

PUBLIC HEARING
November 4, 2013

A public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hartwell on Monday, November 4, 2013 in the council chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street. Members present were Mayor Jennifer Scott, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Tray Hicks, and Mike MacNabb. Others present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, and interested citizens.

Mayor Jennifer Scott called the public hearing to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and stated that this was the first public hearing to discuss the City's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget, with the second public hearing scheduled for December 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

City Manager David Aldrich reported that the proposed budget was a tight budget. He recommended that the tax millage rate remain the same at 11.3 mills. Also proposed in the budget is a 3% water/sewer rate increase, which is an Enterprise Fund. The budget also includes one new patrol vehicle for the Police Department and a backhoe for the Water/Sewer Department. A 2% cost of living salary increase is proposed for City employees. He further stated that no increases were included for those organizations receiving allocations from the City.

Mr. Gene Fraley of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) thanked Council for working with the DDA in reaching goals during the year, and asked Council for consideration of additional funding for the DDA in the coming year.

Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Bobbie Busha also acknowledged Council's support and contribution toward the Chamber's budget. She stated that most of the Chamber's events are break-even, with hopes of generating additional revenue by making the mega ramp a multi-use facility, which could allow for reinvestment in acquisition of more events for the community.

There being no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk