

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting Monday, June 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman James Colson presiding.

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

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.

**MINUTES:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 Regular Meeting. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**BUSINESS LICENSE:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the applications for a business license in the names of;

1. SUDDENLY SLIM  
(238 Commerce St- Weight Loss Clinic, Jackie Anderson, Manager)
2. M & S FASHION  
(33 Progress Ave.- Jerry Savage, owner)

Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**BEER AND WINE LICENSE WALGREENS CO #12319:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the application for a Beer and Wine license in the name of Walgreens Co. #12319, located at 126 Broad St., applicant Tavares Jovan Bell, Store Manager. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.  
Mr. Bell and Area Manager Ken Smith of Walgreens were present.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PULASKI COUNTY SHERIFF:** As noted by all Commissioners, this is a historic day in the City, that many hours of negotiations between the City Commission, County Commissioner, Sheriff and Police has led up to the agreement. The City currently has a police department and desires to cease its responsibility for the provision of law enforcement within the city limits and the Sheriff's Department is capable and willing to handle law enforcement in the City and has agreed to contract with the City for the provision of law enforcement in the city for the public safety and well-being of the citizens. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2010 at 12:00 a.m. and shall terminate at midnight on June 30, 2013, unless terminated by either party upon ninety (90) days' written notice. Copy of the agreement made a part of the official minutes.

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the agreement, Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

Phil NeSmith spoke to the Police Officers and to Chief Sam Tripp, stating that his Father Marvin NeSmith, was on the Board of Commission when Chief Tripp was hired and it had been a pleasure to be on the Board working with him for so many years. He gave a little history on the City's Chief's of Police, stating that J. Thomas Bragg had served for 23 years, but that Sam Tripp, who will be retiring June 30, 2010 has served as Chief for the last 25 years, the longest on record. He thanked Shannon Tripp for her dedication and support to Chief Tripp, the Police Department and the citizens of Hawkinsville, that she knew what it was like to have someone in politics and that she and their family had backed them all the way. Shelly Berryhill thanked the Police for a job well done. He said they had looked for ways to be more efficient and economical and too also take care of the Officers that had served the City for so many years. Henry Cravey thanked the Police and said how much he appreciated working with them. Wilson Credle said that everybody involved had the right attitude and he applauded them all. There was a standing ovation honoring the Board of Commissioners, Brooks Bailey, Pulaski County Commissioner, Billy Cape and Deputies Pulaski County Sheriff and the Hawkinsville Police Chief, Staff and Officers.

**ORDINANCE TO ALLOW PULASKI COUNTY SHERIFF TO ENFORCE CITY ORDINANCES: 1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** The ordinance which will be presented for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and approval at the July Regular Meeting states; the code is amended as follows: By deleting Sections 12-1 and 12-2 in their entirety and by adding new Section 12-1 and 12-2 as follows; Section 12-1 Law Enforcement generally and Section 12-2 Duties of Sheriff's Department.

**APPROVE GROUP INSURANCE FOR COMMISSIONERS:** Phil NeSmith motioned to approve, Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson stated this was included in the 2010/2011 fiscal year budget.

**APPROVE FOR REGISTRATION IN THE SAVE Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) PROGRAM:** State Law mandates cities collect affidavits that appear to be subject to SAVE verification for applicants for Business License or Occupation Tax Certificate, Alcohol License, Taxi Permit or other public benefits as referenced in O.C.G.A. 50-36-1. Prior to receiving authorization to utilize the SAVE program three mandatory documents must be approved and submitted to USCIS-SAVE: US Citizenship and Immigration Services, Dept. of Homeland Security;

1. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)
2. ADDENDUM TO THE MOA
3. USCIS ANTICIPATED COLLECTIONS FROM NON FEDERAL SOURCES DOCUMENT

Henry Cravey motioned to approve the three required documents. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**APPROVE THE CITY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS PRESENTED JUNE 7, 2010:**

Manager Murkerson explained that City Clerk Evelyn Herrington, Codes Enforcement Officer Keith Carter along with help from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission have done extensive work and pinpointed each property within the city limits, by records, minutes and tax parcel number and have had a revised color coded map completed and asked the Board's approval that the map become the official zoning map as presented June 7, 2010. Herrington showed Commission the original zoning map prepared back in 1972, still in good condition, but not very useful.

Wilson Credle asked that overlay maps of the water, sewer and gas systems be included and placed on the city's website.

Henry Cravey motioned to approve. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE:**

Manager Jerry Murkerson gave a dilapidated housing report from Codes Enforcement with 23 houses demolished, 17 by owner and 6 by the City. The houses that are slated for demolition by the contractors selected are in the notification to EPD process and will be demolished this month. Those addresses are 354 Second Street, 421 Hendley Street, Hendley and Grace and 0 Second Street. Codes Enforcement is also working with law enforcement to issue citations on several properties that violate the city unclean lot ordinance. The owners have been notified several times.

Murkerson said he met with the Hartford Water Authority Board on June 1<sup>st</sup> and expressed the City of Hawkinsville's willingness to acquire the water system in Hartford, but has not received an official response to date.

Murkerson explained he spoke with Ms. Juanita Brown about her position on the Pulaski/Hawkinsville Development Authority and she desires to be replaced. Mr. Tom Arnold's term has expired also and he wishes to remain on the Authority if the Board of Commissioners so desire.

**REAPPOINT MEMBER TO PULASKI/HAWKINSVILLE DEVELOPMENT**

**AUTHORITY:** Phil NeSmith motioned to reappoint Tom Arnold. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

Wilson Credle requested the boards and authorities post for appointment or reappointment be added to the next budget work session.

**BID ON OPERA HOUSE WINDOWS:** Murkerson stated we have received one bid on the Opera House windows for \$1,100. per window for the windows that need new sashes and new seals. We will repair all the critical windows we can with the funding available. Karen Bailey sent bids to all Georgia Historic contractors, but only one bid was submitted. Commissioner requested bids be sent out again and explained if the SPLOST tax continues, could possibly fund some of the repairs. Murkerson stated there were 8 windows in critical condition and the in-kind work would be \$4,000.00. Henry Cravey said that he and Lee Slade have priced new wood windows at a cost of \$750.00 each, but Murkerson explained the windows would have to meet the Historic Guidelines. Shelly Berryhill motioned to table the issue. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

Murkerson reported that we have been notified by GMA District 6 leadership that Commissioner Shelly Berryhill will be presented for election to 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of District 6 at the GMA convention this month.

**POLICE REPORT:** Murkerson handed out the Police reports for May 2010 and asked if there were any questions to direct them to Chief Tripp.

**BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT:** Murkerson reported Better Hometown had a number of projects for June. Karen Bailey told Commissioners they would welcome UGA grad students on June 8 who will work with various community groups to assist with projects for design of welcome signage coming into town as well as ideas for improvements in the downtown streetscape. We appreciate UGA Archway Professional Mary Beth Bass for getting the students to Hawkinsville. We will also welcome another UGA graduate on June 14 who will work with Better Hometown and the local merchants on a project for our merchants involving design assistance and window display. She and Mary Beth had gone door to door to inform merchants and had 4 committed to the project.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:** Mitchell Woods gave out the financial and cash reports for April 2010. He stated the SPLOST collections were \$7200 less than last year, and compared to budget was \$16,900 short. Woods stated that May was a bad collection month. Wilson Credle, said that previous budgets were close and asked if we saw any problems that could negatively change this year's budget. Woods stated that the grant funds could be a problem and we needed to be as close as possible since being off could result in an audit point.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

James Colson stated that in recognizing the Police Dept. he failed to recognize one special person, Ms. Lodie Johnson, Police Secretary, for a job well done. Ms. Johnson told Commissioners that she had enjoyed working for the Police Dept. and that Chief Tripp was the best boss she ever had, although he wanted to fire her today. Chief Tripp has been very supportive, especially after my husband Franklin had a stroke. She told Commissioners she appreciated them allowing her to continue to work for at least the next three months so she will be vested in the City's retirement plan.

Henry Cravey stated he was glad to see Nancy Cape at the meeting. He asked about a pot hole on Broad Street at Mashburn. Murkerson explained there was a bad valve in the system and Water crews have scheduled repairs for Saturday night, due to water being turned off to a number of customers.

Wilson Credle told Sheriff Billy Cape one thing the City had worked hard on was abandoned vehicles and like to see his dept. continue enforcing that ordinance. He thanked Municipal Court Judge Dennis Mullis for his service in helping to get rid of dilapidated houses.

Credle said WDG Consultants will make their presentation Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium at the Alternative School located on Warren Street.

Shelly Berryhill asked about the Fishing Rodeo. Chief Tripp told him it would be held this Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Berryhill asked everyone to consider voting yes on the SPLOST referendum in July, it is the only way governments can pay for improvements. The City and County have worked very well together and if the SPLOST passes will share the 1% tax 50/50.

He asked about the Forest Hill water project. Murkerson explained it was added as an amendment to the Orchard Hill project. They must make sure system is tied back to the main.

He requested that email addresses be added to the applications for a Business/ Occupation License.

Phil NeSmith requested obtaining lights for the Sixth Street Ball Field. Hopefully funds from the SPLOST tax can be used to help defray the cost. Rachel Pitts stated that Georgia Power said they would put in the lights for free, but who would pay the bill.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

County Commissioner Brooks Bailey thanked everyone for working together and hoped to continue work on the service delivery strategy.

Mary Beth Bass stated there would be students working on landscape designs for the downtown area and at the Spec Building. She thanked Commissioners for their support on the Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership Program, which 24 of the 25 had participated.

Sheriff Billy Cape said he was looking forward to working with Officers from the Hawkinsville Police Dept. that the City was handing over some good officers. He enjoyed working with Chief Tripp. He knew change could be very scary, but felt that all the officers already worked well together. Sheriff Cape's wife Nancy said it would be a team effort and knew it would run smooth.

Police Officers, Asst Chief Robert McGriff, Captain Jay Wood, Srgt Freddie Yates and Officer Luke Peavy all expressed their appreciation to the City Commissioners and Chief Tripp for allowing them work for so many years, with McGriff 25 years of service, Yates 23 years of service, Wood 21 years of service and Peavy being re-hired to serve as a Part Time Officer.

Lee Slade stated they were still working on a project, financing was an issue.

Chuck Southerland reported the Georgia Paddlers would be returning in October for another event and to help promote the Blue Way project.

There being no further business.

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

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Chairman, Board of Commission  
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

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City Clerk