

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 2009

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

Following the invocation, all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Jim Evans to adopt the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sarah Mayfield and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Mike Gordon to authorize the Hartwell Farmer's Market Association to use the parking lot at the corner of Howell and Carter Streets on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. until noon for the period April through December 2009 for the purpose of selling locally-grown vegetables, fruits, and potted shrubs and plants. Motion was seconded by Councilman David Little and carried unanimously.

Councilman Little reported that the City Hall Building Committee had met three times last month and considered six sites offered for sale to the City. He stated that four of these sites were rejected due to location or size. He further stated that the committee offered three options for consideration by Council: (1) build a new 2-story municipal courtroom/law enforcement center on existing city hall site; (2) build a new municipal-council building on existing site and move the Police Department to the old LHP Corporation building on Leard Street, or; (3) build a new law enforcement building on existing site and move municipal building to the Teasley House located at the corner of East Howell and Carter Streets. Councilman Little stated that final recommendation would not be made until the purchasing price for the Teasley House is established and discussed. A motion was made by Councilman Little to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations to establish the best asking price available for the Teasley House. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tray Hicks and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Van Senkbeil opposing.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield, and carried unanimously to accept the quote from Equipment Controls for approximately 300 gas meters at a cost of \$24,981.00.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Gordon, and carried unanimously to authorize the repair of a sewer pump for the Cedar Creek Lift Station at a cost of \$7,563.33.

Representing the J. L. Blackwell Support Group, Minister Anw Hill appealed to Mayor and Council for approval of a permit to hold a peaceful march on Saturday, March 7th, and waiver of the City's requirement for a 45-day advanced request for such permits. As stated

by Minister Hill, the march would begin at 129 Savannah Street and proceed down College Avenue, turning left onto the sidewalk and continuing down to the Dairy Queen on Hwy. 29, and back to Savannah Street. He further stated that the march was intended for unity and peace and no violence or negative posters would be tolerated. Mayor Beasley suggested that a police cruiser be placed on Johnson Street at intersections to be crossed by those participating in the march. Councilman Gordon stated that perhaps a permit was not needed since this would be a gathering of like-minded folks for the same purpose and no major highways would be crossed. It was felt by the Mayor that Council should go ahead and issue a permit and waive the 45-day time period. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to have the Chief of Police provide police cruisers to block off each end of Johnson Street where pedestrians will be crossing at the time and day for the planned march. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield. Councilman Little expressed concern that if Council allowed this activity without a permit, others would be asking over and over for the same consideration. Upon call for the vote, motion was carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Little opposing.

The City Manager reported that the annual Little League parade was scheduled to be held on March 28th. Although previously approved by Council as a blanket request along with other activity requests, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to again approve the parade request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk