

**HOSCHTON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION**

March 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
Hoschton City Hall

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Copenhaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Council members	Richard Green, Post 1 Jim Jester, Post 2 John Schulte, Post 3 Richard Shepherd, Post 4 Tom Walden, Post 5 Theresa Kenerly, Post 6
Acting City Clerk	Karen Butler
City Attorney	Thomas Mitchell
Mayor	Bill Copenhaver

**C. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Kenerly to approve minutes of the February 4, 2008 regular meeting and February 20, 2008 call meeting, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all approving.**

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: No Changes**

**E. PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, RECOGNITION AND AWARDS: None**

**F. PUBLIC INPUT/DISCUSSION: None**

**G. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**1. Water, Waste, and Environmental Services**

In recapping the report given at the work session, Councilman Green reported on the following from meeting on 2/25/08:

- A. WWTP Additions-Status & budget meeting on 2/27, project remains on schedule and within budget. Orbal unit construction began on 2/28. Outer wall is standing now. Looking at mid-June start-up. Received new prices for driveways for de-watering building, this will need to be discussed.
- B. Second City Well
- C. Industrial Area Sewerage – we now have verbal commitment for more than half of the construction cost of the first phase. These

- are prepaid commitments by existing businesses. We have 45 days from February's council meeting to collect those fees.
- D. Water Use – Level 4 restrictions have been re-instated by County. City will follow the county's lead in re-instating those exemptions. JCWSA will meet on March 13 to vote on other outdoor usage. The new 10% summer usage reduction begins on April 1. There is an EPD meeting for this area on 3/25 to discuss what is being done to reduce usage.
  - E. SCADA System – assessment of telemetry/reporting system began on 3/3/08.
  - F. Potable Water Effervescence-this is caused by flushing of new mains on Hwy 11. There are no water quality issues associated with this.
  - G. Surplus Aerators – Will pursue other markets. The vendor buy back offer does not seem that generous.

## **2. Fiscal Resources**

Councilman Walden reported that Fiscal Resources did not have a meeting this month. A copy of the financial report is attached. Revenue is exceeding expenses at this time with the exception of the water department. These reports will come out monthly.

## **3. Public Works and Properties**

Councilman Jester reported that there is one important item to be discussed later which is a recommendation to obtain bids to pave Deer Creek trail from Peachtree to 448 Deer Creek Trail. Waiting for reaffirmation from Towne Center regarding the paving of sidewalks up to near 332. The 332 project is moving along very well. DOT is ready to go. We are waiting on the certification of the right of ways. It has been funded and approved. Jackson EMC will begin installing 4 streetlights on 53. Jackson EMC will also look at possibly installing lights on Peachtree Road. Christmas lights will cost \$1800 so this has been deferred giving the go-ahead on this until we have clarification on this. When we have funding, we will go ahead with this project. Councilman Walden questioned the number of street lights that will go on Peachtree Road stating that at \$8 per comes to about \$100 per year for each light which means \$1100 into the utility bill. This will be evaluated at a later date when we get feedback from Jackson EMC. City Attorney looked at the use of SPLOST funds to replace street signs. He has determined that in municipalities such as ours, that would be an appropriate expenditure out of street SPLOST funds.

## **4. Public Safety**

Councilman Shepherd reported that the public safety report is now available. A copy is attached. Highlights of the report are background checks. Target date is 3/25/08 to be up and running. Other items discussed were the clearing of investigations in a timely manner, alarm registration, golf cart ordinance, and the van that we received from Georgia gas is being painted. We were not chosen as an All Terrain Vehicle Grant recipient. Letters have been sent out to 13 corporations for funds and materials and 1 grant package to Met-Life. Councilman Walden also spoke about the residential database, open discussion, it's pro's and con's and funding. Public forum meeting held once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Surplus items will be discussed later.

**5. Planning and Zoning**

Councilwoman Kenerly reported that there was a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting this month. New members were sworn in. There is nothing on the table for zoning. Shannon Sell has tabled his zoning issue until next month.

**6. Business, Commerce, and Economic Development**

Councilman Schulte reported that the Antique Tractor Club would like to be involved in the Fall Festival and in the tractor event. Art Trax committee will meet this week.

**H. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:**

**1. City Clerk Search Committee**

Mayor Copenhaver reported that there will be a job description and an application form posted on the website and also available in City Hall for the City Clerk position.

**2. Fall Festival Committee**

Mayor Copenhaver reported that the event is planned for Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Times are scheduled to be from noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday. A street dance will also be held. Mayor Copenhaver also report that Art Trax will be held on April 19, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Depot and Depot park area.

**3. Economic Development Commission – No one present**

**4. Historic Commission**

Diane Blankenship reports they are hoping to meet this month.

**I. ACTIVITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Copenhaver presented the monthly Administrative Activity Report, a copy of which is attached in the official minute book.

**J. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS:**

**1. RZ-07-02 Shannon Sell**

Oak Street – Lot 7 (Rezone from R1 to C2)  
(Tabled at February Council Meeting)

**Motion by Councilwoman Kenerly to table the request of Shannon Sell to re-zone property located on Oak Street to the April meeting, seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving.**

**2. Code of Ordinance Update**

Amendments thru February 2008  
(First Read Approved February Council Meeting)

**Motion by Councilwoman Kenerly to accept the Code of Ordinance update with amendments thru February 2008, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all approving.**

**3. Home Rule Charter Amendments:**

**A. Section 18**

(1<sup>st</sup> Read Approved February Council Meeting)

“Section 18 Quorum: Voting: contained in the Charter of the City of Hoschton is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

A majority of the council members shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact business of the City Council. Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be taken by a roll call vote, a show of hands, or by recorded vote at the option of the mayor or any council member. The affirmative vote of three council members shall be required for the adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion except as otherwise provided in this Charter.”

**Motion by Councilman Walden to accept Home Rule Charter Amendment Section 18 of the Hoschton Charter, seconded by Councilman Shepherd. Motion carried with all approving.**

**B. Section 6.C**

Tabled at the February meeting.

Councilman Walden read an amendment to Section 6.c of the Charter as follows:

Section 6.c of the Charter of the City of Hoschton is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

(C) With the approval of the City Council appoint and remove all officers and department heads of the City of Hoschton. Approve the appointment or removal of other employees of the City of Hoschton when recommended by respective department heads.

**Motion by Councilman Walden to bring the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Section 6.C of the Hoschton Charter, seconded by Councilman Schulte. Motion carried with all approving.**

Councilman Walden states that our charter is somewhat out of date, and needs to be updated to today's standards and the way Hoschton is being run. He has asked the City Attorney to come up with a good charter to look at submitting to the legislature as a new charter for the City of Hoschton by Dec. 31.

**K. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Traffic Sign Replacement/Addition Project**

Councilman Jester spoke regarding the attached summary on Officer Grogan's study for approximate 100 signs or posts that need replacement. The City Attorney advised that using street SPLOST funds would be an appropriate expenditure. Recommendation that the council approve funds not to exceed \$12,000 to be expensed against our \$162,000 SPLOST street budget for the year for the purpose of installing new signs and posts or replacing those signs and posts that were identified in the study, and utilizing the contacts that Officer Grogan made on obtaining those cost estimates as a basis of moving forward.

**Motion by Councilman Jester to approve street SPLOST funds not to exceed \$12000 for the purpose of implementing those recommendations made by the police department to upgrade traffic signs based , seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving.**

**2. Provide auxiliary power to Towne Park Sewer Lift Station**

Councilman Green reported all new pump stations should have their own auxiliary power. Towne Park does not have auxiliary power. Towne Park operates with their own electric line and meter. Last years power failure came close to having a spill. In the event of a power failure, the generator at the WWTP can provide power to the WWTP and the Towne Park lift station. A bid advertisement was done; we received four inquiries, but only received one bid of \$8600 from Russell Hatcher.

**Motion made by Councilman Green to award the contract to provide power to the Towne Park pump station from the WWTP to Russell Hatcher for their bid of \$8600, seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving.**

**3. Authorize Mayor to provide temporary wage increase.**

Councilman Walden will make a proposal that will give the Mayor the authorization to temporarily increase wages from now until 4 weeks after new Clerk is hired.

**Motion made by Councilman Walden to give the mayor the authorization to temporarily increase wages up to 25% for clerical staff for no more than four weeks after a new City Clerk is hired, seconded by Councilman Green. Motion carried with all approving.**

**4. Sale of Surplus Equipment – Police Department**

Councilman Shepherd provided a list of surplus items that the police department would like to liquidate. A complete list is attached.

**Motion made by Councilman Shepherd to declare surplus items listed for sale, seconded by Councilman Green. Motion carried with all approving.**

**5. Water meters for multiple tenants.**

Proposed Ordinance Amendment  
Section 20-104

This amendment will require separate meters and payment of fees in multi-tenant or multi-business buildings.

1. Section 20-104, subsection 1 shall be redesignated as 1.a.
2. Section 20-103, subsection 1 shall be amended to add 1.b, which shall read as follows:

**“Unless the owner enters into an agreement with the City, ratified by the Mayor and Council, each tenant or business in a building must have a separate meter or sub-meter. Each tenant shall pay a separate installation fee and separate connection fee. A separate installation fee and separate connection fee shall be paid for both water and sewer services.”**

**Motion by Councilman Green to adopt the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hoschton; to amend Section 20-104 “Charges for initial water and sewer service” to be redesignated as 1.a, and add 1.b. as stated above, seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving.**

**6. Paving of Deer Creek Trail**

Councilman Jester reported on the past year's road improvements. This year we are looking at West Jefferson and Deer Creek. The committee feels that with the state of construction going on near West Jefferson, it may be better to wait and consider for the state program for next year. The recommendation that we came to put forth is to pave Deer Creek Trail from Peachtree Road to approximately 448 Deer Creek Trail.

**Motion made by Councilman Jester for approval of preparing specifications and obtaining bids for the resurfacing Deer Creek Trail from the intersection of Peachtree Road to approximately 448 Deer Creek Trail, seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving.**

**L. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Councilman Schulte mentioned the Boy Scout financial drive for the Braselton/Hoschton area. Money will be turned in to the headquarters, and any contributions will be appreciated.

**M. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion made by Councilman Schulte to discuss potential and pending litigation, seconded by Councilman Green. Motion carried with all approving at 7:45 p.m.**

Return from executive session at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Copenhaver called this meeting back in regular session.

**N. ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no business to be acted on from the executive session, motion Was made by Councilman Schulte to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Walden. Motion carried with all approving. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Butler, Acting City Clerk

**Attachments in Minute Book**

Bill Copenhaver, Mayor

HOSCHTON CITY COUNCIL  
March 3, 2008  
Regular Session  
Page 7 of 7

APPROVED:

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William Copenhaver, Mayor

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City Clerk