

CALLED MEETING
August 20, 2015

The Hartwell City Council met in special called session on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell. Present were Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Bill Griggs, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, and Tony Haynie. Also present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, and Vivian Morgan of The Hartwell Sun. Absent from the meeting was Councilmember Billy Ethridge.

Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider a sign for South State Bank (formerly Bank of America), and to consider an application for a beer and wine license for High Cotton Music Hall.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve an application for a beer and wine license for High Cotton Music Hall. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Fire Chief/Building Official Terry Vickery explained that South State Bank had purchased the former Bank of America and had been trying to get approval of new signs for approximately two months. He stated that the City's Building Inspection Office could not issue a sign permit unless the application is first approved by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). He further stated that the HPC had given approval of the design of the signs, but refused to issue the required letter of approval due to HPC's request that the free-standing signs (one on Franklin Street and one on Howell Street) be limited to 40 square feet in area.

As discussion ensued, the Fire Chief stated that the City's current sign ordinance allowed free-standing signs to be 100 square feet in area by 25 feet in height. He also stated that South State Bank had submitted several sizes to the HPC, which met the ordinance regulations. As stated by the City Manager, Council created the sign ordinance and the HPC could not refuse what was allowed in the ordinance. Following considerable discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to allow Chief Vickery to issue the sign permits to South State Bank, which meet the City's ordinance guidelines (100 square feet or under by 25 feet in height), and to be issued without the letter of approval from the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

