

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday September 13, 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 Phil NeSmith. Wilson Credle was absent.

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 stated before the meeting Chuck Southerland would make a presentation about Pulaski Rivers Alive donating the Anchor with an historic marker.

Chuck Southerland had on display an array of pictures, books and articles about the Steamboats on the Ocmulgee River in Hawkinsville during the 1800's and early 1900's. Steamboats were a big business in Hawkinsville during that era. They were a necessary way of life. Hawkinsville was considered a major shipping port.

An article from a Tallahassee Florida newspaper read the State of Florida was declaring the City of Hawkinsville Steamboat in Old Town, Florida, as an underwater archeological preserve. He researched to see if there was indeed a City of Hawkinsville and in the 1896 through early 1900 Hawkinsville Dispatch and News there were frequent articles about the City of Hawkinsville Steamboat and many other steamboats. It was built in 1896 for the merchants and businessmen of Hawkinsville. After the turn of the century it was sold to the Tampa Deep Water Boat Line and worked its last days in Old Town, Florida, where it was eventually abandoned because of the economy favoring trains. It later sunk. He made the trip to Old Town for the unveiling of the huge granite marker and dedication of the site of the City of Hawkinsville as an underwater archeological preserve. Years later he, Henry Cravey, Phil NeSmith and Don Herring traveled to Old Town to see the newly renovated Old Town School which is a museum and large city auditorium. The museum features artifacts from the City of Hawkinsville including its anchor. This trip laid the foundation for the signing of a proclamation by the Hawkinsville City Commissioners and the government of Old Town, Dixie County, Florida declaring the two cities "Sister Cities."

Professor Carlton Morrison and his wife Beth, who reside in St. Simons, were present to say a few words. In 2003 Professor Morrison published a detailed book on steamboats that refer many times to Hawkinsville, Georgia and its busy steamboat landing. There were numerous stopping points up and down the river from Macon to the Altamaha River. There were only three major ports or wharfs Macon, Hawkinsville and Jacksonville.

Morrison said he was amazed at Chuck's enthusiasm of the era of steamboats and the history of the Ocmulgee River. He said that Hawkinsville was the head of navigation after trains took over and remained so until the 1<sup>st</sup> decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Morrison would be updating his book and wanted to include the City of Hawkinsville anchor project.

Pulaski Rivers Alive wanted to try and find a replica anchor to place at the Uchee Shoals Boat Landing describing this era in Hawkinsville's rich history. We found an owner of an anchor in Brunswick and after several months we were able to strike a deal. It is larger than the City of Hawkinsville anchor, but will serve well for the proposed historical marker we have in mind and we believe it will be a tourist attraction for the city once completed.

Pulaski Rivers Alive would like to donate the anchor to the city in turn if agreed to permanently display it at Uchee Shoals Boat Landing "The City Wharf" as a part of our "Historic River Town" promotion. Rivers Alive wants to help suggest a design for the display, suggest its final location and write the verbiage for the historical marker. We will solicit expert help with this. The last request is for the city to retrieve a copy of the lost proclamation with the City of Old Town so it can be framed here at city hall.

**PULASKI RIVERS ALIVE REQUEST:** Phil NeSmith motioned for permission to place the anchor at Uchee Shoals Boat Landing, allowing them to design the display, final location and write verbiage for the historical marker and find the lost proclamation. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**MINUTES:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2010 Regular Meeting. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**MINUTES:** Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2010 Called Meeting. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**HARNESS TRAINING FACILITY LEASE AGREEMENT:** Shelly Berryhill motioned to release Mac Lilley from his lease and sign a 5 year lease between the city and Dan Ater of Ohio. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson said he had received a letter from Lilley requesting release. Dan Ater from Ohio has some good ideas for the track. He is a director of the U.S. Trotting Association in his district.

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

1. SOUTH GEORGIA TITLE PAWN, INC.  
(8 Progress Ave.- Title Pawn, Brad Metz, president)
2. NEW HOPE ASSISTANT LIVING OF GEORGIA, INC.  
(3 Ashford Dr. – Personal Home Care 12 residents, Betty Davis, director)
3. R & W LANDSCAPING & GRADING  
(571 Blue Springs Rd. – landscaping and grade, Rosie Ward, owner)
4. KEVIN’S HANDYMAN SERVICE  
(41 Pierce Est.- Handyman, Kevin NeSmith, owner)
5. COMPLETE GRAPHIC SOLUTIONS, INC. dba STITCH & SCREEN  
(92 Commerce St. – Willie Richardson, owner)

Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING ORDINANCE ANNEXING PROPERTY INTO CITY, LOCATED AT 313 BROAD STREET, LISA D. SIMMONS, OWNER:** Henry Cravey motioned to adopt the ordinance. Phil Smith seconded, motion passed.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING ORDINANCE TO ZONE PROPERTY BEING ANNEXED INTO CITY, LOCATED AT 313 BROAD STREET, LISA D. SIMMONS , OWNER, FROM NO ZONE TO B-1 BUSINESS ZONE:** Shelly Berrhill motioned to adopt the ordinance. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**AWARD BID FOR JORDAN DRIVE SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT:** Phil NeSmith motioned to award the low bid to Doyle Hancock & Sons Construction Co., Inc. for the amount of \$73,850.00. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**APPROVE ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM GIDDENS, BENNETT & COMPANY, P.C. AUDITOR’S FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2010, FOR THE CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE:** Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the engagement letter with the cost not to exceed \$15,000.00. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**CHANGE ORDER #1 FOREST HILL CIRCLE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:**

Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson explained that after the completion of the Orchard Hill Water System Improvements, funds were available and the Forest Hill project could be done with the same grant.

**AUTHORIZE CONSENT ORDER PAYMENT TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**FOR \$9,784.00:** Phil NeSmith motioned to make one more attempt to reduce or drop the payment by sending another letter signed by Chairman James Colson, to EPD with carbon copies to all representatives in our district. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

Manager Murkerson explained the consent order payment had been reduced to \$9,784.00 and EPD required several things to be done, revise reporting procedures, improve the sewer system in the Jordan Drive area by December 31, 2010, sample test other areas for approval by the deadline of 2013.

**CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE:**

Manager Jerry Murkerson gave a dilapidated housing report from Codes Enforcement, 30 houses demolished, 19 by owner and 11 by the City of Hawkinsville. He also included an unclean lot report of locations being addressed by Codes Enforcement.

He presented a work order synopsis for the month of August from customer service system stating these were completed work orders only.

Murkerson read a letter addressed to the Honorable James Colson from Governor Sunny Perdue, reading

“ It is my pleasure to notify you that the City of Hawkinsville has been selected to receive a commitment of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funds totaling \$500,000.00. These funds are reserved for the housing improvements proposed by your community. This commitment is conditional upon the State's receipt of your properly executed grant award package that will be distributed at the Grant Recipients' Workshop.

Within the next few days, you will receive a memorandum from Commissioner Mike Beatty of the Department of Community Affairs giving you additional information on the Grant Recipients' Workshop to be held September 30 and October 1, 2010 at the Callaway Conference Center in Pine Mountain. I hope that you and your grant administrator will make plans to attend this important workshop.

I congratulate you on being selected as a recipient and offer my best wishes for successful implementation of this project. Sincerely, Sunny Perdue”

copies of the letter were sent to US Senator Saxby Chambliss, US Senator Johnny Isakson, US Representative Jim Marshall, Senator Ross Tolleson, Representative Buddy Harden and Representative Jimmy Pruett.

Murkerson was pleased to announce that the City of Hawkinsville was awarded the CDBG Housing grant from the Department of Community Affairs. This grant will offer assistance to homeowners on McDuffie Street to bring their home up to suitable living standards. It will also partially fund demolition of dilapidated structures in that area. He thanked Nick Kouloungis of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission for writing the grant.

He presented the contract for professional services from Grant Specialist of Georgia, Inc. This entity will administer the CDBG Housing grant. All the administrative fees will be paid from the grant.

**GRANT SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA, INC. CONTRACT:** Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the contract. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

Murkerson also stated the Grant Specialist of Georgia, Inc. had written the CDBG Chip funding grant for \$300,000.00 and though the City has not been awarded the funds yet, needed to approve a contract for them to administer the funds.

**GRANT SPECIALIST OF GEORGIA, INC. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FOR CDBG CHIP GRANT:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS:** The August 2010 reports for citations issued and fine amounts to be collected and the types of citations, mainly (Speeding) were presented for review. Also a report from Robert McGriff, Investigator, on two letters sent for removal of abandoned vehicles.

The Commissioners thanked Sheriff Billy Cape and Investigator Robert McGriff, stating they had heard all good things since the merge. James Colson requested the possibility of amending the Indecent Exposure (Baggy Pants) Ordinance. Sheriff Cape reported that officers would be patrolling different neighborhoods each week by golf cart from 1 to 5 a.m.

Henry Cravey thanked Cape and McGriff for their efforts in getting the abandoned vehicles removed.

There was talk about the Speed Sign Machine and how it may benefit the Sheriff because it reported a great deal of information on the drivers speed in the location it was placed to record.

**BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT:** Director Karen Bailey's report included the Downtown Fall Festival date change to Saturday October 23, 2010 HBHT Design Committee/Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission was continuing to work with downtown property owners offering design and technical assistance. HHPC will meet Tuesday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. Ken Kocher, Piedmont Preservation consulting will present the final version of the customized set of design guidelines. They had received a \$6,000. grant for this project from the state's Historic Preservation funding known as the Georgia Heritage Fund to be used for the Opera House window repair project..

An Oral History Forum V will be presented on October 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. sponsored by Better Hometown and the Arts Council.

Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway project continue to work with Middle Georgia Regional Commission on the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County/ Wilcox County partnership. GDOT Board member Mr. Jim Cole sent a letter of support to the state planning administrator Ms. Angela Alexander on Sept. 2, 2010 endorsing the byway.

Karen continues to participate as a facilitator for the Pulaski Tomorrow and serves on the Planning & Steering Committee. She will participate in the board training workshop sponsored by UGA Archway on November 9<sup>th</sup> and will attend the annual Georgia Downtown Association Conference in Augusta, Ga. Sept. 29 – Oct 1. Board Chair Jill Niblett and board members Brandy Gordon and Robin Cross will also attend.

**ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIP REPORT:** Mary Beth Bass was not able to attend, but gave a report on several projects.

Community Health- USDA Community Facilities Grant/Loan Application on behalf of Taylor Regional Hospital.

Economic Development-

Community of Opportunity will meet October 7, 2010

HPED Committee- next meeting date to be determined.

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Development Authority Training will be November 9, 2010, the UGA Fanning Institute will conduct localized training for the Development Authorities located in Hawkinsville and Pulaski County specific to local needs and issues.

Hawkinsville-Pulaski Multi Media Marketing- Fall 2010/Spring 2011, UGA Grady College of Journalism graduate student to create multi-media marketing tool for use in recruiting new business and industry.

Government Service Delivery- Pulaski County-City of Hawkinsville Recycling/BMP Project. Fall 2010, professor Jeff Howells UGA Terry College of Business to study and make recommendations regarding the business of recycling.

Pulaski County- City of Hawkinsville Consolidation Study- October. Meet with Harry Hayes to discuss preliminary process for further discussion between the City and County for the potential study of consolidating local government bodies.

Joint Hawkinsville- Pulaski County Comprehensive Plan Update- November to facilitate efforts to update the plan.

Airport/Airport Authority- September 3, 2010, met with Betty Hudson, CVIOG to discuss the pros and cons of establishing a Joint Airport Authority.

Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Recreation Survey- September 8, 2010, met with Rick Clark to discuss proposal to design Needs Assessment for recreation.

Housing- GICH Retreat, September 15-17 Columbus, Georgia.

Leadership Development- Pulaski Tomorrow next class September 14, 2010, with graduation scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Pulaski Tomorrow Visioning Session- November 16, 2010 tentative.

Public Education- Issue Work Group met August 12<sup>th</sup> and identified four priority areas of project development, 1 increase community support, 2. enhance parental involvement, 3. improve and incentives for student performance and 4. create joint task force to address education as economic and workforce development.

Summer Projects- Downtown Merchandising Initiative and landscape design project.

Georgia GAZE- final images available, plans for local exhibits forthcoming.

UGA Exhibition at Lamar Dodd School of Art- September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**BOARDS, AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS REPORT:** Manager Murkerson explained that Clerk Herrington had notified all boards for an update on their members and terms and if they would continue to serve or if a change would be needed. Her notes explain the response from the different boards.

The following board members need to be reappointed or appointed to fill a vacancy.

**PLANNING & ZONING BOARD:  
REAPPOINT FOR TWO YEAR TERM**

- Post 1 Dana Grinstead
- Post 3 Larry Dunaway
- Post 4 Gregory Brown
- Post 5 Max Kilgore

Phil NeSmith motioned to reappoint the above board members. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**HAWKINSVILLE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:  
REAPPOINT FOR TERMS**

- |                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Post 1 Wayne Wetherington  | 4 year |
| Post 2 Ramsey Way, Jr.     | 2      |
| Post 4 Robert Krueger      | 2      |
| Post 5 Richard Coley       | 4      |
| Commissioner Phil NeSmith  | 6      |
| Commissioner Wilson Credle | 2      |

Shelly Berryhill motioned to reappoint the above members. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
REAPPOINT**

Richard Coley	2 year
Ben Cravey	6
Chuck Southerland	6
Manse Jennings	6
Ramsey Way, Jr.	6
Lee Slade – new appointment to fill vacancy	6

Phil NeSmith motioned to reappoint the above members and appoint Lee Slade to fill a vacancy. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
REAPPOINT**

Post 2 Gwen Brown	3 year
Post 3 William E. Coleman, M.D.	3
Post 5 Alvin Roberts new appointment	3

Henry Cravey motioned to table the appointments. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**LIBRARY BOARD  
REAPPOINT 4 YEAR TERMS**

Post 1 Robert Krueger
Post 2 Debbie Arnold
Post 3 Mary “Lodie” Johnson
Post 5 Caroline Conner

Henry Cravey motioned to table the appointments. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

Manager Murkerson asked all Commissioners for some direction on the two boards appointments tabled.

**HAWKINSVILLE URBAN REDEVLOPMENT AGENCY  
REAPPOINT**

Post 7 Harley Lawson	7 year term
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Phil NeSmith motioned to reappoint Lawson. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed. Clerk Herrington thanked Karen Bailey for her help in contacting the different boards.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS:** Mitchell Woods handed out the cash and financial reports for July 2010. He stated the LOST collections were \$3,000. more than last year. He explained the new SPLOST would start in October and the first collections would be January 2011.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**  
Henry Cravey reminded all about the Pulaski Rivers Alive Clean Up to be held Saturday October 2, 2010.  
He asked whether turning off every other street light in the downtown area would help save the city money. Murkerson stated the lights could be switched off, but it would be very dark, there would be no cost to turn them back on.

Cravey asked Lee Slade for an update on the Spec. Building prospects. Slade said 2 other letters had been sent to people in Korea by Manager Murkerson and County Commissioner Bailey, inviting the company to come to our community. Think everything is falling in place, getting ready to sign documents, talked to company about roof and price of building. Slade said they would start pouring concrete in another month or two. Slade was excited to report that the initial Hospice Center across from Taylor Regional Hospital was now being used as a Personal Care Facility.

Shelly Berryhill asked for an update on the environmental testing at the Mill. Nick Kouloungis explained two things done, soil testing, and lead paint abatement testing, doesn't think further soil testing will be required, but that would be up to EPD. A portion of the project will be a community market hopeful by first of year. The water dropped contaminate levels are down and EPD has accepted levels. This will be tested for a long period of time.

Berryhill asked if the lights had been repaired in the parking lot at Middle Georgia Technical College. Murkerson stated they had.

Member of the Methodist Church requested the City cut down the stump in front of the Parsonage house on Merritt Street. The tree had fallen back some time ago and the City had it cut down, but did not have the stump cut to the ground. If this can be done then the church will have the remaining portion ground up.

Berryhill asked about the progress on the engineering study of Hartford Water System.

He asked if there was an extension on the dilapidated houses that had been through the court. Murkerson had not talked with Judge Mullis yet.

Berryhill stated Southern Hills had requested a city limits sign be placed at both entrances.

Berryhill wanted a study done on the cost of utilities outside the city limits and whether it would be more economical to the residents annex those areas into the city.

Phil NeSmith stated that if anyone had ideas of saving money for the City to please introduce those ideas.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Drew Cravey reported on the Ocmulgee Order, that the Pulaski members were doing an understudy, had toured the Pulaski County Jail, will tour Hardy farms and need suggestions for service projects.

Patricia Butler of 40 Riverchase requested the need for a Speed Breaker and a Deaf Child Sign.

Morgan Knowles thanked Sheriff Cape for the good job he and his officers were doing.

There being no further business.

**ADJOURN:** Henry Cravey 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