

PUBLIC HEARING
November 3, 2014

A Public Hearing was held by City of Hartwell Mayor and Council on November 3, 2014 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell. Present were Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Billy Ethridge, Tray Hicks, Bill Griggs, Arthur Craft, Tony Haynie and Mike MacNabb. Others present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, representative from The Hartwell Sun, and interested citizens.

Mayor Brandon Johnson called the public hearing to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and stated that this was the first public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2015 City budget.

As the City Manager presented an overview of the proposed budget, he stated that an increase of 3½ percent in general fund expenditures is expected for 2015. Two areas of major expenses include the \$81,000 payment on the Fire Department ladder truck, and the replacement of video cameras in police cars.

The proposed budget also includes a 3% salary increase for city employees. A 4% increase in water-sewer rates is also proposed for 2015, which is still significantly lower than surrounding areas.

The City Manager further explained that each department had given up something, without having to cut services.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Chairman Carey Jackson gave a summary of DDA activities, explaining that over 3,000 volunteer hours had been given to the city and community, while also raising approximately \$17,000 through activities and partnerships. He thanked the City for their support and asked for the City's direction and input for projects for the betterment of the community.

Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to have another budget work session one day during this week if possible. A final public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for December 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall prior to the regular council meeting.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned by a motion from Councilman Hicks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk