

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hawkinsville, Georgia met in a Regular Meeting, Monday December 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Chairman Shelly Berryhill presiding.

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

Wilson Credle gave a prayer. All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Berryhill introduced Laura Mathis of the Regional Development Commission and asked her to give an explanation of HB-277 Transportation Investment Act 2010. Ms. Mathis explained the bill passed over a year ago, which creates 12 Special Tax Districts, would allow each region to decide on a 1% sales tax for transportation projects. County Commissioner Brooks Bailey served on the Executive Committee and City Commissioner Shelly Berryhill served on the Board. There are \$780 million in projects, of that \$560 million will go to regional projects and \$187 million will go back to cities and counties. There will be a Referendum question on the July 2012 Ballot to increase the sales tax by 1%, which will be in addition to the current 7% sales tax. It will be up to the voters and can pass in one region and not in another. If all regions pass program will begin July 2012. The projects for Hawkinsville/Pulaski County include Airport Improvements and the Hwy 341 Bridge replacement. There are other projects that would affect Pulaski County. If the region invest in the program then the State and Federal will match ½ billion, which will be a \$1.2 Billion 10 year program. She explained that Hawkinsville/Pulaski County could receive greater amounts than paid into, because the Regional Commission has pooled the value of the projects fiscally in Hawkinsville/Pulaski County greater than the region. There will be a penalty if the voters say no. Cities and Counties in the Middle Georgia Region will have to match the funds by 30%. If approved will only be a 10% match. If the referendum does not pass, motor fuel tax on gasoline will have to increase by .27cents per gallon to make up the difference. DOT will make the call on each project based on its readiness. There are 80 projects for the Middle Georgia Region and there is no limit on the size of the project. She thanked Commissioner Bailey and Berryhill for their involvement.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mike McClain, Recreation Board Member announced that the Recreation Dept. had acquired 43 acres of land adjacent to the recreation complex through a contribution from Richard Coley.

MINUTES: Henry Cravey motioned to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2011 Regular Meeting. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

BUSINESS LICENSE: Manager Murkerson explained that at last months meeting an application for a business license for Mary's Kitchen, a food establishment, had been approved contingent on completion of code compliance, has now been rescinded and a new application for Mary's Kitchen Arcades has been presented for approval. Phil NeSmith motioned to approve. Henry Cravey seconded, motion passed.

CLOSING SUNMARK BANK ACCOUNT FOR CDBG GRANT 09-CR-5109
WATER IMPROVEMENTS ORCHARD HILL PROJECT: Henry Cravey motioned to approve. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

HUD HOPE VI BUDGET FOR RIVER MARKET LOFTS: James Colson motioned to approve. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed. Mr. Berryhill stated the City had received a HUD grant of \$1million for the project. This is building #8 there will be 10 loft units and the per month rent fee will be \$665.00.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR NEW LIMB/TRASH TRUCK FOR CHASSIS AND NEW LIFT BOOM & TRASH BODY: James Colson motioned to approve the purchase of an International Limb/Trash Truck with a used chassis and new boom & trash body and joy stick dual control from Municipal Equipment Sales for \$42,460.00 to be paid from SPLOST funds. Phil NeSmith seconded, motion passed.

RESCHEDULE JANUARY 2012 ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING, CITY WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012: Phil NeSmith motioned to reschedule the Organizational and Regular Meeting to Monday January 9, 2012. James Colson seconded, motion passed.

COMPENSATION FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve paying the County half of this years' compensation for the Volunteer Fire Fighters included in our agreement for fire protection in the amount of \$4,750.00. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed. The City budget will be amended to include the extra cost.

OLD FIREHOUSE RESTORATION CONTRACT: Phil NeSmith motioned to approve a contract for conceptual plans for the old firehouse with an architect firm Lord, Aeck & Sargent of Atlanta, Georgia with an initial fee of \$2,900. and if grant is awarded an additional \$2,000. for services. The plans will be used for grant applications for the restoration of the old firehouse. James Colson seconded, motion passed. NeSmith stated need to have contract with them so there would be no unforeseen expenses. Murkerson explained this was for plans only. The voters had approved the SPLOST which included the restoration.

1ST READING ORDINANCE ON SPECIAL EVENTS ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PERMIT: The ordinance for Special Events Alcohol Beverage Permits was presented for a 1st reading. Commissioners requested Attorney Walker revisit the Sec 3-182 Period of license; business hours and Sec. 3-184 license fees will be set per Commission.

1ST READING TO AMEND ORDINANCE ON FEES FOR VIOLATIONS OF OFFENSE BAGGY PANTS, PUBLIC INDECENCY CODE: James Colson requested to revisit the fine amounts for the violations of Public Indecency, Baggy Pants Violations, reducing the current fees.

APPOINTMENT TO HAWKINSVILLE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (HURA): Henry Cravey motioned to appoint Wilson Credle to Post 1 on the HURA Agency. Phil NeSmith 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 roofs of the stall barns, K, N, and O, have been replaced by our insurance company contractor. The quality of work was excellent.

We will be planting 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.

The Consolidation Study Committee will meet again on Monday, December 12, 6:00 PM at the annex auditorium.

The two streets that were funded for paving by DOT have been paved. We have already submitted our requests for next year's projects. We have also received a request from DOT about doing some of the ROW maintenance for DOT and Public Works Director Johnny Gordon and I will meet with them to discuss the parameters of the agreement. DOT will compensate the City for the work. The Board of Commissioners will approve the agreement.

The compensation for our Volunteer fire fighters is included in our agreement with the County for fire protection. However, this year's compensation will be paid by the County and the County has asked that we pay half of this year's amount since the agreement was executed July 1. We will amend our budget to include the extra \$4,750.

The old firehouse restoration committee is asking that we contract with an architect for conceptual plans for the old firehouse. It is an established firm from Atlanta (Lord, Aeck & Sargent) that Kristi Harpst, RC, has worked with on previous projects and recommends. The firm is charging an initial fee of \$2,900 and if the grant is awarded they will charge an additional \$2,000 for services. These plans will be used for grant applications for the restoration of the old firehouse.

Law Enforcement Report was provided by Municipal Court Clerk Lodie Johnson.

Better Hometown Report:

HBHT Board of Directors will meet December 27 @ 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 Successful Christmas Open House & Parade!

HBHT Design Committee/ *Hawkinsville Historic Preservation Commission
HHPC will meet in the Opera House on Tuesday, Dec. 20,, 2011 @ 4:00 pm.

Historic Preservation projects:work continues on the new historic tour guide brochure that will be funded with a Historic Preservation- Certified Local Government grant through HPD & through partnerships with the Hawkinsville Garden Club &with donated time & services by local professionals. HPD staff will make a visit to Hawkinsville on January 24, 2012. BHT staff will host the HPD staff members Carole Moore, Grants Coordinator & Helen Talley-McRae & MGRC Preservation Planner Kristi Harpst. The day will include a tour of Hawkinsville& homes, buildings & sites to be included in the new full color tour guide, audio version CD, a DVD & a Podcast.

Old Fire House: The committee met on Nov. 28th to discuss project updates, consultants& funding opportunities.

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 – Pulaski Tomorrow Leadership will sponsor a Welcome to Hawkinsville sign @ an entryway into the city.

HBHT River Parks Advisory Council: Mile Branch Landing, Hawkinsville – Pulaski County Riverfront Park redevelopment project has been included in the National Parks Conservation Association & Georgia DNR report.

HBHT Economic Restructuring Committee / Hawkinsville Downtown Development Authority: providing support as needed for the old cotton mill redevelopment for

the future Ocmulgee Market. Market needs a website to promote the project & to attract vendors and occupants for the 2 retail spaces in the market.

Hawkinsville Better Hometown will host the Region 6 Better Hometown/Main Street Managers meeting in Hawkinsville on January 26th.

Archway Report:

Economic Development

- UGA Terry College of Business students will be in town on December 14 to create an updated community economic development profile that will highlight the assets of Pulaski County and identify potential industry partnerships with the HERTY Foundation.
- 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. The first draft of the report prepared by MPA student Megan Miller is now being reviewed. Archway is working with the Chamber, United Pulaski and Georgia Web Services to maximize website potential.
- Through the Co-op initiative, a plan to improve community websites through improved communication is underway. Community calendar usage has increased, a new community portal site has been created, and soon UGA Small Business Development Center classes will be offered in Hawkinsville on a variety of computer-related topics.

Community Health

- The College of Public Health has completed a needs assessment for the community at the request of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. Working with UGA's College of Public Health, the South Central Health Department Office and Taylor Regional Hospital, plans are now being made to develop a series of focus groups to assess community interest in educational classes on a variety of community health issues identified in the needs assessment.
- 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. Currently, the planning team is working with the Health Department, Hospital and local colleges to develop the Maze components. Plans for the Maze to be held March 22, 2012 are now underway. (check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hhsteenmaze)

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 representatives will be working with the Recreation Department to develop a long term plan for expansion and growth.
- 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.

Housing

- Community members of the GICH team including the Archway Professional traveled to Athens to participate in the GICH conference in August.
- Since the completion of the GICH program, HURA will function as the Housing committee. The next HURA meeting is December 6, 2011

Leadership Development

- Graduates of the 2nd 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. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator for next year's leadership class, please contact the Archway Office.
- Several members of Ocmulgee Order and Pulaski Tomorrow have joined the Archway Steering Committee.

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 on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 5:30pm at the Pulaski County Board of Education. The group attended a panel discussion with Board of Education members and a regularly scheduled School Board Meeting. The next meeting will take place on December 7th at 5:30 in the Pulaski County Annex Auditorium.

Chamber of Commerce Report:

- The Chamber Annual Meeting and Dinner was held on Thursday, November 3rd at The Steak House. The new Board of Directors for the next three years was introduced as well as the existing board members. The outgoing chair, Brent Lowe was recognized for his year of service as chairperson and the new chair, Travis Bentley for 2012 was also recognized. The Citizen of the Year is Shirley Hood and Bobbie Clemons. The Business of the Year is D.M. Vickers & Assoc. The entertainment was Miss UGA, Shelby McLeod
- The Chamber is proud to report we sold over \$10,000.00 in Chamber Checks for 2011. This money stays in Hawkinsville and helps our local economy and creates sales tax revenue.
- Therisa and Kim organized the filming of Today in America with Terry Bradshaw. The film crew visited several locations in their filming process.
- Therisa and Kim attended two follow up meetings for Teen Maze. The Hawkinsville Teen Maze will be held at the Old Middle School Gym on March 22nd.
- The Business of the Month for December is Georgia Power Co. Pictures for the newspaper will be Tuesday, December 13th at 10:00 am
- Mr. Lester Ward Jr, Community Employment Job Coach with the Houston County Association for exceptional citizens will speak at the next Membership Meeting which will be at lunch on December 20th at The Steak House
- New Chamber Members for November are Mike McClain, Charles Stone, and Barbara & Hugh Lawson
- United Givers Board of Directors met and reviewed request and made allocations for 2012.
- Kim attended a Peaches to the Beaches meeting in Perry on November 9th. This was a planning and budget meeting for 2012
- Therisa and Kim attended Pulaski Rivers Alive meeting to discuss fall paddle event. The Chamber will help organize this event.
- Tourism Rep, Lori Hennesey and Kim met with Hardy Farms and M&T Meats to discuss Agritourism grants. This was a follow up from the resource tourism book
- A Harness Festival Meeting will be held on December 6th at the Chamber. Shelly Berryhill solicited two new Harness Festival committee members.
- Kim attended a Magnolia Meeting Travel Association meeting in Hazlehurst on November 17th.
- Kim completed a RFI for tourism concerning Orange Hill Cemetery which will be included in a website and brochure about Civil War Cemeteries. This is also a project from the Resource Tourism book
- Therisa, Kim, Lee, Billy Cape and Leslie Sewell met to plan for our Christmas Parade which will be on December 3rd.
- The Chamber has worked with LOL on merchant's open house to get local businesses to offer a military discount to help bring military personnel to Hawkinsville during Open House and Parade on Dec 3rd.

Economic Development Report:

- Attended GEDA Meeting in Atlanta
- Working on active projects on Spec Building
- Working on MGMAC new leadership[
- Working on Archway Executive Committee with active projects being, website, signage strategic plan for United Pulaski
- Continue to work on film event (Terry Bradshaw Program)
- Working with tourism project to take to next level
- Visited Dublin/Laurens County Development Authority to look at ways they are funded

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Mitchell Woods handed out the financial reports for October, 2011. He stated the LOST collections were 2% more than the prior year. The SPLOST collections are under what was projected.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Phil NeSmith told Wilson Credle it had been a pleasure working with him for the past 6 years and this had been a very productive year.

James Colson, Henry Cravey and Shelly Berryhill all agreed.

Shelly Berryhill presented Wilson Credle a plaque thanking him for his outstanding job as City Commissioner from March 15, 2005 to December 31, 2011. Mr. Credle received a standing ovation.

Mr. Credle said he was assured he had never worked as long and so hard for 250.00 a month.

James Colson asked about the cemeteries and whether there were any available spaces since some lots seemed empty. There are many unmarked graves so its hard to determine who they belong to. Evelyn Herrington stated that back a few months ago the Commission agreed to let her purchase a cemetery system that would do a number of things. It would help map the cemeteries, though it could not pinpoint where the unmarked graves were. The only question at that time was once the information had been completed there would be not much use for the system unless the City decided to purchase additional property for a cemetery and the annual maintenance fee was \$250.00. I contacted the company to see if that could be waived and it was waived in the initial price for one year. She would like to go ahead and get the system, but would have to wait until after first of year since she was training the Court Clerk all the steps for court and the filing of paperwork.

Phil NeSmith talked about the 911 fees on pre-paid phones. He was told that when plan purchased in another county that county gets the fees. Pulaski County gets those fees, but the provider must know that and it can be requested by the customer. NeSmith said the public needed to be educated of this and if possible put article in paper. Credle said that if the city and county consolidate there could be a savings by going regional.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Cora Green questioned what she needed to do after purchasing property from a tax sale was notified the two houses on the property did not belong to her, that there was lien on them against Ella Mae Marshall. Ms. Green stated she had already been to court for unfit property and explained her situation then. Attorney Walker stated the Finance Company that had the lien did not want any part of the house and Ms. Green could take them down. Mr. Credle asked if HURA could seek legal advice with any cost being paid by the City. It was decided that if HURA had any questions they could request legal advice through the City Manager to the City Attorney.

Wilson Credle spoke very highly of Jerry Murkerson and Mitchell Woods and commended them both for the outstanding work they have done with the budgets and the Auditors stated the both of them account for every dollar. Thanks for a job well done.

There being no further business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Phil NeSmith motioned to go into an Executive Session to discuss future acquisition of real estate and possible litigation. Wilson Credle seconded, motion passed.

The time was noted at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was reopened. The time was noted at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURN: Chairman Shelly Berryhill adjourned the meeting.

Chairman, Board of Commission
Hawkinsville, Georgia

ATTEST:

City Clerk