

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting immediately following the Organizational Meeting with Chairman Henry Cravey presiding.

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

Chairman Cravey called the meeting to order. He asked for any citizens comments and then stated that the citizens 'comments time would be moved to the latter part of the meeting for this year.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Tabatha Martin, owner of Mary's Kitchen Arcades spoke to Commissioners concerning the letter she had received stating the City had reason to believe that she, the applicant for a license to sell malt beverages was not entitled to the license for which she had applied. She stated that she had made a request for an appeal, in which Manager Murkerson stated had not been received at City Hall. She stated she had appealed to the Pulaski County Sheriff. She showed Murkerson a written letter of appeal, but never gave a copy or formal letter of appeal to the city. Manager Murkerson told Ms. Martin that as soon as the city received a letter of appeal, she would be notified of the date scheduled for the appeal to be heard.

Courtney Jackson spoke on behalf of Ms. Martin and what a great place the Arcades would be.

Kenneth Anderson also spoke on behalf of Ms. Martin, explaining that Ms. Martin was not made aware of the city ordinances, as it pertained to closing hours. He apologized personally for not being more involved in helping her and any other new business wanting to come to Hawkinsville know all the facts, codes, etc.

Lee Jenkins questioned why it had taken so long for law enforcement to close the shed next to the Corner Liquor Store. He had asked on several occasions prior that it should be closed. Mr. NeSmith explained it had shut down by the Sheriff.

Mitch Whitehead spoke on behalf of Ms. Martin, owner of the Mary's Kitchen Arcades that rules and regulations should have been spelled out and the Sheriffs' Deputy should have approached the incident at the Arcades differently.

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011: Bob Bennett of Giddens, Bennett & Company, P.C. presented in detail the 2010-2011 audit report, pointing some specific areas. Mr. Bennett stated the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities He explained two minor expense areas and determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. He also explained a single audit was required for the year. The governmental wide financial statements were reported under GASB34 requirements. Bennett stated the city had been very diligent in meeting its budget and financial compliance. He was very impressed with the quick and accurate records provided. Commissioners thanked Mr. Bennett for his presentation and accepted the audit as presented.

MINUTES: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

MINUTES: Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2011 Called Meeting. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

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

1. **ROUNDTREE'S PLACE**
(74 Broad St.- place for persons to hold Birthday Parties, Wedding Receptions, Anniversary's, etc.- Debra A. Roundtree, applicant)
2. **FORDHAM ELECTRIC SOUTHEAST**
(100 S. Houston St., Cotton Mill Lofts project- electrical contractor- Von Fordham, president)

James Colson seconded, motion passed.

2ND READING ORDINANCE ON SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PERMIT: Phil NeSmith motioned to adopt the ordinance adding section 3.1 defining Special Events. James Colson seconded, motion passed. Attorney John Walker gave a brief reading of the ordinance, explaining it was an adding section 3.1 defining Special Events, which the permit required would be for a three (3) day period and would be subject to all city codes pertaining to alcohol and all state and federal laws. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

RESOLUTION SETTING FEES FOR SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS: Phil NeSmith motioned to table until further study. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion to table passed. Attorney Walker did say the State's fees are \$50.00.

2ND READING ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF OFFENSE BAGGY PANTS, ORDINANCE ENTITLED "INDECENT EXPOSURE":

Shelly Berryhill motioned to adopt the amended ordinance on fines with the

- 1st offense at \$50.00 with 16 hours community service; and
- 2nd and subsequent offenses at \$200.00 with 32 hours community service.

James Colson seconded, motion passed.

AMENDMENT TO OCCUPATION/BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE REVOCATION PROCESS: Attorney Walker will be composing a clause to include the process and will be presented at the February Regular Meeting as a 1st reading.

MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION TO SET AND HOST THE HAWKINSVILLE ORDINANCES ON THE INTERNET FOR \$550.00 PER ANNUM: James Colson motioned to approve. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

REQUEST FROM HEART OF GEORGIA GIN TO ABANDON ALLEY ON PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN SECOND AND FIRST STREET: Manager Murkerson explained that the Heart of Georgia Gin had purchased the entire block of property except for the Pecan business and requested that if there are any existing alleys on the property, the city abandon them, so they can construct a large building. Attorney John Walker agreed this could be done. Ken Hardy motioned to approve. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

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.

The Consolidation Study Committee will meet again on Thursday, January 19, 6:00 PM at the annex auditorium.

We have received notification from DOT that Knotty Pine Street and South Warren Street will be paved this year.

We will have a pre-bid meeting on the Anderson Acres street paving project and the River Walk project on January 13th, and the bid deadline is January 27th. We will chose the contractor for these jobs at our next meeting on February 6th and construction will start sometime in February.

The contractor for the replacement of the gas line to H&V will start the project the third week of January as that is when the pipe will be delivered.

The Law Enforcement Report as submitted by Municipal Court Clerk Lodie Johnson was included in the Commissioners' note book.

Better Hometown Report

HBHT Board of Directors: will meet January 25 @ 11:00 am in the Opera House. BHT Board Chair, Jill Hardin invites a member of the Hawkinsville City Commission to attend & serve on this board.

HBHT Promotions Committee: promoting downtown merchants, restaurants & businesses, upcoming Peaches to Beaches & 2012 Harness Festival; planning 2012 Harvest Fest. Planning & organizing fundraisers.

HBHT Design Committee/ *Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission
HHPC will meet in the Opera House on Tuesday, January 17th @ 4:00 pm.

Historic Preservation projects: HPD staff will be in Hawkinsville on January 24, 2012. BHT staff will host HPD staff members Carole Moore, Grants Coordinator & Helen Talley-McRae & MGRC Preservation Planner Kristi Harpst. The day will include a tour of Hawkinsville's historic homes, buildings & sites to be included in the new full color tour guide, audio version CD, a DVD & a Podcast. Our work continues on the new historic tour guide brochure that will be funded with a Certified Local Government grant & partnerships with BHT including the Hawkinsville Garden Club & donated time & services by local professionals. **Old Fire House:** The committee met with UGA Grad. students on January 6th. BHT/ HHPC will sponsor an **Oral History Forum** to be held @ the Opera House during the month of February 2012 in celebration of Black History Month. Date TBA.

HBHT Organization Committee:

Signage Committee update – seeking funding sources to fund way finding signage for downtown. * Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership will sponsor a Welcome to Hawkinsville sign @ an entryway into the city.

HBHT River Parks Advisory Council:

Karen will attend a meeting in Atlanta on January 19th with the Georgia Conservancy, the National Parks Service, Georgia Canoeing Association & our local Rivers Alive representatives: Chuck Southerland, Karen Hunt & Michelle Elliott/ UGA Archway to plan for the September 28-30th Paddle event & Rivers Alive Clean up event.

HBHT Economic Restructuring Committee / Hawkinsville Downtown Development

Authority: DDA needs funding to develop a website to promote the cotton mill farmers market. A website is needed to attract vendors and occupants for the 2 retail spaces in the market. The DDA continues to provide support as needed for the old cotton mill redevelopment as the future regional farmers market.

Better Hometown Events & meetings include:

Sponsoring 2012 ***Bring One for the Chipper*** – A Keep Georgia Beautiful event that is open through **January 9th**. McGalliard Waste Services partnered with BHT & the City again this year by providing bins in three convenient locations for our residents to drop off used live trees that will be taken to the City Inert Landfill to be mulched.

January 6- UGA graduate students will meet with our Old Fire House Restoration Committee – Landscaping presentation. *UGA students are partnering on this project by BHT request/ Archway.

January 11 – Monthly Report to DCA.

January 17 – BHT Design Committee / HHPC meets @ 4:00 p.m.

January 19 – meeting with Georgia Conservancy (Atlanta).

January 23 – Karen attending Main Street Luncheon (Atlanta).

January 24 – DNR, HPD staff site visit for grant project: new Historic Tour Guide.

January 25 – BHT board of Directors meet @ 11:00 a.m.

January 26: Karen will host the Region 6 Downtown Managers meeting in Hawkinsville. A presentation about our on-going local projects and grant writing tips will be presented by Ms. Kristi Harpst, MGRC Preservation Planner. The group will enjoy a Dutch treat lunch @ Wilkins Seafood & Grille and will be invited to shop with our merchants & tour the Old HHS – a Georgia Trust award winning project, our Harness Track & Facilities & the Mile Branch River Park. * Downtown Managers from Region 6, DCA staff Cherie Bennett & Kim Carter attending.

January 30 – second Quarterly Report to HPD for CLG grant * Historic Tour Guide project. *Final product expected in June 2012.

Archway Report

Economic Development

- Archway participated in the follow up visit of the Georgia Economic Development Association's "Tourism Assessment Team" in October. A review of the Tourism team's recommendations was summarized and presented to local groups, including the Archway Steering Committee. The Archway "Hawkinsville DVD" was featured in the presentation. A Tourism plan is currently being created through the combined efforts of BHT, the Chamber, the Arts Council and Archway to coordinate and guide community tourism efforts.
- UGA grad students presented their plan to the Fire House Museum Committee on Friday. This plan is part of a federal grant proposal to restore the old Fire House, and is being coordinated by the Regional Commission and Better Home Town.
- UGA Masters of Public Administration students were in the community in September to work with the Chamber of Commerce. The students will work with Chamber representatives to update and energize Chamber web presence in a way that will maximize the benefits to Chamber Members, provide better service and improve operating efficiency. A draft of the plan is being reviewed and the students will be back in town later this week to complete their work.
- Through the Co-op initiative, a plan to improve community websites through improved communication is underway. Already, a portal site (www.hawkinsville.org), recommended by the website committee, has been created and a community web site update meeting has been held. Plans are being finalized to host classes by

the UGA Small Business Development Center in Hawkinsville for community personnel with website responsibilities.

Community Health

- Archway is working with Taylor Regional Hospital to create a Rural Medical Scholars partnership with Mercer School of Medicine. The program would be the second in the state and is patterned after the successful pilot program in Sandersville that is coordinated by Archway Health professional Laura Gillman.
- The UGA College of Public Health has completed a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. Now plans are underway for a series of focus groups in the community to provide guidance on health education. These efforts will be coordinated through the College of Public Health with the assistance of Ms. Gillman and Dr. Marsha Davis, administrator of the Public Health Training Initiative. Ms. Gillman met with committee Chair Skip McDannald and hospital representative Melissa Johnson on December 1st to begin work on the focus groups.
- Focus group invitations have gone out. **If you are interested in participating in a community health focus group, please contact the Archway office.** The sessions will last about 90 minutes, and will be held at a variety of times in late January and early February.
- The second Communities of Opportunity (Co-Op) initiative for Hawkinsville-Pulaski County is the reduction of teenage pregnancy rates. Under the leadership of local champion, Vonnie Berryhill, the work group will implement a number of community initiatives to reduce teen pregnancy by 25% by the summer of 2013. Plans for the Teen Maze to be held **March 22, 2012** are now underway. (check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hhsteenmaze) **If you would like to volunteer to help with the Maze, please contact the Archway office.**

Government Service Delivery

- Recreation surveys produced by UGA students were included in the new school packets of every student. At the request of the Archway Partnership, students from UGA's Department of Public Administration and Policy Research will analyze this data and report the results of the survey.
- UGA students met with the Recreation Department last Friday to assist in planning the use of newly acquired land.

Housing

- Since the community has graduated from the GICH program, Archway will continue to support community housing initiatives through HURA. The last meeting was held on December 6, 2011 and it was reported that 5 locations are currently in the process of being cleared with the appropriated funds.

Leadership Development

- Training for UGA Fanning Institute certified facilitators will take place at the Sam Way Learning Center on February 7th and 14th. **If you are interested in becoming a facilitator for the Pulaski Tomorrow class, or in participating in the Class of 2012, please contact the Archway office.**
- Members of Ocmulgee Order and Pulaski Tomorrow have joined the Archway Steering Committee. The Steering committee will begin a visioning process in February to help determine future work plans.

Public Education

- Pulaski County schools participated in the Office of School Engagement/ Archway Partnership's inaugural symposium *The Power and Promise of Public Schools*. In June, Archway and the Office of School Engagement facilitated an issue work group discussion. The Executive Committee and Education issue work group have begun a long-term collaboration with the College of Education to continue education dialogue between the community, Archway and UGA.
- The Archway Education Issue Work Group met in December to review a survey of Pulaski County parents that do not utilize the public school system in the County. The group of educators, parents and concerned citizens will begin to look at specific aspects of the educational system in 2012.
- At the December education meeting, some great news was reported. Ninety-four (94) % of Hawkinsville High School Juniors passed the Georgia High School Writing Test as compared to 93% in the state and 91% in our 10 county region. Pulaski County Elementary School has made AYP for two years in a row and has been removed from *Needs Improvement* status.

Chamber of Commerce Report

- The annual Christmas Parade was held at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 3rd which looked to be the largest crowd in many years. The Commercial Float winner was ComSouth and the Non-Profit winner was County Line Baptist Church.
- Therisa and Kim attended a luncheon at Amedisys on Tuesday, December 6th and met and congratulated the new Marketing Representative, Dale Walker.
- Chamber Board of Directors selected Georgia Power as BOM for December. Several board members and chamber members were in attendance on December 13th to congratulate Jim Rhodes and his staff.
- Therisa invited Terri Miller with Macon State to become a part of the Teen Maze Program. Therisa and Terri met with Michelle Elliott to discuss possible volunteer opportunities for Terri and the students at Macon State.
- The quarterly membership meeting was held on Tuesday, December 20th at The Steak House. The guest speaker was Leslie Ward Jr. Community Employment Job Coach with the Houston County Association for exceptional citizens.

- The Chamber sold over \$6000.00 in chamber checks in December. This is money that stays in our community.
- The Chamber Board of Directors selected Amedisys as the January BOM.
- The Harness Festival Committee met on December 6th for the first planning session for the 2012 Harness Festival. This meeting was well attended with several new volunteers added to the existing 2011 list of volunteers. The festival will be the week-end of April 20th through 21st.
- Therisa attended a follow up Teen Maze meeting on Dec 14th at Michelle Elliott's office.
- Kim attended a Peaches to the Beaches meeting on December 7th in Hazlehurst
- Kim attended an Archway meeting to discuss the tourism book and the opportunities we have in Hawkinsville
- Kim attended a New Harmony meeting in Perry. This is a Smithsonian music exhibit through tourism
- New Chamber Members for December is Accu-Flo Meter and Brass. The owner of this company is Tim Young.
- Therisa is working on the Young/Miss Harness Festival Pageants which will be held on February 4th. This pageant is a fund raiser for the Chamber of Commerce.

Economic Development Report

- Working on two projects for spec bldg
- Change of MGMAC Leadership on regional and local level
- Working on Archway Executive Committee with active projects being; website, tourism, and strategic plan for United Pulaski
- Combining efforts of Chamber, Better Hometown, Arts council and Archway on strategic plan for our tourism project
- Working on future events for Rivers Alive

Karen Bailey asked if any Commissioners were planning to attend the Mayor's Day Conference in Atlanta and if so, she would be attending the Main Street Luncheon on January 23rd and would invite them to attend.

HURA (HAWKINSVILLE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY):

Manager Murkerson stated he had received a letter from Bill Wall, HURA Chairman, to please accept the resignation of Irene Stone.

APPOINT POST # TO MEMBERS UNDER CURRENT TERMS:

BILL WALL

ALVIN ROBERTS

MILTON SUTHERLIN

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the Post # for the above members with Bill Wall Post 3, three year term, Alvin Roberts Post 5 two year term and Milton Sutherlin Post 6 two year term. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

REAPPOINT POST 4 MEMBER TO HURA: Shelly Berryhill motioned to reappoint Carolyn NeSmith to Post 4 for another two year term. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS: Mitchell Woods handed out the financial reports for November 2011. He reported gas sales were down due to loss of 26 residential and commercial customers and one industrial customer was not using as much gas. The LOST collections are 2% better than last year.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

James Colson had none.
Ken Hardy had none.
Shelly Berryhill commended Jerry, Mitchell and Staff for being head above some other cities in their endeavor to keep the budget under control.
Phil NeSmith agreed with Berryhill. He reported they met with Hartford Water Authority, not to take over their water system, but to establish connection only in the event of an emergency. This idea came from an emergency the City of Hawkinsville recently had when one of the water plants went down causing a loss of water supply to the entire city. With the city’s water line at the Women’s State Prison on the Hartford side and a valve from the Hartford Water Authority this would remedy a supply of water for either side. The Authority was very receptive to the idea. Commissioners would look at plans to hire engineering firm at a later date. This will be paid from SPLOST funds.
NeSmith welcomed newly elected Commission Ken Hardy on board.
Henry Cravey also welcomed Mr. Hardy.

Shelly Berryhill stated that he, Mr. Murkerson and Mr. Cravey would be representing the city at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues Breakfast in Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Anderson who spoke earlier stated the city needed to work harder at giving people a reason to come to Hawkinsville, need to be more efficient, give some incentives and motivation to attract new business and industry.

Joe Sapp gave a report on the Ocmulgee Order, currently have 34 active members Recruitment in January with 23 candidates interested. The young leadership group raised over \$500.00 and provided to a needy family during the holidays.

There being no further business.

ADJOURN: Phil NeSmith motioned to adjourn. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

Chairman, Board of Commission
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

City Clerk