

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 2009

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall with all members present. Mayor Matt Beasley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance, recognizing a number of students from his high school government class, his wife and daughter, as well as Council-elects Billy Ethridge and Arthur Craft.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance, Mayor Beasley gave the invocation.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 2, 2009 regular council meeting and November 19, 2009 budget public hearing, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

Mayor Beasley read a letter received by fax this date from City of Elberton Mayor Larry Guest, congratulating the Hart County High Football Team once again for their victory over the Elbert County Blue Devils this season. It has been the annual tradition of both Hartwell and Elberton Mayors to present the "Mayor's Cup" trophy to the winning team's Mayor and Council, but Mayor Guest explained that due to recent health issues, he was unable at the present time to personally present the trophy to the City of Hartwell.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-08, approving the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, a motion was made by Councilman Little to adopt the Ordinance as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. Mayor Beasley commended the City Manager and department heads for presenting a tight budget for Council's consideration.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2010-01 regarding rules and regulations of the Health Department. Mr. David Leard, Environmental Health Specialist with the Hart County Health Department, explained the components of the proposed Ordinance. He stated that the proposed Ordinance gives the local Health Department and City and County governments legal jurisdiction in enforcement of state and local rules and regulations pertaining to certain issues of environmental health. City Manager David Aldrich expressed concern over Section III of the Ordinance regarding minimum lot sizes of property utilizing on-site sewage systems, stating he preferred the rules and regulations be consistent with the City's zoning regulations. As discussion ensued, it was determined that state law would supersede any local regulations, and therefore no language change was needed in the proposed Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 12-07-09, approving the results of the Municipal General Election held on November 3, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Evans and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 12-07-09-1, approving the results of the Municipal Runoff Election held on December 1, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously to approve all submitted renewal applications for beer/wine and distilled spirits by the drink licenses for the year 2010.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to approve a new beer/wine license for Ms. Cathy H. Hicks, new owner of the Tastes of Georgia Restaurant.

Upon recommendation of the Fire Chief and City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Evans to accept the low bid of \$7100.00 from Fire Line, Inc. for a thermal imaging camera. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously. As stated by the City Manager, \$7400 was budgeted in the Fire Department for this item.

Upon recommendation of the City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Evans to accept the low bid from Truck Equipment of Georgia, LLC for a dump truck body for the Street Department in the amount of 9,628.80, plus \$385.00 for a lever mechanism. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. Councilman Little also stated it would be helpful to have a letter regarding the recommendation.

City Manager David Aldrich shared a letter received from the Georgia Public Service Commission regarding their recent comprehensive on-site inspection of the City's gas system, stating that no violations were found in pipeline safety regulations. The City Manager and Mayor complimented Gas Superintendent Audie Laviolette and the entire Gas Department for their dedicated service to the City.

Police Chief Cecil Reno presented the City with a Certificate from the Department of Defense Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix IX, along with a United States Flag, which was flown on August 29, 2009 in the face of the enemy over the American compound in Gardez, Afghanistan by the Officers, NCO's and Soldiers of TASK FORCE 1-121st Infantry during "Operation Enduring Freedom" in honor of the Hartwell Police Department. Chief Reno stated that Hartwell Police Officer Reggie Teasley has been serving in Afghanistan for almost 12 months with this 121st Infantry. Chief Reno asked that everyone remember the soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq during this Christmas season, urging everyone to pray for them, saying they are our neighbors, friends, and brothers.

Mayor Beasley also asked everyone to pause and remember the many casualties resulting from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, as well as all World War II Veterans and all active military personnel today.

In view of the fact that Mayor Beasley did not seek re-election for another term in office, he expressed a personal "thank you" to the City of Hartwell for allowing him to serve the City for 14 years, with part of those years on City Council and the last two terms as Mayor. He stated

that it had been an enjoyable tenure because of the employees of the City who make him proud each day, as well as all volunteers on boards and committees. He also expressed thanks to each Council member, and wished only the best for the new Mayor.

Councilman David Little stated that it had been an honor to serve with Mayor Beasley, as well as outgoing Council members Mike Gordon and Jim Evans. Gratitude was also expressed by Councilmember Sarah Mayfield, thanking the outgoing officials for their service and stating also that she looked forward to working with the newly elected officials.

The City Manager briefly reported that the CDBG project was still diligently being worked on and moving forward. He also stated that it had been a privilege to serve with each City official.

Councilman Jim Evans stated that he had enjoyed serving the citizens the last four years and wished the two new Council members and Mayor the best of luck.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk