

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 1, 2009

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 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.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mayfield, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Beasley expressed appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Mayfield for presiding in his absence during the last council meeting, as he was in Washington, D.C. with the American Public Gas Association lobbying our congressmen and senators regarding local natural gas issues such as protecting consumers from unreasonable higher rates.

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

Mr. Lloyd Williamson of Williamson & Co. CPA's presented the City's annual audit representing the fiscal year 2008. Mr. Williams reviewed each department's revenues and expenditures, explaining that the City continued to be in good financial shape with a healthy fund balance.

City Manager David Aldrich reported that the Candler-Linder house on West Johnson Street had been condemned by the Fire Chief due to decay of the house. He stated that the owners had no desire to restore the home, but because of the historical significance of the home once owned by the Coca Cola Candler family, they were willing to donate the property to the City for restoration of the house. The Hartwell Historic Preservation Commission was very much in favor of preserving the house, as well as Georgia Mountains RDC Historic Preservation Planner Chip Wright, who felt that funds could be obtained to help restore the house. As discussion continued, Mayor and several Councilmembers expressed their desire to have the home preserved, but were not in favor of the City being directly involved. The possibility of the Historic Preservation Commission or the Downtown Development Authority accepting the property was also discussed. Councilman Hicks suggested a 120-day extension in regards to the notice of violation from the Fire Chief. Following considerable discussion, no action was taken by Council, but the City Manager was asked to speak with Attorney Bob Ridgway, Attorney representing the owners of the Candler-Linder property.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2009-03 amending the Malt Beverage Ordinance, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance as presented by the City Attorney. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to accept a bid from Anderson Fire & Safety in the amount of \$50,614.80 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried

unanimously. As stated in a memo from Fire Chief Terry Vickery, the lowest bid received from FireLine, Inc. in the amount of \$45,310 did not meet bid specifications. The Chief also stated that Assistance to Firefighter Grant funds in the amount of \$52,500 had been awarded for approximately 10 units of SCBA. The City's match is 5%, or \$2,530.74.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Anderson Fire & Safety in the amount of 37,260 for Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment (turn-out gear.) A total of \$39,100 was awarded from Assistance to Firefighter Grant funds for 23 sets of turn-out gear. The City's match is 5%, or \$1,863.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the purchase of an additional 10 sets of turn-out gear from Anderson Fire & Safety for the Fire Department as budgeted, for a total cost of \$16,200. As explained in a memo from the Fire Chief, the additional 10 sets, in addition to the 23 sets funded through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant, would complete the replacement of the department's existing gear. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Mayor Beasley explained that due to the unexpected death of Housing Authority Board Member Will Carter, vacancy on that Board needed to be filled. He further explained that state law allows the Mayor to make appointments to the Housing Authority Board, and he wished to appoint Mr. Terry Blackwell to fill the vacant position, stating that Mr. Blackwell had offered his assistance to the City in some capacity. Councilwoman Mayfield stated that anyone interested in serving on committees should contact the Mayor, and if the City Attorney finds that the Mayor is in error in making appointments to the Housing Authority Board, the appointment can be changed.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to adopt the revised Standard Operating Procedures for the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously. It was also suggested that the Operating Procedures be given to each police officer in electronic form (disk.)

Mayor Beasley called attention to the City's official seal used on documents. He asked for community interest in creating a new seal for the City of Hartwell, stating that some cities had the Coat of Arms on seals. It was also mentioned that art students through the Archway Program could possibly assist in designing a new seal. The Mayor further stated that the City's current logo placed on vehicles and used elsewhere could possibly be incorporated into the City's official seal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

