

HOSCHTON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting

February 1, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Hoschton Depot

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Denney called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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| Council members present | Sandie Romer, Post 1 Jim Cleveland, Post 3 Richard Shepherd, Post 4 Scott Butler, Post 5 Theresa Kenerly, Post 6 |
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| Absent | Jim Higginbottom, Post 2 |
| Acting City Clerk | Karen Butler |
| City Attorney | Thomas Mitchell |
| Mayor | Erma Denney |

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

January 4, 2010 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, Called Meetings Jan 13 & 15, 2010.

Motion made by Councilwoman Kenerly to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2010, January 13, 2010 and January 15, 2010 meetings, seconded by Councilman Butler. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Move item #1 Award waste collection contract to the end of list.
Add the following items.
#5. Audit
#6. Comprehensive Plan

F. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports from any committees.

G. ACTIVITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Nothing available

H. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS:

I. NEW BUSINESS:

2. Appoint Planning & Zoning new commission members.

Motion by Councilwoman Kenerly to appoint Ben Davis and Paul Turman to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a 2-year term, seconded by Councilman Cleveland. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

3. Sale of Equipment for Police Department

Discussion between council members on which direction the city should take in order to sell the Dodge Chargers. Councilwoman Romer states that Gov. Deals charges 7 ½% when items are sold. Sealed bids are another option. In ad for the sale of the cars we are allowed to list a minimum bid.

Motion by Councilman Cleveland to accept sealed bids for the sale of the Dodge Chargers, and if no response to use Gov. Deals, seconded by Councilwoman Romer. Motion carried with the majority voting in favor.

Council members voting in favor are: Cleveland, Romer, Butler and Kenerly.
Opposed: Shepherd

4. Direction of Charter

Councilman Shepherd states that there has been a lot of work done by prior council on this. He would like to know what direction the charter is going. He states that if we don't do something now, that we will have to wait another year. Discussion between council members regarding this.

Motion by Councilwoman Romer to shell the charter until it can be looked and changes made, seconded by Councilman Butler. Motion carried with the majority voting in favor.

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Council members voting in favor are: Cleveland, Romer and Butler.
Opposed: Shepherd and Kenerly

5. Audit

Mayor Denney would like to start a conversation regarding a comprehensive audit of the city, not only for the mandatory audit that is required of us, but for the procedures and practices of this municipality. We have Sabrina Cape, CPA handling our chart of accounts, and reorganizing our Quick Book Companies from five to three and put into the generally accepted categorization for municipalities. We would like everything clean and in the right category before the standard auditor comes in.

Councilman Cleveland states that he would like the city to use the same audit company as previously used for this year.

Mayor Denney replies that this was the opinion of Sabrina Cape also.

6. Comprehensive Plan

Councilwoman Kenerly states that Jerry Weitz has done comprehensive plans for several other cities. He will charge \$15,000 to do our plan. This is something that is state mandated, something that we have to do. We are supposed to have it turned in by the end of October. She is hoping citizens will join in to give input. There will be steered committee meetings to help all of us see where we are going. Bruce Yates from Jackson County has offered to help.

Mayor Denney states that Mr. Weitz is very well known in the area, and much of what he has done for Jackson County can be applied to our plan.

Deb Donaldson asks how many bids were received on the comp. plan?

Mayor Denney states that we received one. Mayor Denney asks Thomas Mitchell what we have to do to award this?

Thomas Mitchell states that we should advertise this with a very short time frame for a response, and then call a meeting the day after we close the bid to award it.

Motion by Councilwoman Kenerly to put the comprehensive plan out for bid, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Councilman Cleveland states that we must appoint a person or manager to work with this person as a main point of contact. He recommends this be a citizen.

1. Awarding of waste collection contract.

Councilman Butler would like to make an alteration to the contract. He would like the contract to be for 1 year term renewing automatically unless one party gives notice to the other to terminate at least 30 days but no more than 60 days before the end of the current term. He states that this way at the end of the 1st year if whichever one is the lowest bid is not performing up to standards, we would have the opportunity to cancel.

David Poteet from the Village of Hoschton asks if we get a better price if we do it for 5 years than we would if we do it every year?

John Cown from Waste Pro states that if you base it on a year-to-year contract, it is much harder for them. They are committing to us with providing the 96 gallon cans, the recycling cans, their trucks and their people and for them to do it at the price they are doing it at they need a long commitment.

Discussion between the council and the audience, which includes the representatives from the contract bidders, regarding the RFP's that were submitted.

Motion by Councilman Butler to accept Red Oak Sanitation as the low bid with a 1-year automatically renewable contract with a 30-day no more than 60-day termination, seconded by Councilwoman Romer. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

J. ITEMS FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY STAFF

Dianne Blankenship questions how many members are on Planning & Zoning Commission?

Discussion regarding members Bob Blankenship and Bob McNaughton with Councilwoman Kenerly.

Deb Donaldson asks if there is a way to know what was paid in business permits and home permits?

Mayor Denney responds that there was a computer failure on the system that housed the business licenses and that we are trying to restore that data.

Councilwoman Kenerly states that there was one building permit in the Village of Hoschton, and one add on garage, and a business license for a military surplus store.

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Charles Fisk asks about the meeting that is tomorrow.

Mayor Denney responds that it is not a city-sponsored meeting. In addition, there is an unsolicited letter from Home Service Corp. regarding insurance on water lines that some people have received. It references the City of Hoschton in Jackson County, and has no affiliation with the city or water authority.

Kaye Schulte asks if the agenda for the meetings will be posted?

Mayor Denney states that they will be posted.

Dianne Blankenship asks what was being done to the water tower.

Mayor Denney responds that it needed service and repair. Because the water authority is trying to get everything up to a high level maintenance standard, they contacted Utility Services, whom we already pay every month, and scheduled to have it taken care of.

Chuck Fisk asks the mayor how is the search for the city clerk position coming?

Mayor Denney states that we are very close to having a job description. We are waiting for Jim Higginbottom to return to be the committee leader on this. He will be back next week.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Councilwoman Kenerly to move to Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all in favor at 8:34 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Butler to come out of executive session, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Return from executive session at 8:47 p.m.

L. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Kenerly, seconded by Councilwoman Romer. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Butler

Attachments in the Minute Book

