

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 2015

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2015 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia. Members present included Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Bill Griggs, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, Billy Ethridge, and Tony Haynie. Also present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Members of the Press/Media, and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Johnson who also gave the invocation. Following the invocation, the Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor's Comments:

- Recognized and welcomed to the meeting Bowman, Georgia Mayor Pete Gibbons.
- Events over the Memorial Day weekend went very well, and the American Legion Post 109 did a great job with their Memorial Day program.
- Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the annual Pre-4th event to be held June 26 and 27th. As Mayor and Council will be in attendance at the Georgia Municipal Association conference in Savannah during this time, the City Manager is asked to set up a work session for Mayor and Council while in Savannah for the primary purpose of discussing the Service Delivery Strategy.

There being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 4, 2015 council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

The City's annual audit report was presented by Mr. Christian Hatch of Williamson & Co. CPA's. In presenting the audit, Mr. Hatch reviewed points of interest regarding fund balances, stating that the City received a clean audit.

City Manager David Aldrich presented Mayor and Council with calculations regarding the City's property tax revaluations, which included necessary corrections made by the County Tax Assessors for years 2009, 2010, and 2011. In order to make the City's overall billable tax revenue neutral, he proposed the following tax millage rates be set for 2009, 2010, and 2011:

2009 – 10.15 millage rate – revaluated net digest totaling \$135,880,825

2010 – 10.08 millage rate – revaluated net digest totaling \$135,604,777

2011 – 11.68 millage rate – revaluated net digest totaling \$116,033,970

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept the proposed millage rates. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to ratify approval of an update of Police Department Juvenile Procedures. It was noted that the update to these procedures consisted of minimal language changes to reflect the recent adoption of federal guidelines by the state.

As Council discussed a quote received for a reuse pump at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant, the City Manager explained that this pump would be a backup pump should the existing pump fail. Following discussion, no action was taken, but a recommendation was received by Councilman Hicks to look at this issue again in three months.

In discussing quotes for the replacement or repair of the Highway 29 Lift Station Pump, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept a quote of \$13,702.85 from Xylem Water Solutions USA for a replacement pump. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. The quote for repair of the current pump was \$4,997.00.

As requested by Chief of Police Anthony Davis, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Hicks, and carried unanimously to declare six (6) listed vehicles as surplus to be sold on GovDeals.com, with the City Manager to take another look at the 2007 GMC Sierra, which has a fair market value of \$12,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept a quote from Stratton & Sons in the amount of \$115,156.00 for street resurfacing under the DOT's Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. Streets included for resurfacing are Race Street (1500'), West Franklin (700'), Winding Way (3000'), Patterson (1500'), and Cunningham Drive (1000'.)

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve a contract agreement with Classic City Mechanical, Inc. for services necessary to complete the installation of natural gas service pipeline on Elberton Highway at a cost of \$22,500.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs to approve the expansion of gas service lines to serve 6 poultry houses on Flatrock Road, 10 poultry houses on Bowman Hwy., and 8 poultry houses located on Landfill Road. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously to approve a Servicing Agreement with Small Business Access Partners (formerly Georgia Mountains Regional Economic Development Corporation) and a Loan Agreement and Security Agreement regarding a loan from the City's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. The loan amount of \$190,000 is approved for American Manufacturing, LLC, to be located in the former Ace Hardware building at 200 North Carolina Street, Hartwell.

As discussion ensued regarding the repair or replacement of the Street Department's 1996 Case backhoe, it was noted that estimates received by the Public Works Director for repair of the backhoe totaled \$17,000 - \$20,000. As explained by the City Manager, the City received a state contract bid from Flint Equipment Company for a new 2016 John Deere backhoe in the amount of \$96,992.33. It was the recommendation of the City Manager that the City purchase this backhoe through a lease-purchase agreement with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). He further stated that \$20,000 had been budgeted this year for equipment in Public Works, and the Public Works Director was willing to use those funds for the remainder of this year for payment toward a new backhoe, with money budgeted each year until the backhoe is paid in full. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to approve the purchase of the 2016 John Deere backhoe in the amount of \$96,992.33 through a lease-purchase agreement with GMA. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to continue again with employee evaluations each year and give the City Manager a directive to include employee evaluations in all personnel manuals. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously. The City Manager acknowledged that evaluations had already begun and this requirement would also be incorporated into the City's revised personnel policy.

City Manager Comments:

- Public Works Director Dennis White is currently in the hospital suffering with Pancreatitis.
- Hart County School Board has agreed to partner with the City regarding installation of sidewalks around schools, with the phased project to begin with sidewalks at the Middle School. Recommendations for other phases include sidewalks from Middle School to Franklin Street, from the High School to Hartwell Elementary, and then from Fairview Avenue to Fifth Street to Benson Street. It was also pointed out by Councilman Hicks that these sidewalks would be six feet wide vs. the normal four foot wide sidewalk, which will be a great path for kids and the school's running program, as well as the community's citizens.
- Open House will be held by the Hart County Board of Elections on Friday, June 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. located at 182 Cade Street, Suite C.

Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks reported that things continued to move forward regarding Hart State Park. Representatives of the Corps of Engineers will meet in Savannah the following week to discuss developmental concepts and general lease terms. Further, Councilman Hicks reported on the phenomenal start of summer activities in the community. He commended the 300-400 volunteers who helped to make these events successful, as well as all the businesses.
- Councilman MacNabb commended Gas Superintendent Audie Laviolette for receiving an award recently for the City of Hartwell having the fastest growing Gas Department in Northeast Georgia.
- As Councilman Craft asked about a traffic study regarding crosswalks, the City Manager replied that he had not yet received a reply from the engineering study.

There being no further comments or business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk

