

The Board of Commission of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting immediately following the Organizational Meeting Monday January 4, 2010 at City Hall with Chairman James Colson presiding.

PRESENT: Chairman James Colson, Vice-Chair Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey, Wilson Credle and Phil NeSmith.

Chairman Colson called the meeting to order. He gave some ground rules concerning issues that could not be discussed in an Open Meeting, that Personnel, Real Estate Acquisition and Pending Legal Matters had to be discussed in closed sessions. He expected everyone to be respectful to the Commissioners and the City Manager, there will be no heated discussions, no hostility toward anyone, or you will be shown out of the meeting. If a citizen chose to speak, he/she would need to sign the sign-up sheet with subject to be discussed.

MINUTES: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Regular meeting. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD APPOINTEE: Shelly Berryhill motioned to appoint Darrell Brown to the Historic Board. Wilson Credle seconded. The motion passed with 4 yes votes and 1 no vote. Phil NeSmith chose to vote no because he had stated earlier that if the person did not own property in the historic district then he would not recommend, that he had nothing against Mr. Brown other than that.

BUSINESS LICENSE: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the applications for a business license in the names of;

1. THIS AND THAT/ B&B SALES
(109 Commerce St. – General Merchandise,
Michael Barnett, owner)
2. HEART OF GEORGIA PHYSICIANS, LLC
(292 Industrial Blvd. Suite 102- Physician's Office
Amber Rogers, Office Manager)

Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

CONTRACTOR FOR THE ORCHARD HILL WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

Henry Cravey motioned to approve recommendation by Ocmulgee Site & Environmental Services to enter into a formal contractual agreement with Three Kings Co., Inc. for the amount of \$271,817.39 for the Orchard Hill Water Improvement Project. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

Credle stated if there was a reasonable option other than returning excess funds, would like to see funds used to extend the project.

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM LARRY D. HEDDEN: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the temporary construction easement. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

Manager Murkerson explained the easement was required for a bore pit for the Orchard Hill Water Improvement Project. At the end of the project the easement will be released.

DILAPIDATED HOUSING TAX: Manager Murkerson handed out two sample ordinances from Darien, Georgia and Albany, Georgia and asked for direction as to whether the Commission wanted to use either. There would be double and triple taxation on blighted property. The excess revenue created would have to be dedicated for redevelopment.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission has not completed the housing survey. No action taken.

INCREASES IN MUNICIPAL COURT FINES FOR TRAFFIC AND

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the recommendation from law enforcement staff and court staff increasing the fines to be more in line with surrounding cities. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed. A list of the increases plus all required add-on fees were given to each Commissioner.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

Manager Murkerson gave a dilapidated housing report from Codes Enforcement. 23 houses demolished 17 by owner and 6 by the City. We will send out RFPs this month for several more. Looking at the list of 17 that are positioned to be demolished by the City, he asked if they had priorities to consider. Henry Cravey recommended 5 as the next group size. Shelly Berryhill agreed, need to check with HURA to see what their priorities are, let them make the final decision. Wilson Credle is concerned with the budget for this project. Henry Cravey motioned to make the next group size of 5. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

Murkerson reported we have utilized the Speed Sentry device on Hillbright Street and west bound on Broad Street. The device is now in operation on eastbound Broad Street. "I have discussed the possible trade in of our 12 inch model with our sales representative from All Traffic Solutions and I was informed they did not have a trade in program. He verified that the device is working properly and offered to check our device to make sure. I explained we were satisfied with the device, but wished to trade for a larger one. We will make some changes to the background to enhance the sign even more."

Murkerson stated he had included a recent communication from DCA about designation of county Job Tax Credit tiers in which there was an official notice that Pulaski County is in a Tier 3 Job Tax Credit Ranking for 2010.

Nick Kouloungis from the Regional Commission was present to give an update on our CDBG Housing grant application process. He stated we are in the process of acquiring a grant administrator and would make his recommendations at the February meeting.

He gave an update on the inspection from EPD of the ground water withdrawal at the old Pillowtex Mill., They are satisfied with results and testing at the mill. The demolition is continuing.

Murkerson asked Mr. Kouloungis to show them the book of information he had been working on for each house in the city during the pre-application process for grant funding. Nick had pages for each house with indicators of home ownership with pictures of the houses. He stated he would like to add another item to the information, the year built. Murkerson explained that during the pre-application process they found a single mother of 4 kids living in a below substandard place. Volunteers worked together to get her and her family moved to a better house. He thanked Nick for the excellent work.

POLICE REPORTS: Murkerson gave out the Police reports for December 2009 and thanked the Police for an outstanding job collecting the information for these reports. He commended all the Police and Staff for all they do for the community. He also commended Clerk Herrington who spends a lot of time with court cases. She does an excellent job.

Murkerson said the report on the abandoned vehicles showed a total of nine letters sent for twelve cars in different locations around town and a total of five vehicles had been taken care of. He thanked Assistant Chief McGriff for his work on this project.

BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT: Murkerson reported that Karen Bailey was absent. He did mention the "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas tree recycling event. McGalliard Waste Services provided containers for the trees to be collected.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Murkerson stated that Mitchell Woods was not feeling well and would not be present, but the financial reports were in their notebooks and if they had any questions to please call him.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

James Colson questioned the Police Dept. about the ever present baggy pants and more citations needed to be written.

Henry Cravey commended the Police Dept. and especially Lodie Johnson for their work. Wilson Credle had none.

Shelly Berryhill questioned the previous minutes concerning the guidelines for the downtown historic district. He asked if there was an update on the Mental Health Center. Phil NeSmith said they had not met again.

Berryhill asked about the overhang street signs?

He also asked about the water meter taps installed at Southern Hills. There are 78 to complete.

He asked about employee Brenda Brady. Clerk Herrington reported Mrs. Brady was improving everyday, that she was only using a cane to help her balance. She is concerned about her job and her leave time. Clerk Herrington also said Ms. Annette Smith was doing very well, that Ms. Dorothy said she was somewhat back to her old self.

Phil NeSmith had none.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Dorothy Williams stated that HURA had agreed on 10 structures.

She questioned the mosquito spraying fees. Murkerson explained the City would be doing aerial spraying beginning in the months when mosquitoes start and will continue to do on regular basis and will spray with the truck in problem areas. The fees collected will determine how often will spray.

Mary Barber thanked Commissioners and all involved for their efforts in getting the house and property next to the Day Care Center on Second Street cleaned up. Ms. Barber asked the Commission to consider sidewalks on Second Street at least from Progress Ave to Dooley Street.

Manager Murkerson told Commissioners that he had enjoyed working with them, he complimented outgoing Chairman NeSmith for advice and leadership abilities and that he looked forward to their willingness to help the community in the coming year.

There being no further business.

ADJOURN: Phil NeSmith motioned to adjourn. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

Chairman, Board of Commission
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

City Clerk