

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman James Colson presiding.

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

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

Chairman James Colson called the meeting to order. He and City Manager Jerry Murkerson presented a Resolution to Chuck Southerland, owner of the Hawkinsville Dispatch & News, for his involvement in the Rivers Alive project and the Ocmulgee River Front Park and for being awarded by the State of Georgia as Man of the Year 2009 for his participation in the Rivers Alive Clean Up Campaign for many years. Mr. Southerland was very appreciative of the honor, that the City of Hawkinsville has a great following of volunteers and always ask what they can do to help. He stated this was the 7th year for the clean up campaign.

Chairman James Colson also recognized City Employee Brenda Brady, who has been out of work for a very long time due to a very serious illness. He said he visited her several times and she would always say she hoped she would be able to work soon. Colson told the citizens that when they see Brenda keeping the city cleaned, blow your horn and let her know you appreciate her efforts because she is a great asset to our town.

Colson also welcomed the Youth Leadership group.

MINUTES: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2010 Regular Meeting. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

MINUTES: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 Called Meeting. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

BLIGHTED PROPERTY TAX: Henry Cravey motioned to table any discussion. Wilson Credle seconded, motion to table passed.

BUSINESS LICENSE: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the business license in the names of;

1. S & S AUTO AND PERFORMANCE CENTER
(529 Commerce St. –Automotive Shop, Shanna Smith, co-owner)
2. DEW BUILDERS
(212 Coleman Landing Rd- Handy Man Service, Donald E Wingate, owner)
3. DIRTY DOG SALON, LLC.
(24 Hwy 341 By Pass – Dog Grooming & Retail, Gwyn Myers, owner)

Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

BEER AND WINE LICENSE: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the application for a Beer and Wine License for the Columns of Georgia, LLC. located at 155 Dooley St., Michael King and Len Robertson, owners. Wilson Credle seconded, Shelly Berryhill abstained, motion passed. Commissioners stated the grand opening was today and Mr. King and Mr. Robertson had made a grand old home a beautiful place.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT: Wilson Credle talked about economic development in Hawkinsville and how can we develop growth and jobs. He had done some research and talked to two of the largest consulting firms in the nation, Wadley Donovan Gutshaw Consulting and KLG Advisors. They do assessments not evaluations. They do research for 300 Fortune 500 companies, have created 5,500 jobs, mainly information technology, have been in business 30 years and typically charge \$100,000.00 for their services. He spoke with Dennis Donovan of Wadley Donovan Gutshaw Consulting and he stated he would come to Hawkinsville with staff to determine labor force, things they would look at and what to improve on. They would make a short list on labor market indicators including population trends, household income, education attainment, labor force participation, growth by industry, estimated underemployment, college enrollment, military base presence and red flags on issues (telecom, taxes, infrastructure, natural disaster risk). Donovan said the quality of schools placed 7th on importance. He asked if the city had Freeport Tax Exemption. He stated Georgia was way below average. Mr. Credle said the city budget is approximately \$9 million, we have over \$800,000. invested in the Spec Building, and felt we owe the tax payers to do everything possible.

Wilson Credle motioned to spend up to \$10,000.00 and allow him to negotiate with Archway and other organizations to contribute and contract with Bill Donovan, Wadley Donovan Gutshaw Consulting to make his assessments. Shelly Berryhill seconded, but stipulated the expense be for next years budget if no one else contributes, motion passed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: Bemby Pritchett stated she was appointed by Commission to do what was asked under the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Historic Board had found a unique situation, a violation. She said there was no COA prior to work done, did not install historic windows, did not follow historic guidelines. Shelly Berryhill said no documentation was offered to staff to prepare Commission for what was to be discussed. He stated would let City Attorney look over and see what needed to be done. Wilson Credle stated they did not need to reopen the debate. He questioned as to whether there was dispute about the City's ordinance or facts. Pritchett said facts based on the design guidelines. Lee Slade asked Ms. Pritchett what guidelines didn't meet what the Historic Commission told him when deciding what type windows he could use. He followed the instructions of the Historic Commission when installed in December, putting in aluminum windows, but received no further directions other than the option of wood windows, which were too expensive. Barbara Lawson stated Mr. Slade's 1st COA asking to install vinyl windows was denied. He appealed to the City Commissioners; they sent it back to the Historic Commission. Once that was done the COA was void. Lawson said needed a penalty to act on violation as stated in Section 1-12 General Provisions of the City Charter. Henry Cravey motioned to table. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE:

Manager Jerry Murkerson gave a report on the dilapidated housing from Codes Enforcement with 23 houses demolished, 17 by owners and 6 by the City. We sent out RFPs in February for five more. Those addresses are: 0 Second St. 421 Hendley St., 354 Second St. Grace and Hendley St. and 518 Commerce St. We have received bids for this demolition. We have explained more thoroughly to our contractors that they are responsible for EPD guidelines. After a visit with EPA, they were concerned about the asbestos abatement. He asked if the City should resubmit for bids with stipulations, to follow EPD guidelines to the letter. He said that asbestos was the only concern. Berryhill asked if the City made determinations if asbestos existed. The City will inspect and resubmit RFP's, need advice from City Attorney and postpone for one month. Wilson Credle wanted to avoid a complete rebid and accept some of the bids. Henry Cravey motioned to approve and award the low bidder pending inspection and recommendations from City Attorney. Wilson Credle seconded. Shelly Berryhill motioned to amend to accept any local bidders within 10% of the low bids. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

The wastewater distribution system serving portions of Jordan Drive and Sandy Springs Circle. is giving us problems every time we have a significant amount of rainfall in a short period of time. This is due to infiltration of storm water into the system. We will have to incur some expense to remedy the situation. We have an engineering estimate from Ocmulgee Site and Engineering of approximately \$8,500. to survey the system and engineer the solutions. Then we will know what the cost estimate is for repairs. We had GRWA do a video of the system in that area to let us know what the issues are for that part of the system. Recommend move forward with the engineering report and will be investigating grant sources for funding the project, possible GEFA loans. Berryhill asked if stimulus funds become available would it be possible to change the GEFA loan.

EXPENSE FOR ENGINEER REPORT WASTEWATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the expenditure of \$8,500. for the engineer report. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

CDBG HOUSING GRANT AREA:

For the CDBG Housing grant, per recommendation of the grant administrator and Regional Commission representative, HICH has recommended the McDuffie Street area to focus on first. Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the McDuffie Street area. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

We will also be looking at our ordinances with the City Attorney to determine what we can do to streamline the process for contractors in our designated housing improvement area.

PROCLAMATION 2010 CENSUS PARTNER: Manager Murkerson read the proclamation. Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve and proclaim April 1, 2010 as “Census Day in Hawkinsville”. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

Murkerson stated we have already appointed 3 citizens to be a part of the complete count committee and this will reinforce that commitment.

Due to recent trends of break-ins at City Halls in our region, Chief Tripp and I recommend that we start locking the outer door at City Hall. We will post signs to inform our customers to use the drop box on Sioux Alley.

We have received a letter from Mr. James Joyner announcing his retirement as Housing Authority Executive Director effective March 31, 2010. Commission requested a proclamation be prepared for James Joyner.

We also received a letter from Wayne Wetherington resigning his post on the Housing Authority Board.

Jim Rhodes, Manager of Georgia Power presented Commissioners a check in the amount of \$193,095.00 for franchise fees for the 2009 year.

POLICE REPORT: Robert McGriff’s reports included 5 abandoned vehicles were removed in February.

Shelly Berryhill pointed out to the Youth Leadership group that the Hawkinsville Police Dept. was on the job, that for February 2010 they made 456 calls for service, with 194 traffic citations issued.

Berryhill was glad to have the Youth Leadership group, 17 in attendance, the largest group. This is a good representation of the future leaders of Hawkinsville.

BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT: Karen Bailey gave a report of the programs for March. The Better Hometown Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 23rd. The Board meets each month on the fourth Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Kimberly Room of the Opera House. She needed to know who could sit on the board to represent the City Commission.

The River Parks Advisory Committee is actively working on projects related to the development of the river including seeking funding sources and marketing opportunities. The committee met with Adriane Wood, DCA Region 6 Representative Tuesday February 23rd.

The Community Market continues to grow with new vendors attending. The market vendors will participate in the annual Peaches to Beaches Yard Sale March 12th & 13th. The HBHT Promotions Committee is working to develop plans to involve the merchants and businesses with the Peaches to Beaches event and the Harness Festival. HBHT is the sponsor for the “Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway” project. Hawkinsville-Pulaski County is partnering with Wilcox County communities of Pineview, Abbeville and Rochelle. The next meeting will be March 3rd. HBHT partnered with the Ocmulgee Archeological Society to sponsor a successful Indian Artifacts Identification Day Saturday February 13th with over 50 attending the event and brought artifacts from Pulaski County and surrounding counties. Kristi Harpst, Regional Preservation Planner facilitated a mini training session for the Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission February 16th. A statewide HPC training will be held in April. City Commissioners and Codes Enforcements Officials are encouraged to attend. HBHT is partnering with UGA Archway, PCMS, 4-H, PCMS GEN Club, The Jimmy Carter Center and the Hawkinsville Garden Club for pollinator-wildflower gardens to be located at PCMS and the Mile Branch River Park. Ms. Bailey stated she would be attending the annual Main Street training March 17th – 19th in Albany. She is a participant in the Leadership trainers. Plans are being developed for the upcoming leadership class; Pulaski Tomorrow.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS: Mitchell Woods gave out the cash and other finance reports for January 2010. Woods prepared and gave out a report on projects funded through SPLOST Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for calendar year through February 2010 and a report on the Opera House expenditures. He also gave a report on the Natural Gas Volumes billed for fiscal year 2010. Woods prepared two reports on SPLOST projecting collections for 72 months with growth rates ranging from 2-5%.

Jerry Murkerson prepared a report of future projections for the 2010 SPLOST. The current receipts projected over the next 7 years without any growth will be \$3.3 million. The initial request to consider for the July 2010 SPLOST referendum vote are;

Fire Dept.	\$250,000
Rec. Dept.	\$250,000
New City Hall	\$1,000,000
(acquisition, renovation, furniture and equipment)	
Plant Operations.	\$500,000
(renovation and maintenance of treatment plants, equipment, vehicles, tools, etc.)	
Public Works.	\$500,000
(street paving and improvements, equipment, vehicles, tools, etc.)	
Utilities.	\$500,000
(distribution and collection system [water, wastewater and gas] improvements and maintenance in areas not qualified for CDBG funds, equipment, vehicles, tools, etc.)	
Opera House.	\$300,000
(maintenance, renovation, HVAC, etc.)	
E911	?
Other Projects.	?

CLOSE BANK ACCOUNT: Henry Cravey motioned to close the CDBG 06-p-x-116-2-3216 Street & Drainage bank account #01104546 from SunMark Community Bank. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Henry Cravey again commended the Police Dept. He questioned his concerns about the Satterfield house on Broad Street. Codes Enforcement Officer too check out.

Wilson Credle stated the City had received a completed audit for the 2009 fiscal year. The results were outstanding and he commended Mitchell Woods and Jerry Murkerson for their work.

Shelly Berryhill also commended both.

James Colson had no further comments.

The Youth Leadership Group was introduced with each student standing when their name was called. Shelly Berryhill told the students how glad he was they had attended and they were welcomed to asked questions, either now or after the meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

James Colson called on those who had signed the citizens comment sheet. Barbara Lawson and Bembry Pritchett had no further comments. Darrell Brown had left the meeting.

There being no further business.

ADJOURN: Henry Cravey motioned to adjourn. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

Chairman, Board of Commission
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

City Clerk