

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 2, 2015

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Billy Ethridge, Bill Griggs, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, and Tony Haynie. 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, February 2, 2015 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Following the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Mayor's Comments:

- Appreciation is extended from the Johnson Family for the acts of kindness shown during the recent passing of my grandfather, Mr. Paul Johnson. Glad to live in such a wonderful community and glad to be the Mayor of Hartwell.

Upon recommendation of the City Manager, item #14 (quotes for street resurfacing) was removed from the meeting agenda.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 5, 2015 regular council meeting and minutes of the January 8, 2015 called council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft to appoint Mr. Brooks Page as a member of the City of Hartwell Recreation Authority due to the resignation of Mr. Mike Stuckey. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman MacNabb, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Rita Smith to serve on the Hart County Library Board due to the resignation of Ms. Kaye Chafin. Ms. Chafin's unexpired term was to run from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. Councilman Griggs stated that Ms. Chafin had done an excellent job on the Library Board and felt that Rita Smith would do a great job as well.

Upon request of the Hart County Little League, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the Little League's Opening Day Parade to be held March 28, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to adopt an updated Resolution concerning an application for a Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) for the proposed Oakview Crossing development to be located at 1246 East Franklin Street, Hartwell. As explained by the City Manager, the City Council previously adopted a Resolution endorsing the project and authorizing the submittal of an application for a zero-interest loan in the amount of \$750,000.00 through Rural Development. The total project cost is estimated to be

approximately \$2M, and this updated Resolution authorizes the City Manager to submit an application of \$1,000,000 for a Rural Economic Development Loan as requested by the developer. Further, the City Manager reiterated that the loan would be from Rural Development and not the City. The City is only the tool needed to make the project happen.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to move forward with the expansion of gas service to the Joe Sanders farm on Bowersville Hwy. The gas expansion will serve approximately six poultry houses in 2015, with an additional six houses expected to be added in 2016 and six more in 2017.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the low bid of \$25,275 from Digital Ally for eight new video camera systems for the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. It was noted also that this was a budgeted item.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-01, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. The Ordinance provides customers the flexibility of paying their annual alcohol license fees in installments.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2015-02-02, providing for installment payments of annual alcohol license fees as authorized by Ordinance No. 2015-01. The Resolution provides for the amounts of such installments and the date by which each installment is due to be specified.

As discussion ensued regarding the Georgia General Assembly's proposed HB 14 Fiscal Accountability Act, Councilman Haynie stated that under this Bill, any government agency could not get federal grants without first having approval from the state. Likewise, the proposed HB 170 New Transportation Bill would do away with the present sales tax on a gallon of gasoline, which would become a part of the excise tax the state would receive. This would, however, allow counties to levy an excise tax on fuel up to three cents per gallon in an effort to recoup the lost sales tax, with an additional three cents per gallon in excise tax allowed by a referendum vote of the County. Councilman Haynie further encouraged everyone to contact the Governor, state representatives, and senators to voice opposition to these two Bills. Councilman Hicks moved to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to compose two separate letters to the Governor and state representative expressing the City's concern for HB 14 and HB 170. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

City Manager Comments:

- Application has been submitted for GEFA loan in reference to the Water Treatment Plant.

There being no further comments and no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

