

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
August 1, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Arthur Craft, and Bill Griggs. Others present included City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Members of the Press/Media, and Interested Citizens.

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brandon Johnson who also gave the invocation. Following the invocation, Mayor Johnson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to add to the meeting agenda official action regarding the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) State Revolving Fund Loan. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Comments:

- Recent "Back to School Bash" was extremely successful.
- The past Saturday Community Relay event was a wonderful event, as well as the Sunday evening Interdenominational prayer service outside the City's Fire Department.
- School traffic around the High School and Middle School has been difficult. A few additional people will be assisting in directing traffic, with traffic flow to possibly be changed substantially during the next school year, which will be worked out by the Police Department and School Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2016 council meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

As discussion ensued concerning the proposed Agreement regarding Hart County's conducting elections for the City, Councilman Hicks expressed concern of item #13 of the Agreement, titled "Litigation Involving Elections." Councilman Hicks stated that he did not understand why one sentence in this section stated that the City would be solely responsible for any liability resulting from claims or litigation pertaining to any City election, except claims regarding negligence of the County or Board, while the very next sentence stated that the City agrees to reimburse the County for all costs, including, but not limited to, court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the County as a result of any such claim or litigation. Councilman Haynie agreed with Councilman Hicks, questioning "why would the City pay for claims resulting from negligence of the County or Board?" Following further discussion, the City Attorney proposed to clarify the language by adding, "for which the City is responsible under this agreement." Councilman Hicks moved to table action on the Agreement until the City Attorney reviews with the County Attorney. The motion was then amended by Councilman Hicks to approve the Election Agreement pending the changes as discussed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

Mayor Johnson reported that there had been some discussion regarding a possible referendum on Sunday sales of alcohol in restaurants; however, due to not having an election agreement, and due to certain deadline requirements for calling the election, it was too late to have placed on the upcoming November 8, 2016 ballot. As the question was asked by Councilman Hicks how soon the City could vote to have the question placed on the ballot, the City Attorney replied, "probably next spring."

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve an application for a beer & wine license for Shilpaben Patel of Texaco Food Mart, located at 404 W. Howell Street (formerly Jimbo's #2.) Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Due to observance of the Labor Day Holiday on the first Monday in September, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to set the date for the next regularly scheduled council meeting for Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

In considering quotes for replacement of bearings on disk aerators at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the City Manager stated that the low quote from Cowart's Industrial Millwrights was recommended. He further explained that this quote did not include the bearings, which will need to be purchased directly at an estimated cost of \$7,500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the low quote from Cowart's in the amount of \$26,485.00, plus an additional up to \$8,000.00 for replacement bearings. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of the City Manager, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept a quote from Xylem Water Solutions in the amount of \$12,587.23 for repair of the Flygt pump at the Jailhouse Lift Station. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. The City Manager felt that the repaired pump would have many more years of service since it was not that old. Xylem's quote for a new unit was \$39,205.62.

Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-03, designating the Leard Street area as an enterprise zone, and also the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-04, designating the Gordon Street area as an enterprise zone. As explained by the City Manager, these properties met at least three of the five criteria established by the state in order to be designated as enterprise zones. These criteria include (1) pervasive poverty; (2) unemployment; (3) general distress; (4) underdevelopment; and (5) general blight. Upon request by Councilman Hicks, the City Manager will forward these enterprise zone designations to each County Commissioner.

The City Manager explained that the City had been approved for a GEFA loan from the State in the amount of \$3.86M for construction of a new clearwell at the Water Treatment Plant, and he asked that Council officially authorize the Mayor or City Manager to execute the loan documents. As further stated by the City Manager, the City will rehab the existing well, giving the City the ability to have both wells which will enhance storage of the system. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to approve execution of the loan documents by the Mayor or City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

#### City Manager Comments:

- Another 140 ft. of sidewalk has been replaced on Athens Street.
- Five (5) streets have been resurfaced under the DOT's LMIG program, and the parking lot is being paved this date at the Gas Department building on Hwy. 77.
- Will be moving shortly on the Sanders Street water main improvement project.
- Placing household items on the street is a violation. A fee is associated with this as the City has to pay to take to the landfill, and if the City has to do this without receiving the required fee, the landlord would be charged or eventually a lien placed on the property.

Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks thanked everyone that he or other councilmembers had been contacted by in support of Sunday alcohol pouring. He stated that this issue would continue to be worked on. He also expressed appreciation to The Table Restaurant for the recent “Christmas in July” event, as well as the Chamber’s “Back to School Bash,” where 500 packets of school supplies were given out. He stated that this was very well organized, with donated items given by numerous supporters.
- Councilman Ethridge thanked the Gas Department for the good job they are doing with the new boring rig, which is saving taxpayers money by City employees doing the work themselves.
- Councilman Griggs stated that the Saturday Community Rally mentioned earlier by the Mayor was a great event. He further expressed disappointment that the Sunday alcohol pouring was not on the election ballot.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk