

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 5, 2015

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2015 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia. Those present included Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Bill Griggs, Tony Haynie, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, and Billy Ethridge. Others present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Representatives of the Press/Media, and Interested Citizens.

Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich, the Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

### Mayor's Comments:

- Looking forward to a new year and everyone is asked to have a sense of urgency this year to get things done. Appreciation is extended to the Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Councilmembers, and City administrative staff for a productive year during 2014.
- Ms. Adelyn Harris has been reappointed to the Housing Authority Board.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 1, 2014 public hearing and the December 1, 2014 regular meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to appoint Ms. Tina Howard to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board to fill the position vacated by Mr. Terry Shugart. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to set the qualifying fee for potential candidates in the upcoming November election at 3% (\$72.00) in accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-131(a)(1)(A). Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

As requested by Finance Officer Joan Hughes, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to authorize the closing of the Building Fund Account with First Citizens Bank, as the account has been fulfilled with a \$0.00 balance.

Mayor Johnson reported that once again the City has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year ending December 2013, along with the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement presented to City Finance Director Joan Hughes. These awards are presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U. S. and Canada, representing the highest award in government financial reporting.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously to approve Resolution No. 01-05-2015, renewing participation in the Georgia Municipal Association's "Certified City of Ethics" Program.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously to approve an application for beer and wine license for Habib R. Chaudhry of Sunoco Food Mart located at 1475 Reed Creek Hwy.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously to surplus a 2005 Ford Ranger used in the Gas Department. As stated by the City Manager, the vehicle had been wrecked and also had mechanical problems.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2015-01 regarding alcohol license fees. As explained by the Mayor, the Ordinance would give flexibility in the payment of license fees by allowing installment payments from time to time at the discretion of council.

As Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2015-02 regarding Sunday sales of alcohol, Councilman Hicks moved to add to this meeting agenda the call for a special meeting to be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to have a special called meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall for the purpose of having a second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-02. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to approve a Membership and Pledge Agreement with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC) in support of Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (GPRI). As explained by the City Manager, the Georgia Public Service Commission encouraged participation in this program, which offers training to emergency responders to ensure proper communications as well as shared responsibilities in responding to pipeline incidents. This Agreement is for a 3-year period at an annual sum of \$1,200.00.

Mayor Johnson reported that the City had received a request for the Exxon Station on Reed Creek Hwy. to be annexed into the City. Councilman Hicks moved that the City Manager be instructed to move forward with this annexation request. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Referring to fatal accidents occurring over the past weekend, Councilman Hicks offered condolences to the families involved.

Ms. Mary Beth Focer voiced concerns over the City's interest in obtaining a lease for the operation of Hart State Park. She stated that operation of the park would need to be affordable to families with children. Mayor Johnson explained that a Master Plan for the park would be open to the public for discussions.

There being no further business, 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

