

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Bill Griggs, Mike MacNabb, Tray Hicks, Tony Haynie, Arthur Craft and Billy Ethridge.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Janet Fleming in the absence of City Clerk, Representatives of the Press/Media, and Interested Citizens

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday, December 5, 2016 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Hearing no corrections to the minutes of the November 2, 2016 called meeting, the November 7, 2016 Public Hearing and the November 7, 2016 regular council meeting a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously. 6-0

Hartwell Downtown Development Authority Director, Henley Cleary gave a detailed end-of-the-year report to the Mayor and Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks and seconded by Councilman Craft to set the tax millage rate for 2017 at 11.3 mills. The motion carried unanimously. 6-0

Councilman Hicks made a motion to approve the final reading of Budget Ordinance 2016-06, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. 6-0. The 2017 budget includes a 5 percent increase in water and sewer rates; a 5 percent increase in sanitation rates; and a \$4 increase in natural gas services.

Resolution No. 2016-05-12, Adopting Fee Schedules, met with approval, with a motion being made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously. 6-0

A motion was made by Councilman Craft and seconded by Councilman Griggs to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the DDA/Main Street Program. The motion carried unanimously. 6-0

Councilman Craft made a motion to approve the appointments of Darlington Ridgeway and Jim Ray to the Historic Preservation Commission, seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. 6-0

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks and seconded by Councilman Haynie to approve renewals of 15 beer and wine licenses and five beer, wine and distilled spirits licenses. The motion carried unanimously. 6-0

Councilman Hicks made a motion to approve a resolution for Urban Renewal for Oakview Crossing Project, seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously. 6-0

The Council voted unanimously, 6-0, to set the date for the January council meeting for Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., with a motion being made by Councilman Haynie and seconded by Councilman Craft.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks and seconded by Councilman Craft to approve the signing of an award document for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant award for TORCH. The grant for \$150,000 is being used for Phase I of the Railroad Street Project. The motion carried unanimously.6-0

The Council discussed travel and training. Councilman Haynie presented travel guidelines to allow seven nights of travel a year for Georgia Municipal events. Participants would be required to stay in GMA approved hotels or pay the difference. Also, the city will pay for up to four training classes per year. If the Mayor and Council attend the GMA conference, they will be required to attend at least one training class. Motion was made by Councilman Hicks and seconded by Councilman MacNabb to approve these guidelines. The motion carried unanimously. 6-0

City Manager Comments:

- 100' of sidewalk has been completed on Athens Street
- Ready to start Clover Street Water and Natural Gas Improvements
- Leaf Truck is operating. Residents should place leaves on backside of sidewalk not in ditches or on sidewalks

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fleming

CITY OF HARTWELL
PUBLIC HEARING
December 5, 2016

A public hearing was held by the Hartwell City Council on Monday, December 5, 2016 in the council chambers of city hall with all members present. Mayor Brandon Johnson called the hearing to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and stated this was the final public hearing regarding the City's Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

City Manager David Aldrich reported that this proposed budget was a tight budget with no proposed tax increase. Also this proposed 2017 budget was based on a proposed tax mill rate of 11.3, which is the current millage rate. The proposed budget also includes a 5% increase in water and sewer rates, a 5% increase in sanitation rates, and a proposed increase in a gas customer base charge from \$8.00 to \$12.00.

The City Manager also reported that the proposed budget included a 3% cost of living increase for city employees. Also there would be some administrative changes regarding an increase in Health Insurance premiums for employees.

City resident David Little expressed concerns he has regarding an increase in gas charges. His question was "Why raise rates if the gas department is making money"? It was explained by City Manager that the increase was not in the gas rates, but the base customer charge, from \$8.00 to \$12.00. Also, Mr. Little stated that he does not understand why the City pays for spouse's meals in travel expense since the spouse does not represent the city. The Mayor and Council responded to Mr. Little's question about the travel expense that it was the City' policy to pay for spouse's meals and this matter had been discussed numerous times.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the Public Hearing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. 6-0

Respectively submitted,

Janet Fleming