet of water line is \$8,929.34. A tap fee in the amount of \$2,475.00 would be paid by the Golf Course. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to proceed with running water to the golf course. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously. It was also noted that this was within the City's territory.

Mayor Beasley expressed sympathy on the recent passing of Sanitation Superintendent Dean Carruth's sister, and Police Captain Paul Agnew's mother. He also extended thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery for Finance Officer Joan Hughes' husband upon his recent illness.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk