

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday December 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman Henry Cravey presiding.

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

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

Cravey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

City Manager Jerry Murkerson announced there would be a groundbreaking ceremony to welcome Marine Cpl Tony Mullis to the site of his new home, located at 41 Fetchman Road on December 15, 2012. The Homes for Our Troops is building a specially adapted home for Mullis. The opening ceremony will begin at 10:00 am and would like for all Commissioners to attend and possibly speak.

MINUTES: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy 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. HAYER, LLC. dba 341 LIQUOR STORE
(80 Houston St.- Liquor Package Store, Instreet Singh Bhullar, owner)
2. THE GRILL
(125 Commerce St.- Restaurant, Patsy Sparks, owner)

This application was not on the agenda and was presented by Manager Murkerson

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

LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER: James Colson motioned to approve the application for a transfer of a Liquor License in the name of;

341 LIQUOR STORE
(80 Houston St., Ishtpreet Singh Bhullar, owner
Transfer of license from Mihir Patel to Bhullar)

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

2ND READING ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.12 OF THE CHARTER:

The City of Hawkinsville, Municipal Court shall be held at 3:00 p.m. on the 3rd Friday of each month in the City Hall conference room and may additionally convened at such other times and dates as deemed necessary by the Judge of the Municipal Court, provided, however, that in the discretion of the Judge, any regularly scheduled court session can be cancelled.: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the ordinance. Ken Hardy seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICE OF SPECIAL HOUSING INITIATIVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the resolution. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

Manager Murkerson explained this was a continuation of the CHIP housing rehab project.

APPROVE THE 2013 COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM, HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROJECTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

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

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SECTION 3 PLAN TO COMPLY WITH 24 CFR, PART 135 OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECTION 3: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve. Ken Hardy seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND CONSOLIDATION CHARTER TO THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the resolution, Ken Hardy seconded, and there was discussion with Phil NeSmith stating the City has been asked by the Charter Committee to adopt a resolution they have presented for consolidation of City and County Governments. This is an idea and an idea only. We are being asked to vote on something we have no information on, to support something without having had any financial study done on the idea. We agreed that it should not be done merely as a Charter Committee as was done in 1999 and failed. We all wanted to have financial facts that supported or rejected the idea of consolidated governments. We do not have any financial information at all. This is going much too fast to be done without that information.

We all agree that the voters should decide, but wouldn't we agree that they should have the right to be informed on what they are voting on. In every SPLOST referendum we had all the financial information together before we presented it to the voters, legally we had to. Why would we hold a referendum on government consolidation without the same information? When we consolidated law enforcement, it took us six months to work out the financial questions, when we were looking at a \$620k law enforcement budget for the city. Are we willing to proceed on a \$12 to \$13 million dollar combined budget without doing the same? If we proceed with this resolution without the benefit of a financial study, we are all guilty of financial irresponsibility to our taxpayers and the voters who elected us to protect their interest. I propose that we the City and County have our finance people gather this information and prepare mock up budgets to see if this is cost effective or not. If it looks promising then the voters will have information to decide on. If not, we don't have to spend \$25k on a referendum with no chance to pass. This will be a long process and it should be. This is the most important issue we have ever had. If we fail we can't go back. Remember "The Power to Tax, Is the Power to Destroy". If we take a vote tonight, I will have to vote my conscious and it will be a vote of "No". NeSmith requested the Board take no action at this time.

Shelly Berryhill stated he had attended several of the meetings, with Larry Garrett present and that Larry seemed to be very comfortable with the financial part of the consolidation proposal.

The motion to recommend the Consolidated Charter was voted on, and passed with yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill and Ken Hardy. Phil NeSmith voted no. There was opposition, but no abstains. The vote was 4 yes and 1 no.

CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES GRANT SPECIALISTS OF GEORGIA, INC.: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the contract. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

GEORGIA MAIN STREET PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve. James Colson seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

REQUEST PERMISSION TO DRILL WATER WELL FROM DENNIS VICKERS, 28 CLARK DRIVE TO BE USED FOR IRRIGATION: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the request. James Colson seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

APPOINTMENT TO HAWKINSVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD:

Manager Murkerson stated the City had received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Dorothy Ross. She had served on this Board for over 20 years. He also received a letter from Rachel Pitts Housing Authority Exe Director recommending that Mrs. Betty Harrell be appointed to fill the unexpired term.

James Colson motioned to appoint Betty Harrell to the Hawkinsville Housing Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Post 5. That term will expire April 17, 2016. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

WARRANTY DEED, JOINTLY OWNED NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION

LINE: Phil NeSmith explained that the JONG had moved its office to a new building in Byron, Georgia and had decided to sell the maintenance shop property located in Warner Robins. The property was appraised at \$93 to 94, 000. and they have tendered an offer at 60% of the value of the appraisal and the Board recommends approval from all partners to sale the property. Phil NeSmith motioned approval. James Colson seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

CITY TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF REDWOOD TREE: Manager Murkerson explained he had received a call from Mrs. Berta Mae Wright requesting the City take ownership of the tree in her front yard, recorded as the largest Redwood Tree east of the Mississippi River, which it needs to be protected and preserved. A survey will be done that will measure the distance off the right-of-way and make a square around the tree and asked for the Commissioners direction. Phil NeSmith motioned to take ownership of the tree and directed Manager Murkerson to get a survey and plat of same. James Colson seconded, motion passed by yes vote by Chairman Henry Cravey, James Colson, Shelly Berryhill, Ken Hardy and Phil NeSmith. No oppositions or abstains.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES:

I have included a summary report about dilapidated housing and unclean lots from Codes Enforcement.

I have included a work order synopsis for the month of November 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.

JONG has decided to sell the property in Warner Robins where there old headquarters were. As members of JONG action is required by you to approve the sale. (Commissioner NeSmith)

City staff and JONG staff are working through our contract process and we will have a contract for your approval shortly. Until then we will work under a letter of agreement that I have included for your approval.

Ms. Bertie Mae Wright has indicated she would like for the Redwood tree on her property at 197 Broad Street to be owned in perpetuity by the City of Hawkinsville. Per your direction we will have it surveyed and platted for a transfer of ownership.

Our Christmas luncheon will be on Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Steak House Restaurant. I plan to have a door prize drawing for employees as we did last year.

Our Holidays for December are Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 & Dec. 25. New Years Day holiday will be Tuesday, Jan. 1. Our regular meeting will be on January 7, 2013.

Hawkinsville Better Hometown Report:

Please review & sign the MOA (2 copies) to return to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the 2013 agreement with Hawkinsville Better Hometown.

Conference call with GMA on Dec. 4th /5th – planning for 2013 GMA Heart & Soul Bus Tour. Hawkinsville hosting April 5th, 2013.

Organization Committee:

*Better Hometown Board of Directors:

Meets Tuesday, DEC. 18 @ 11:00 am

*Annual assessment report due to DCA by Dec. 31st.

Design Committee:

*Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission

Meets Tuesday, DEC 18 @ 4:00 pm. Opera House

Historic Preservation projects:

- Hawkinsville Heritage Walking Driving Tour – (\$7,302.00 HPD grant). Project has been printed.
- 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:

- 2013 Harvest Fest ~Pigs & Produce BBQ Championship to be held October 25 & 26, 2013.

Economic Restructuring Committee:

*Hawkinsville Downtown Development Authority:

DDA will interview Market Manager candidate on Dec. 3 @ 4:00.

Archway Report:

Leadership Development

- If you know anyone interested in participating in the 2013 Pulaski Tomorrow class, please have them contact us at (478)783-LEAD or visit the Pulaski Tomorrow Facebook page.
- The 2012 Pulaski Tomorrow class is raffling a custom made smoker/ grill at the Christmas parade on December 1. Please buy a ticket for \$5 from any class member. The money will be used to by life-saving AED equipment for a number of public places.
- Pulaski Tomorrow's 2012 class graduated on October 23 at the Southern Hills Golf and Country Club. Congratulations to new Pulaski Tomorrow Graduates: Allen Brantley, Amy Johnson, Ashley Rodgers, Bob Johnson, Brian Smith, Brock Hardy, Catherine Cravey, Chris Linder, Greg Gordon, Jesse Caldwell, Kenzie Harpe, Lynn Grant, Nevin Shennett, Paul Puccinelli, Robert Herman, Robin White, and Sara Myers. Special thanks to Liz Conner for all of her work to make this event a success.
- 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.

Community Health

- Archway is part of a team working with Taylor Regional Hospital and Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health to complete a mandatory assessment of community health engagement for the IRS. The needs assessment and focus groups recently conducted by UGA's College of Public Health will be utilized, and the Community Health Issue Work Group will work with Georgia Southern to survey the community and construct a community health engagement plan with the hospital. Community survey data will be presented to the engagement committee on January 15. Shelly Berryhill represents the City on this Committee.

Economic Development

- The new Pulaski Tomorrow website will launch this month. The site will deliver the information business prospects are looking for when they research the community. This project was made possible through the efforts of UGA graduate students and Georgia Web Services as part of the Co-op initiative. This three year grant from DCA seeks to improve community web presence.
- The UGA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted focus groups in Pulaski County on Friday, August 3rd on behalf of the Chamber. Suzanne Barnett and Josh Walton from SBDC will be assisting the Chamber this fall with social media, new member Board Training and developing a work plan for 2013. They will also work through the Chamber to provide continuing education opportunities to Hawkinsville businesses in 2013.
- UGA students from a number of disciplines will be in the community this fall to focus on developing the area's Agritourism potential. They will work with the Chamber and area businesses to create concepts for tourism, lay out the physical space, comply with safety regulations, create a business plan and a marketing concept. Students toured Hardy Farms in September and are working on their presentation. The first presentation will be in December.

Government Service Delivery

- UGA College of Environment and Design students have presented their initial work on the design of the Uchee Shoals trail and other summer projects. Their design work will be incorporated into a new interpretive sign located at the City Boat Landing. Lee Slade spoke on behalf of the community at the College of Environment and Design and recognized the contributions of the department to Pulaski County and Hawkinsville.

Housing

- Archway will continue to support the Housing efforts of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County.
- Archway toured the Cotton Mill Lofts and Market with Ocmulgee Order in September. These beautiful new facilities are currently seeking tenants.

Public Education

- The Hawkinsville High School Art Club will be visited the Georgia Museum of Art on the UGA campus on November 7. The group will toured the exhibits and have a hands-on art experience at the Museum. The tour is part of the Museum's "Adopt-a- Bus" program that provides transportation and a museum experience for Georgia students. The Club is advised by Randy Colson.
- UGA College of Education faculty members JoBeth Allen and Roberta Gardner presented information about neighborhood based tutoring and enrichment programs to the Education Committee in November. They will return in December to meet with the Executive Committee.
- Archway supported "Are you Smarter than a Child?", a literacy fundraiser , on October 16. Congratulations to Lorraine Holmes and the CLCP on a fantastic event.
- The latest test scores are in for Pulaski County Schools. There were significant improvements in CRCT scores as well as end-of-course tests, and SAT scores improved by 61 points from last year. Great job students and teachers!

Hawkinsville/Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce:

- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet was held on Thursday, November 1st. The new Board of Directors were recognizes as well as the outgoing directors. Lewis Fowler was selected Citizen of the Year and the Business of the Year was presented to Harris Kuntry Meats. County Commissioner Brooks Bailey was presented with an appreciation plaque for his outstanding and dedicated service to this community.
- The Board of Directors selected Hardy Farms as Business of the Month for December.
- Middle Georgia signs was recognized as being selected Business of the Month for November..
- Therisa and Kim attended the Family Connection Meeting on November 8th.
- The Chamber conducted a Re-Grand Opening for McDonalds on November 19th.

- The Chamber had numerous phone calls during the month of November requesting tourism information, maps, and information on Christmas Parade and Downtown Open House.
- We are receiving calls and vendors for 2013 Harness Festival.
- On November 14th the Chamber organized a lunch meeting and tour of Cotton Mill Loft/ Community Market, River Park, Spec Bldg and several other locations for DCA Commissioner, Mike Beatty .
- Therisa attended Rotary Meeting with guest speaker Jeff Scruggs. Jeff spoke to Rotary concerning the merger between Middle Georgia Technical College and Central Georgia Technical College.
- Chamber arranged to have a Christmas tree placed in Cabero Park.
- Chamber worked on Christmas parade which has more entries than past several years.
- Kim met with Aundrea Simmons/DOL region 6 rep concerning Work Force Development initiatives.
- Kim met with Archway, UGA Students and Hardy Farms on agri-tourism project.

United Pulaski Economic Development:

- Working on funding partners-H & V and Planters Bank
- Working on Archway Executive Committee with active projects being; website, tourism, strategic plan for United Pulaski, leadership and community health.
- Continue to work on project for a Distribution Center at spec bldg.
- Working with local company on an expansion including a loading dock
- Working with Archway to develop an economic development strategic plan
- Working on current events for Rivers Alive and Blue Way
- Continue to work on project (Southern Comfort) which is a manufacturer of cans for Chicken of the Sea, Star Kist, and all cans for Sardines.
- Lee hosted visit from DCA Commissioner, Mike Beatty on November 14th.
- Working on a possible retail outlet that is looking to locate in downtown Hawkinsville

- Lee attended a follow up meeting on November 13th and spoke with city officials concerning Metter becoming an Archway Community.
- Lee attended the dedication of new gym at Middle Georgia Technical College on November 16th.
- Lee attended GEDA monthly luncheon/meeting on November 19th.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Mitchell Woods handed out the financial reports for October, 2012. He stated that gas sales were up in Agricultural and Industrial. The LOST tax collections were 3% higher than last year.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

James Colson had none.

Ken Hardy stated that Phil NeSmith raised some very good points about the financial information concern consolidation.

Henry Cravey had none.

Shelly Berryhill thanked all those on the consolidation committee for their involvement and hard work. He thanked Hugh Coleman for presiding over the committee.

Phil Nemith asked Karen Bailey for an update on the old Fire Station. Karen stated that Kristi Harpst, MGRC, is still looking for funding for the project. All the funding resources, the Preserve America, Scenic Byway funds are no longer available. The committee for this project has not met for sometime, but will possibly meet January.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Hugh Coleman stated that any and all issues for consolidation the public should know and he was 100% in favor of the finance issues, the Housing Authority and a number of things needed to be looked at, can learn from those communities who have already been through the consolidation process. There is limited financial reporting due to the cost. He thanked the Board of Commissioners and all involved.

Ken Clark stated they had worked on the consolidation for over a year and the 1st year budget has to be equal to the current city/county budget. This issue was addressed.

Manager Murkerson thanked Hugh Coleman and all committee members involved and recognized Sarah from the county.

There being no further business or comments.

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

The time was noted at 6:32 p.m.

The meeting was reopened. The time was noted at 6:45 p.m.

There being no further business.

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