

August 4, 2011

Work Session of the City of Hiram, Georgia
217 Main Street, Hiram, Georgia
Hiram City Hall

The work session for August 4, 2011 of the City of Hiram was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Jack Paris at 5:30 pm.

Work Session attendees: Mayor Jack Paris, Mayor Pro Tem Derrick Battle, Councilperson Earlene Graham, Councilperson Teresa Philyaw, Councilperson Helena Williams, City Clerk Terri Graham, Deputy City Clerk Jill Head, City Operations Manager Jody Palmer, Police Chief Gary Yandura, City Attorney Glen Stinson, Melinda McGuire, Bob Bookout, Mary Hood

Absent: Councilperson W. Alvin Sims

1. Discussion took place regarding a tie vote from the July 12, 2011 Regular Session. Glen Stinson stated that after further research the vote should have passed as a 2-1-1 in favor of the "Welcome to Hiram/Paulding County" Gateway sign because, regardless of the abstention, there were two councilmembers in favor of the sign and one councilmember opposed to the sign which constitutes a quorum. Mr. Stinson stated that the Council needed to amend the minutes to reflect that change.
2. Discussion took place regarding several closed session affidavits and their respective minutes. City Attorney Glen Stinson stated that as long as the agenda had the legal reasons for going into closed session and that the agenda was noticed on time and in its proper place, there was no need to amend the minutes.
3. Discussion took place concerning Municode and whether or not to move forward with that company to evaluate and recodify the City of Hiram's charter and ordinances. Glen Stinson stated that he will not feel comfortable moving forward with a contract with Municode until he sees in writing that Municode will rewrite and fully research ordinances pertinent to the City of Hiram so that they meet Georgia State minimum requirements, are not in conflict with Georgia law, and are maintained and updated as Georgia State law changes. Mayor Paris stated that Mr. Stinson, Mrs. Philyaw and himself should have a meeting with Municode to discuss these concerns.
4. Mayor Paris stated that he, Terri Graham, and department heads met with two councilmembers at a time to go over the budget and answer any questions. There was no quorum present at those meetings. Teresa Philyaw stated that she did not want the City to have to pull funding from reserves to cover all of the projected needs. Mrs. Philyaw believes the City of Hiram should research and pursue sewer for the downtown area. She also stated that she feels raises for the employees should be reevaluated. She feels that if anyone should get raises it should be the Police Officers, but the raises for administrative personnel should be delayed. Mrs. Philyaw also suggested that Brandy Bray, Clerk of Court, may not need a Deputy Clerk of Court at this time, but the salary for that position could potentially be used to give raises to other

employees. Mayor Paris stated that in his time as the Mayor, he believes the necessity for that position has been proven, and he has no doubt that all of the employees are busy. Mrs. Philyaw also discussed GMA's services to negotiate certain franchise taxes for the City, collect delinquent alcohol excise taxes, and collect delinquent hotel/motel taxes. In addition, she mentioned that Chief Yandura's assistant, Jason James, had some ideas for Municipal Court that could potentially increase revenues such as driving school, in-house probation, and charging for continuances.

5. The September 2011 Council Meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

6. Discussion took place concerning when regularly scheduled work sessions should be held. The Mayor and Council decided that the Thursday before the Tuesday Council Meetings was best for everybody's schedules.

Jill Head
Deputy City Clerk