

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday November 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman Shelly Berryhill presiding.

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

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

Chairman Berryhill called the meeting to order.

He welcomed Patrick Riley of Landmark and Stan Vosper of HUD

The City was one of five grant recipients in the nation to be awarded the Hope 6 Grant in the amount of \$1million for the Cotton Mill Lofts project.

Mr. Riley stated they were hoping to move the project forward. The community market portion was progressing. The loft apartments would move along in a couple of months and if desire to tour the location need to contact Tony Storino, Supervisor over the project.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Shelly Berryhill asked if there were any citizens who wished to voice their concerns should do so if they did not want to stay the entire meeting. Elizabeth Smith 34 Highland Avenue was concerned that for a long time there has been a bad odor of gas in the area of Sixth Street and Anderson Lane. She was also concerned about vehicles speeding on Highland Avenue that there were no speed limit signs, there was only one speed breaker, the loud music and other loud noises in that area and what enforcement did the city plan to take on the Baggy Pants violations. Manager Murkerson would check on the speed limit sign and the gas odor. Deputy Sheriff Robert McGriff stated the Sheriff's Dept. had a meeting today concerning the Baggy Pants issues.

Annie Shennett Highland Avenue stated the James Colson Recreation Park on Sixth Street needed some lights and also needed to be patrolled after dark. There is a curfew at dark and Manager Murkerson would check on signs.

**MINUTES:** Phil NeSmith motioned to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2011 Regular Meeting and the November 1, 2011 Called Meeting. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

**RESEARCH ON SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE CLAUSE TO BE ADDED TO ORDINANCE:** Attorney John Walker stated the firm's research had not found any state laws on one time events. Attorney David Walker has contacted the State Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division for any further clauses.

**BUSINESS LICENSE:**

Henry Cravey motioned to approve a business license application in the name of;

1. JP's CAR WASH AND DETAILING  
(8 Progress Ave.- Car Wash and Detailing, Shan Leverett, owner)

Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve a business license application in the name of;

2. BOLD REALTY  
(43 North Houston St.- Real Estate Office for Listings and Sales, David Dunaway, broker/owner)

Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve a business license application in the name of;

3. THE GRAPHIX SHOP-JASS SIGNS & GRAPHIX  
(521 Broad St.- Custom Signs and Graphix, Sean Peacock, owner)  
Applicant has been given list of information needed to apply for a  
Transient Merchant License, but the City has not received to date.)

Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

Henry Cravey motioned to approve a business license application in the name of;

4. M.A.C. INDUSTRIES dba THE PAWN ZONE  
(65 341 By-Pass – Pawn Shop consisting of Buying and Selling Items  
including Guns, Mark J. Crouch, owner)

Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

Phil NeSmith motioned to approve a business license application contingent on  
completion of codes compliance for

5. MARY’S KITCHEN  
(234 Commerce St.- Fast Food, Tabatha Martin, owner)

Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THE GEORGIA  
RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM:**

Phil NeSmith motioned to adopt  
the Resolution. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

This is a \$100,000.00 grant awarded for the River Walk from the Boat Landing and under  
the bridges. There is a \$30,000.00 match. The City does have an easement on the  
property adjoining the river property. The grant funds can not be spent on the clearing of  
the property and as soon as staff is available will get started on that.

**APPROVE CONTRACT WITH OCMULGEE SITES ENGINEERS FOR CIVIL  
ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES TO CONSTRUCT AND PAVE  
STREETS IN ANDERSON ACRES:**

Wilson Credle motioned to approve the contract.  
Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

Manager Murkerson explained Ocmulgee had already been hired, but there was no  
agreement stipulating a 10% fee for services. The project will start with Oak Street. A  
letter had been forwarded to Pulaski County Commissioner Brooks Bailey thanking him  
for his help by scraping the dirt roads and Watson Street has been completed.

**APPROVE CONTRACT WITH THREE KINGS FOR  
INDUSTRIAL/TECHNOLOGY PARK INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE 3 & 4:**

Henry Cravey motioned to approve the contract. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.  
Manager Murkerson stated that Three Kings had been selected as the low bidder. The  
project is for water and sewer which will cover 95% of the Park. The MGRDA was  
awarded a \$500,000.00 One Georgia Grant on behalf of the City, which also included  
Phase 1 & 2 and there will be funds left over to include the issues of water pressure.

**REMOVE A COUPLE OF PARKING SPOTS WHERE SOIUX PLACE AND  
LUMPKIN STREET JOIN:**

Phil NeSmith motioned to remove one parking space on  
either side of Soix Place as it turns out into Lumpkin Street and will mark those space in  
yellow. Shelly Berryhill seconded, motion passed.

**REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT AT INTERSECTION OF MLK BLVD. AND  
POPLAR STREET:**

Henry Cravey motioned to approve the request. Phil NeSmith  
seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson stated there was a need for the light and  
recommended Georgia Power place one in that location.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CDBG HOUSING GRANT:** Shelly Berryhill motioned to approve. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed. Manager Murkerson stated the policies and procedures for the CHIP Grant had been approved, but during the meeting with Grant Specialist Adm. just failed to approve the ones for the CDBG Housing grant.

**APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION:**

Phil NeSmith motioned to reappoint Henry Cravey, Member City Representative, Lee Slade, Non-Public Member and James Colson and Butch Hall as the two Associate Members. Wilson Credle 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 April 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 fence at the harness training facility has been repainted. We ended up using our female prison detail to finish the project and they did a very good job.

The roofs of the stall barns, K, N, and O, are being replaced by our insurance company contractor. The contractor should have the roofs replaced in the next few weeks.

The ad for an RFP for animal control received no responses. We will advertise for an employee and hire some one for animal control.

Commissioner Credle, I and members of the Garden Club met with Sam Rogers from Bold Springs Nursery and Bold Springs has offered to donate 8 trees for the islands on Commerce Street. Per Mr. Rogers' recommendation the Garden Club selected four Columnar Sweetgum trees for the four islands at the intersection of Commerce and Jackson, two Overcup Oak trees for the intersection of Lumpkin and Commerce, and two Upperton Willow Oak trees for the intersection of Houston and Commerce. Bold Springs will dig and load the trees and the City will pick them up at the nursery and plant them in the islands. I have included pictures of these varieties in your notebook. I would like to publicly thank and commend Mr. Sam Rogers of Bold Spring Nursery for his donation and his assistance with selection. I would also like to thank the members of the Hawkinsville Garden Club for their support and initiative on the project. The next step of this project is to plan for planting of trees along Broad Street.

The Consolidation Study Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 15, 6:00 PM at the annex auditorium. I have personally contacted and mailed a letter to the members of the study committee. I have also contacted Perry Hiott, GMA; Harry Hayes, CVIOG; David Walker, City Attorney; Larry Garrett, D. M. Vickers & Assoc.; and Laura Mathis of the Regional Commission to attend.

Law Enforcement Report was included in Commissioners' notebooks.

**BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT**

**HBHT Board of Directors** will meet **November 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 am** in the Opera House. Board Chair, Mrs. Jill Niblett & the board invites a member of the Hawkinsville City Commission to serve on this board.

**HBHT Promotions Committee**Working on plans for December 3rd downtown Christmas Open House.Reviewing surveys from September 24<sup>th</sup> Harvest Fest to begin planning 2012 Harvest Fest.

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

HHPC will meet in the Opera House on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 @ 4:00 pm.

**Ongoing Preservation related projects include:**Work continues on the new historic tour guide brochure. The Hawkinsville Garden Club is partnering with BHT to produce the new guide.

Planning continues for restoration of the old fire house. UGA students came to Hawkinsville on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Elliott/ Archway will coordinate the UGA student's assistance with the project to produce landscape plans/other suggestions.

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

**HBHT Organization Committee:** Signage Committee / Waiting for announcement of GED Tourism Product Development Grant - to help fund way finding signage project for downtown.

**HBHT River Parks Advisory Council:** Met with representatives from Georgia Department of Natural Resources & the National Park Service. The Mile Branch Riverfront Park has been recommended to be included in the annual congressional report by DNR & the NPS.

**HBHT Economic Restructuring Committee / Hawkinsville Downtown Development Authority:** provides support as needed for the old cotton mill redevelopment for the future Ocmulgee Market. Karen has asked DDA to fund a website for marketing the new farmers market.

## **ARCHWAY REPORT**

**The Archway Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 8:30 A.M. in the Pulaski County Community Annex.**

**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 will be summarized and presented to local groups, including the Archway Steering Committee. The Archway "Hawkinsville DVD" was featured in the presentation.
- Working with the Regional Commission and Better Hometown, UGA Landscape Architecture students met with the Regional Commission's Kristi Harpst and Better Hometown's Karen Bailey to begin work on 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.

- Through the Co-op initiative, a plan to improve community websites through improved communication is underway. The first event, held October 31, was designed to encourage use of the community calendar, instruct participants in the content management system and introduce them to social media capabilities. UGA Journalism student, Shannon Knepp was on hand to provide some writing tips for the group. Jerry Murkerson and Holly Goss participated from the City.

### **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.
- On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Taylor Regional Hospital and Archway hosted Dr. David Mathis and Brittney Grant from the Mercer School of Medicine for a tour of the hospital, meetings with physicians and a tour of the community conducted by Lee Slade.
- The 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 in the community. 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.
- 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>. A group of community members traveled to LaGrange to see their maze on October 27 and the group has already begun planning for the "Teen Maze" here in the spring.

### **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 were 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 in February.

### **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 Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 5:30pm at the Pulaski County Board of Education. The group will meet to regularly to participate in a community forum on Education.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

- Attended GEDA Meeting in Atlanta and spoke with Nancy Cobb with One Georgia about funding for gas line to H & V
- Attended Pulaski Tomorrow graduation and local leadership meeting.
- Working on MGMAC new leadership[
- Project Vicking for Spec Building still active
- Continue to serve on Archway Executive Committee
- Working closely with Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership Committee
- Getting things ready for film event visit to Hawkinsville (Terry Bradshaw Program)
- Continue working with DDA on market
- Met with tourism team to get final report and publication for suggestions on how to improve tourism for Hawkinsville and Pulaski County

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

- The Chamber BOD meeting was held on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at the Pulaski County Board of Education
- Working on the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Dinner.

- The Chamber BOD selected and voted on the new 2012 BOD for 2012. Travis Bentley will be the 2012 Chairman, with the chair elect being Brad Hardy.
- Laugh Out Loud joined the chamber in September and was congratulated by chamber members at a ribbon cutting on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The new owners are Ryan and Stephanie Starkey. This business is a great place for affordable family fun.
- Bruce Greene, the Director of Tourism Product Development with Georgia Department of Economic Development re-visited Hawkinsville on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> with the final report and presentation on improving our tourism efforts. This presentation was held at Benjamin Hawkins Auditorium at Pulaski County Board of Education.
- The Chamber is planning the 2012 Christmas Parade and Downtown Open House for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The parade will be at 5:30 pm
- The Chamber of Commerce presented Way Brothers with a banner on Friday, October

20<sup>th</sup> for being selected by Cox Family Enterprise and Kennesaw State University for the small business, Business of the Year award presented by Georgia Trend Magazine.

- Houston County Association for exceptional citizens will speak at the next chamber membership meeting. This association is a community employment service work adjustment program designed to help individuals with disabilities learn valuable job skills and to assist them in obtaining employment.
- Therisa and Kim met with UGA Archway grad students to work on designing a new website for the Chamber.
- Kim attended and organized Pulaski Tomorrow graduation on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The chamber provided brochures and tourism information for Georgia Paddlers for October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The chamber organized a base tour with 5 attendees from Hawkinsville.
- Therisa and Kim attended a Team Maze meeting in LaGrange on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was arranged through Archway and Family Connection

Wilson Credle asked Lee Slade for an update. Mr. Slade stated there were two active projects on the Spec Bldg., the site visited and had worked with groups two years ago. There are no details in the United Pulaski, Inc. report due to the length, but would be glad to answer any questions if give him a call.

Wilson Credle asked Karen Bailey about the Fire Station grant project. She stated the preliminary master plan was complete, but not yet applied for any grant funds. Hoping funds could come from the Scenic By-Way Grant.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:** Mitchell Woods handed out the financial reports for September 2011. He reported the LOST collections are currently 3% higher than last year. He noted the Gas Sales were down due to one major user. Drew Cravey stated that user Hollingsworth & Vose would be adding a fourth shift. This shift will begin December 1<sup>st</sup> and will employ 12 to 15 additional employees. Henry Cravey asked the balance due on the Spec Bldg. note Woods could not give an exact figure, but stated that it was under \$520,000.00.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Phil NeSmith had none.

Shelly Berryhill reported that he, Manager Murkerson, Bob Krueger and Karen Bailey traveled to Tifton, Georgia to receive a \$500,000.00 check for the infrastructure of water and sewer at the Industrial/Technology Park.

Berryhill stated the meeting with DOT concerning the bridge, possible one 4 lane or two 2 lane, went very well. City Commissioners were opposed to DOT’s decision of a one 4-lane bridge which would take all traffic off Commerce Street onto Broad Street. DOT heard concerns and suggestions from many citizens. With the help from a number of State Representatives, especially Larry Walker, DOT will probably change their plans and we will get what we want.

Berryhill asked Nick Kouloungis, representative of Middle Georgia Regional Commission if the Board had talked about increasing the scope of the CHIP Grant. Nick stated he was not involved in that grant.

Wilson Credle had none.

Henry Cravey questioned if a club leased for private parties had the same curfew requirements under the cities code stating business must close by 12:00 mid-night.

Deputy McGriff stated a private party not disrupting or disturbing the peace, not required closing at the curfew hour.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Karen Bailey invited everyone to the Christmas Open House and Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The parade will start at 5:30 p.m..

Nick Kouloungis questioned whether new businesses locating in the Opportunity Zone were made aware of the Tax Credits if available.

Dorothy Williams reminded all HURA would meet Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

There being no further business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Shelly Berryhill motioned to go into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel, potential Litigation and future acquisition of Real Estate. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

The time was noted at 6:50 p.m.

The meeting was re-opened.

The time was noted at 7:03 p.m.

There being no further business.

**ADJOURN:** Shelly Berryhill motioned to adjourn. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

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Chairman, Board of Commission  
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

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City Clerk