

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday October 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman Shelly Berryhill presiding.

James Colson gave a prayer. All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Berryhill called the meeting to order.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** There were none at this time.

Berryhill welcomed Clinton Ford, Project Manager, Ken Roberson, K. Ford, Area Manager and Mike England, District Manager of the Department of Transportation to the meeting. He asked them to explain the process of the bridge replacement preliminary plan. Project Manager Ford explained the preliminary design was just that. DOT will hold a Public Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November 2011 and the drawings will be shown and they will listen to any comments provided, either verbal or written. Ford stated that the funding for the project would be available in 2016.

Berryhill asked what the concept was of one bridge verses two bridges. Ford said the alternatives were to 1. not build, 2. replace both as are now. They have not considered the possibility of building one bridge in the middle with incoming traffic going west onto Commerce Street and outgoing traffic going east off Broad Street. It would cost less to build a single bridge. Currently both bridges need to be replaced, with the east bound in the worse shape. The Chief Engineer and the State Commission of Bridges must approve any decisions, the cost of construction and any decisions to what affect the traffic flow would have on the immediately surrounding areas, whether residential or business. DOT does check for volumes of traffic and how to direct the traffic during a replacement project and would welcome any traffic count information the City could provide. They need feedback. Berryhill said the community has a lot of sway and everyone's main concern is diverting traffic off Commerce Street and the downtown area.

Commissioners thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting and for their concerns.

**MINUTES:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 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. BLACKSHEAR PAINTING  
(190 Cochran Hwy. Residential Painting, Gary Blackshear, owner)
2. HAIR AND THINGS  
(229 Progress Ave.- Sales of Hair and Hair Accessories, Malika Smith, owner)
3. LOL FAMILY FUN HOUSE  
(91 Commerce St.- Snack Bar, plus venue for Parties & Movies, Ryan Starkey, owner)
4. BHULLAR INCORPORATED  
(132 Progress Ave.- Package Liquor Store, Ishtpreet Singh Bhullar, owner, Morzena Alli share holder, manager)  
Transfer of name on license from Morzena Alli dba Pulaski Package to Bhullar Incorporated, Morzena Alli, Manager.
5. BENTON INTERIORS  
(11 Pate St.- Interior Design, home occupation, Rashelle Benton, owner)

Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

**APPLICATION FOR SALE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR BY THE PACKAGE:**

**BHULLAR INCORPORATED** 132 Progress Ave., Ishtpreet Singh Bhullar, owner, Morzena Alli, share holder, manager: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the transfer of license name to Bhullar Incorporated, Morzena Alli, Manager dba Pulaski Package for the transfer fee of \$100.00. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

**VARIANCE REQUEST FROM ECP DISTRIBUTORS, INDUSTRIAL BLVD. FOR FRONT SETBACK AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS:**

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the variance request. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson explained that the request for a variance for front setback and parking requirements from ECP Distributors was presented to Planning & Zoning and though the variance needed no approval from their Board, but from the Board of Commissioners, they agreed it should be allowed. He stated ECP Distributors plans for a new building would encroach into the 25' building setback line along Industrial Blvd. The front face of the building shown on the plans will be encroaching approximately 12' into the setback area. As stated in their letter the project requires the construction of 57 parking spaces, but only 18 spaces are proposed since any new employees is very small. Chairman Berryhill said Hawkinsville is very proud of ECP Distributors and the expansion of their business.

**2<sup>ND</sup> MODIFICATION CONTRACT HAWKINSVILLE INDUSTRIAL/TECHNOLOGY PARK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WATER DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS PHASE #2:**

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> modification. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed. Lance Wood of Ocmulgee Site and Environmental Services recommended in his letter that the City agree to increase the scope of work for the Water Distribution Improvements Phase #2 at the Hawkinsville Industrial/Technology Park since there has been considerable time passed since the demobilization and materials have increased in price, the price per linear foot of PVC pipe and steel pipe has increased. LeClay Construction, Inc. has been working to obtain revised pricing for these materials. Based on the revised pricing, the new contract amount would be \$125,854.75, as opposed to the previously agreed upon amount of \$114,884.77, which is an increase of \$10,956.05. This work has been funded by the OneGeorgia Grant. The City has applied to OneGeorgia for \$500,000 grant to pay for Phase 2,3 and 4 for the rest of the park.

**ZONING CHANGE, BENNY WELLS 8 S. MASHBURN STREET TRACT B FROM B-1 BUSINESS TO R-4 RESIDENTIAL:**

Manager Murkerson explained a request from Benny Wells for property located at 8 S. Mashburn Street tract B be rezoned from its present B-1 Business to R-4 Residential. The request was presented to the Planning & Zoning Board on September 29, 2011. The lot had been subdivided and sold as businesses and Mr. Wells wanted to make the remaining portion 4 apartments for residential living. Ramsey Way, Attorney, representing some owners of property and others in the immediate area were opposed to the change, mainly due to parking safety with a vehicle repair shop and large trucks making deliveries. The P&Z Board recommended the request be denied.

Phil NeSmith motioned to deny the request for the zoning change. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSMIT THE COMMUNITY AGENDA COMPONENT OF THE 20- YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TO MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION AND THE GEORGIA DEPT. OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:**

Wilson Credle motioned to adopt the Resolution. James Colson seconded, motion passed. Chairman Berryhill stated there had been a lot of citizen input into the plan and if DCA approves it then it will come before the City for adoption.

**APPROVE ENGAGEMENT LETTERS FROM GIDDENS, BENNETT & COMPANY, P.C. FOR THE AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011 FOR THE CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE, THE HAWKINSVILLE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE HAWKINSVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

Henry Cravey motioned to approve the engagement letters. James

Colson seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson explained since the City paid for the audits for both Development Authorities, then it should be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The cost will be \$17,000.00 for the City and \$1,100.00 for each Authority.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES:**

Manager Murkerson gave Commissioners a summary report about dilapidated housing and unclean lots from Codes Enforcement. 33 had been cleared with 12 by the City adding liens to the properties for cost, 5 are in the process of appearing in court on a set date. 45 lots have been cleaned.

He included a work order synopsis for the month of April from the customer service system. These are completed work orders only.

He included an arrears report listing commercial customers who are behind on their bills as of last Friday.

The work at the community market building is progressing. The contractor has drawn down approximately \$150,000.00 from the OneGeorgia grant to date. The Downtown Development Authority has been very involved with this project.

Community service workers have painted approximately 1200 feet of the fence at the Harness Training Facility. We have approximately 4,000 feet of fence that needs attention. Also, our insurance carrier is sending an adjuster this week to look at the roofs of the stall barns that have been damaged by wind.

The ad for an RFP for animal control has run in the paper and is on the city's website. Manager Murkerson personally contacted seven entities that do animal control in surrounding communities to make sure they are aware of our RFP. We have received no response to date. In the meantime the same procedure is to be used, for animal control concerns you must contact the Dispatchers Office at the 911 center and give them details of your concerns or complaints and they will forward to the officer we currently have on hand.

After receiving feedback from some of you concerning the Municipal Court, just want to verify that you want to continue with what we are doing presently. Will need to get a Resolution to the General Assembly very soon, if decide to abolish court. Wilson Credle requested this be a part of the Thursday Work Session.

Murkerson included the traffic information from the Speed Sentry radar device recorded on Broad Street, East and West count of traffic.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS:** Murkerson stated he had talked with Sheriff Cape concerning the Municipal Court and needed to talk with Court Judge Dennis Mullis.

#### **Better Hometown Report**

**HBHT Board of Directors** will meet **October 25th, @ 11:00 am** in the Opera House. Board Chair, Mrs. Jill Niblett & the board extends the invitation to the Hawkinsville City Commission to have a representative to serve on this board.

#### **HBHT Promotions Committee**

**2011 Harvest Fest**—a successful downtown fall festival was held on Saturday, September 24, 10 am – 4 pm. The committee thanks Mr. Johnny Gordon & his staff and the entire city public works & utilities department for their fine work, support & assistance for the event. We also thank the many volunteers, event sponsors, donations, in kind services provided and community support. It takes hard work, volunteers and partnerships to put the event together!

A festival wrap up meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.

#### **HBHT Design Committee/ Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission**

HHPC will meet in the Opera House on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 @ 4:00 pm.

Ongoing Preservation related projects include:

A volunteer committee has been working with Karen & Ms. Kristi Harpst, Preservation Planner with MGRC to continue work on the new historic tour guide brochure. We have received a grant from HPD to help with the cost of this project.

A volunteer committee has been meeting with Karen & Ms. Kristi Harpst - who is facilitating the organization & planning for the old fire house restoration for use as a Scenic Byway trailhead, a museum for Katie our steam pump fire engine & visitors center. We plan to submit an application for a Scenic Byway grant that could help fund this project. We hope to identify as many funding sources as possible to help with the project.

Better Hometown / 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. Guest speakers will be announced at a later date when confirmed.

Better Hometown is the project sponsor & hosts “**Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway**” meetings for Pulaski & Wilcox county representatives ~ who are partnering to work on a new brochure designed to promote the Byway.

**HBHT Organization Committee:**

Signage Committee / Signage for Downtown:

Karen recently submitted a grant application through GED Tourism Product Development Grant - to help fund way finding signage for downtown.

***HBHT River Parks Advisory Council:***

This committee of volunteers works closely with our local Rivers Alive. A huge 3 day paddle event will be held @ Mile Branch Landing on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

A special program will be presented on Saturday evening, Oct. 8th @ the park.

A distinguished panel of guest speakers will present a program @ 7:00 p.m.

This event is being held to promote the Ocmulgee Blue Way Project.

The City Commission is invited to attend the paddle event & the program.

Contact Chuck Southerland.

**HBHT Economic Restructuring Committee / Hawkinsville Downtown Development Authority:**

No DDA meeting scheduled.

Karen has recently met with 3 different individuals who are interested in setting up businesses in downtown. One plans to open in October in the former Steamboat Landing Restaurant building @ 91 Commerce St. Laugh Out Loud-Affordable Family Fun will be owned & operated by newcomers Ryan & Stephanie Starkey. Ryan is active military with the J Stars. Stephanie is an attorney waiting to take the Georgia Bar exam. They have 4 children & recently purchased a home @ old golf course.

**BHT Staff Training:**

Karen attended the annual Georgia Downtown Association conference in Rome, GA held on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

Karen continues to serve on the ***UGA Archway Partnership Steering Committee.***

Karen serves on the **Planning & Steering Committee** & also on the **Program Development Committee** & the **Graduation Committee** for ***Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership***

& she will participate as a Facilitator for the current 2011 Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership classes. Karen participates in a mentoring program which is a project of the

**Georgia Downtown Association.** Karen serves on the **Communities of Opportunity** project committee & also serves on the City & County's **Comprehensive Plan Committee** facilitated by MGRC staff Mr. Bob Rychel & Ms. Kristi Harpst.

Karen continues to serve as a director of the **HELP Network, Inc.** board. This is the Hawkinsville- Pulaski County Certified Literate Community Program.

## **ARCHWAY REPORT**

### **Economic Development**

- Archway participated as a community member in the Georgia Economic Development Agency's "Tourism Assessment Team" July 25-27. The Chamber hosted this 10 person team representing seven state agencies. The team will evaluate the community's tourism assets and present both short and long term plans to residents in a public session to be held in late September. The tourism team will be back in October for a public forum to make their recommendations.
- Working with the Regional Commission and Better Hometown, UGA Landscape Architecture students will provide detailed site plans for the Fire House Museum Federal Grant application that the RC is preparing to provide funding for the Museum.
- UGA Terry College of Business 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.
- Plans are currently underway, through the Co-op initiative, to improve community websites through improved communication. This one day event will take place in October and encourage all community members to update website narratives, add new pictures, and refresh forms and content.

### **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.
- Currently, the College of Public Health is coordinating a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. These efforts will be coordinated through the College of Public Health with the assistance of Ms. Gillman.
- 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. An introduction to the committee's "Teen Maze" project was held in conjunction with the Family Connection's quarterly

meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> and all interested community members are invited to travel to LaGrange in late October to tour the Teen Maze in that community.

#### **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.

#### **Housing**

- Community members of the GICH team including the Archway Professional traveled to Athens to participate in the GICH conference in August.

#### **Leadership Development**

- Graduates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class of Pulaski Tomorrow will be recognized on October 18, 2011.
- Archway Professional Michelle Elliott is a participant of the 2011 class.
- Plans are currently underway to have more local facilitators trained by UGA's Fanning Institute.

#### **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 next meeting of the Archway Education Issue Work Group will take place on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 5 pm in the County Annex. The group will meet to regularly to participate in a community forum on Education
- Sponsored by the Archway Partnership, Janis Sparrow and Rosemary Wright attended the "State of Education" conference at UGA in September.

#### **United Pulaski Economic Development Report**

- Attended 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership Meeting to support base efforts concerning BRAC
- Attended GEDA Convention in Savannah to include:
  - a. Meeting with site consultants
  - b. Dinner meeting with new project managers
  - c. Attended new techniques work shop on how to develop a productive marketing team.

- d. Networking with Dept of Economic Development Commissioner, State Chamber of Commerce President, Secretary of State, DCA Representative, Project Managers and many of the department heads.
- Facilitator for Pulaski Tomorrow class on How to Handle Conflict.
- Attended United Pulaski Board Meeting on September 28th
- Working on MGMAC redevelopment and new chairman.
- Attended RC Board Meeting
- Continue to work on Project Vicking for Spec Building
- Continue to serve on Archway Executive Committee
- Working with and serve on the Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership Committee.
- Working with Archway on film project to highlight our community.
- Working with DDA to finish Cotton Mill Project
- Working on tourism team with re-visit to Hawkinsville to give their report and suggestions.

#### **Hawkinsville/Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Report**

- The Chamber BOD meeting was held on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at the Pulaski County Board of Education
- Therisa and Kim helped organize and worked with the parade line up for the welcome home parade for Tony Mullis.
- Georgia Power Company has been selected Business of the Month for October instead of September as previously reported.
- The Chamber Golf Tournament was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The winning team was from Warner Robins. First place winners were Veith Powell, Cody Powell, John McCaughan and Pete Seliger. Second place winner was Pruett Air Conditioning and the members of this team were Dusty Pruett, Jessie Pruett, Gregg McRee and W.J. Daniel. Third place winner was SunMark Bank team whose members were Scott Fisler, B.J. Coody, Jason Lord and Tony Toombs. Thanks to many businesses in Hawkinsville as well as surrounding counties the chamber was able to give a door prize to each team member. Seven of the thirteen teams were from out of town and were very complimentary of our tournament as well as Southern Hills. Hannah Cook from Innovative Therapy Concepts and Kristen Heller with Amedisys volunteered to help with our tournament.
- Therisa made a visit to Pizza Hut and welcomed this new business to Hawkinsville. Therisa also left information about joining our chamber with the assistant manager. A follow up visit will be made shortly.
- Kim, Therisa and Lee were invited to MGTC for a grant presentation by USDA for a Commercial Truck Driving Program at the Hawkinsville campus on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Therisa arranged to have Vonnie Berryhill as the guest speaker for the September 28<sup>th</sup> Rotary program.

- Therisa and Kim volunteered to help with Dodge County High School fund raiser for the football dance line on Friday evening, September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Kim obtained and organized all vendors for the Harvest Fest that was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Therisa and Kim made a site visit to each vendor and thanked them for their participation. Hopefully this event will grow and be more and more successful in future years.
- Kim volunteered and worked registration for Rivers Alive on September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Kim organized and was a facilitator for Pulaski Tomorrow on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Kim attended Family Connection meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- R & S Starkey LLC –DBA LOL located at the old Steamboat Landing building is the newest Chamber Member for September. This will be an entertainment facility for teens and young children.
- Kim attended New Harmonies Smithsonian meeting in Perry on September 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a regional collaboration to promote tourism in the Opera House while celebrating American Roots music.
- Sharp Systems was selected Business of the Month for September and on September 29th the chamber staff and members made a visit to congratulate and made photos for the newspaper.

**AWARD BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 4” STEEL GAS MAIN TO METER AT HOLLINSWORTH & VOSE:** Henry Cravey motioned to approve the low bid and award the project to Maddox M&R Testing, Inc. of Macon, Georgia to install a new 4” Epoxy Coated Steel from main to meter at H&V and tie in and tap 4’ existing main and tie in to existing meter set, which also includes killing the 2” line in the amount of \$48,577.10, to be paid through SPLOST funds, if can’t get grant to do so. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

H&V is the City’s main gas customer and this new line is needed since they have created a second shift and will hire an additional 15 employees.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS:** Mitchell Woods gave Commissioners the financial reports for August 2011. The LOST collections are 2.4% higher than last year. Gas volumes are down due to Pulaski State Prison using less gas due to equipment changes.

**SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE:** Manager Murkerson explained a citizen had requested a Special Events One Day Alcoholic Beverage License. The State of Georgia has no problem with this. The City’s ordinances on Alcoholic Beverages requires a license must be good for one year and the full amount paid, there is no clause for a Special Events License. If wish to hold license must follow procedures as outlined in code. No State license will be issued until acquire City license. The requester was not satisfied the City did not have this clause in its ordinances. Phil NeSmith directed City Attorney Walker to research for possible clause to be added to the ordinance.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

James Colson stated that four years ago the City adopted an ordinance against Baggy Pants, and need to revisit that ordinance. He had read an article about Albany, Georgia enforcing their ordinance and had received over \$4,000. in fines for this one offense. Manager Murkerson would meet with Sheriff Cape on this issue.



Henry Cravey thanked Brandi Gordon and the City for their involvement during the Harvest Festival and to Chuck Southerland and all those involved in the Rivers Alive Clean Up.

Wilson Credle had none.  
Shelly Berryhill had none.  
Phil NeSmith had none.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

John Schwartz agreed with Commissioner Colson on the baggy pants issue.

Manager Murkerson stated the Georgia Paddlers event would be Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the river.  
Berryhill stated that they would travel to Tifton, Georgia October 12<sup>th</sup> to receive the \$500,000.00 grant check for the infrastructure improvements for the Industrial/Technology Park.

There being no further business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Phil NeSmith motioned to go into an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation, personnel and the acquisition of real estate. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

The time was noted at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting was reopened.

The time was noted at 7:45 p.m.

There being no further business.

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

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Chairman, Board of Commission  
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

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City Clerk