

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday February 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman James Colson presiding:

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

Henry Cravey gave a prayer. All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Colson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

MINUTES: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 Organizational Meeting. Ken Hardy seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

MINUTES: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 Regular Meeting. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

MINUTES: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2013 Called Meeting. Ken Hardy seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

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

1. PAWN WELLS
(8 Progress Ave. – Retail Sales, Benny Wells, owner)
2. CAPTURED DREAMS PHOTOGRAPHY
(4 Progress Ave.- Photography Studio, Chelsea N. Tyner, owner)
3. MICHAEL BRYANT & ASSOCIATES, LLC. dba ALCO INSURANCE AGENCY
(73 Commerce St. – Insurance Agency, Michael Bryant, Agent)

Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF ALCOHOL LICENSE: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the application for transfer of Alcohol License in the name of

1. CORNER STORE LIQUOR
(44 First St. – Syi Thi Pearson, applicant, license transfer from Ed Darsey's Corner Liquor Store)

Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

AGREEMENT WITH JOINTLY OWNED NATURAL GAS: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the Management Agreement between the City of Hawkinsville and Jointly Owned Natural Gas to manage and operate the City's natural gas system while the City retains ownership. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

COMPENSATION INCREASE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve an increase in the monthly compensation and to run advertisement of same in the local newspaper for three (3) weeks. This will be presented for approval at the March 2013 Regular Meeting. The increase would be \$450.00 per month per Commissioner with the Chairman at \$500.00 per month. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains. Murkerson explained that should the increase be approved it will take effect on January 1, 2014.

REVISION OF PERSONNEL POLICY: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve recommendation of City Manager for a revision of the Personnel Policy. Shelly Berryhill seconded motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains. The revision reads: If an employee is out of work they will not be paid holiday pay if they have exhausted all their annual and sick leave. Annual or sick leave must be carried over from a prior pay period in order for the employee to be compensated for holiday pay in the current pay period.

HAWKINSVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION POST 5: Phil NeSmith motioned to appoint Clay Hall to fill the unexpired term of Post 5. James Colson seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains. Larry Hedden chose not to continue serving his term. The term will expire November 1, 2013. It is a three (3) year term.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

I have included a summary report about dilapidated housing and unclean lots from Codes Enforcement. There is a new one in progress by owner at 10 Jelks Street.

I have included a work order synopsis for the month of January from our customer service system. These are completed work orders only.

I have also included an arrears report listing commercial customers who are behind on their bills.

City staff, Harp & Associates staff and JONG staff have submitted our response to answer the PSC inspection report. I distributed copies of our response to you via email for your perusal. Our relationship with JONG has been solidified with the agreement you have approved tonight and everything is going really good on our Natural Gas system.

I have been in contact with Ms. Connie Bryant at Middle Georgia Community Mental Health Center and her supervisors have come to Hawkinsville and viewed the available expansion units. They have indicated they would like to move forward with this process. We will continue to work closely with them to address their issues.

The government consolidation documents have been submitted to our Legislative delegation for action and I have forwarded additional documents to Legislative Counsel as they requested. The process seems to be progressing without issues. After we have the local legislation we should then submit to the United States Department of Justice for their review.

I have also submitted the resolution for a Hotel/Motel tax increase from 5% to 8% and the legal notice, as required by Legislative Counsel, will run in the newspaper for three weeks.

Commissioner Shelly Berryhill is the incoming President of GMA District 6 and it is time for nominations to be forwarded to GMA for the upcoming year.

Law Enforcement Report is included your notebook.

Hawkinsville Better Hometown:

Organization Committee:

*Better Hometown Board of Directors:

Meets Thursday February 7 @ 12:00 am

We will partner with other local organizations to host the Heart & Soul bus tour in April.

Design Committee:

*Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission

Meets the 4th Tuesday each month @ 4:00 pm

Historic Preservation projects:

- Old Fire House Restoration.
- Committee involved in ongoing planning.
MGRC Preservation Planner Kristi Harpst, UGA Grad Student Mario Cambardella, Archway, Michelle Elliott & (Jack Pyburn) Architect- providing technical assistance for project.

Promotions Committee:

- Planning 2013 Harvest Fest ~Pigs & Produce BBQ Championship to be held October 25 & 26, 2013. Will promote all Opera House programs, Harness Festival & other downtown events.

Economic Restructuring Committee:

*Hawkinsville Downtown Development Authority:

DDA still in search of a Market Manager Overseeing completion of building # 7 – Farmers Market bldg.at the cotton mill project.

Archway Report:

Leadership Development

- If you know anyone interested in participating in the 2013 Pulaski Tomorrow class, please have them contact Pulaski Tomorrow at (478)783-LEAD or visit the Pulaski Tomorrow Facebook page.
- Welcome to new Pulaski Tomorrow Chairman Robert Herman. Robert replaces outgoing Chair Harley Lawson. Harley was the first Pulaski Tomorrow chair and has served for three years. Thank you for your service and leadership, Harley.
- Faculty members from the UGA Masters of Arts in Nonprofit Organizations (MNPO) are currently working with Pulaski Tomorrow to establish independent non-profit status.
- Faculty members from the Fanning Institute for Leadership Development will be working this year with Pulaski Tomorrow to develop youth leadership opportunities in Pulaski County.
- The next Pulaski Tomorrow Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, January 31 @8:30 A.M in the Pulaski County Annex. All members, alumni and prospective members are invited to attend.

Community Health

- Taylor Regional Hospital and the Community Health Issue work group met to begin creating a strategic plan to improve community health. Taylor Regional is working with Georgia Southern and Archway to create and implement this plan.

Economic Development

- United Pulaski has a new website designed by UGA students and Georgia Web Services. This site was designed to reflect current economic development trends and provide the critical information that developers need. Look for a new Chamber of Commerce website later this year.
- Josh Walton from the UGA Small Business Development Center is working with Archway and local organizations to bring more continuing professional development opportunities and business tools to Pulaski County in 2013.
- UGA students have created a comprehensive agritourism plan for Hardy Farms Peanuts. Their work will be completed in February and will serve as a valuable source of information for all who want to pursue agritourism.

Government Service Delivery

- UGA College of Environment and Design students are looking for summer design projects. Previous work has been completed at the city and county boat landings, the industrial park and downtown.
- UGA Landscape architect student, Mario Cambardella, recently completed a site plan for the fire house museum that will be included in a grant submission for the project.

Housing

- Archway will continue to support the Housing efforts of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County.

Public Education

- A meeting is being organized to explore the possibility of establishing a Boys and Girls Club in Pulaski County. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact the Archway Office.

Hawkinsville/Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce:

- The monthly Board of Directors Meeting was held on Friday, January 11th. The upcoming Harness Festival was discussed extensively during this meeting.
- Therisa is working on Young/Miss Harness Festival Pageant which will be held on February 9th. This pageant has a great impact on the economy of Hawkinsville. It brings people into our community from all over the State of Ga. They stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, visit our merchants as well as buying fuel at our convenient stores. .
- On January 30th the Chamber Board of Directors and members recognized Dairy Queen as Business of the Month for January.
- We are receiving calls and vendors for 2013 Harness Festival.
- The chamber is currently organizing the MAC.
- Currently implementing the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Small business Alliance Partnership.
- Organizing the Peaches to the Beaches which will be held March 8th and 9th.
- We are receiving Harness Festival Vendors for 2013 Harness Festival
- The Youth Leadership applications have been delivered to Hawkinsville High School, The Westfield School and Fullington Academy. The deadline for entries is February 15th

United Pulaski Economic Development:

- Working on Archway Executive Committee with active projects being; website, tourism, strategic plan for United Pulaski, leadership and community health.
- Working with local company on an expansion including a loading dock
- Working on current events for Rivers Alive and Blue Way.
- Lee is working on a new prospect which is a plastic recycling company from New York.
- Hawkinsville currently holds the 2013 MGMAC Chairmanship. Bobbie Clemons was selected as the chair for 2013 with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce President, Lee Slade.
- Lee attended Eggs and Issues in Atlanta.

- Lee is currently working with new County Commissioner, Butch Hall
- Serves on DDA Board and continues to be involved with Community Market project

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Mitchell Woods presented the financial reports for December 2012. He reported that the gas sale margin was less than last year. Residential and commercial sales had decreased while industrial sales increased. The LOST for January 2013 was less than last year, but collections for the year are 2.4% more than last year.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

James Colson had none.

Ken Hardy stated he had received several complaints about trash on the sidewalks and along the streets in the downtown area. Manager Murkerson stated that Public Works Director Gordon was handling that. Hardy also said he had taken his children to the river walk and on the river trails and there were several trees down. He asked who maintained the trails. Murkerson stated the City would clean up.

Henry Cravey had none.

Shelly Berryhill stated he was encouraged with new retail businesses.

Phil NeSmith had none.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were none.

There being no further business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Phil NeSmith motioned to go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman James Colson, Ken Hardy, Shelly Berryhill, Henry Cravey and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

The time was noted at 6:28 p.m.

The meeting was reopened. The time was noted at 6:43 p.m.

Attorney David Walker talked to Commissioners about the request from Olin McLeod to have a lien released on property on Second Street that he was named an heir to. McLeod claims he is not an heir Walker stated that Johnson Hall had composed a quit claim deed for McLeod. He would talk with Attorney Hall again concerning this matter.

Walker was concerned that JONG did not specify liability insurance in the contract between the City and JONG.

Manager Murkerson stated a letter had been sent to James Laidler explaining per EMA Director/Fire Chief Leslie Sewell's recommendation that Sioux Alley would not be changed because there is already a Laidler Road in the county.

Manager Murkerson stated that Rachel Pitts had called and recommended Lorraine Holmes fill the Post on the Hawkinsville Housing Authority held by Earnestine Anderson, who has chosen not serve any longer. Murkerson was concerned that Ms. Holmes did not live in the city limits.. Phil NeSmith asked Chairman James Colson to see if he could find a good candidate to represent the City on the Housing Board.

Ken Hardy shared his concerns about the Pulaski County Sheriff Officers carrying their children in the patrol vehicles.

Commissioners discussed that when they agreed to pay the Pulaski County Sheriff for law enforcement protection 40% of the budget, the lack of traffic citations not going to the Municipal Court was not a part of the deal.

They discussed the possibility of ticket cameras.

Commissioners asked Manager Murkerson to provide them a monthly non revenue water leak report.

There being no further business.

ADJOURN: Shelly Berryhill motioned to adjourn. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed unanimously.