

CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
December 18, 2012

A special called meeting was held by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hartwell on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 in the council chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell. Members present were Mayor Jennifer Scott, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Tray Hicks, David Little, and Mike MacNabb. Other staff members present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Rob Leverett, and City Clerk Jean Turner.

Mayor Scott called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the grant application of TORCH of Hartwell, Inc. regarding funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program for assistance in the proposed plans for transforming the Railroad Street district. Upon opening the meeting, the Mayor recused herself from any discussion due to being President of the TORCH organization.

Speaking on behalf of TORCH, Ms. Bonnie McFall explained that a grant application had been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, but was received back with a request for a Resolution from the City, guaranteeing payment of \$25,000, which is 20% of the total project cost of \$125,000.00. She reported also that the organization was still working to become a 501(c)(3), and when that occurs, the organization would begin holding fundraisers for the proposed Railroad Street project.

Mayor Pro Tem David Little remarked that it was his understanding that the City would only have to come up with the \$25,000 if, somewhere down the line, the TORCH organization did not. Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Nicki Meyer replied, "correct."

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to sign the Resolution as requested, and funding of \$25,000 to be decided upon and supplied by the Economic Development Committee at a later date, if needed, and if this project goes back to the Economic Development Committee, then the Economic Development Committee will bring back to City Council, not TORCH. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft. As discussion ensued, Councilman Haynie emphasized that the funds would not come from the City's general funds, but from Economic Development funds. He also asked Ms. Meyer if the \$25,000 would be considered part of the City's commitment of \$300,000, as in-kind services or monetary funding, should it become necessary for the City to pay the \$25,000. Ms. Meyer replied, "absolutely." As the vote was called by Mayor Pro Tem Little, the motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk