

PUBLIC HEARING  
December 7, 2015

Upon being duly called and advertised, a public hearing was held by the City of Hartwell Mayor and Council on Monday, December 7, 2015 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia. Present included Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Tray Hicks, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Bill Griggs, Arthur Craft, and Mike MacNabb. Also present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Clerk Jean Turner, interested citizens, and representatives from the press/media.

Mayor Brandon Johnson called the public hearing to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and stated the purpose of the hearing was to consider the proposed 2016 budget for the City of Hartwell.

It was stated by Mayor Johnson that the original budget proposal included an increase in the tax millage rate. However, after looking at the proposed budget further, amendments were made in certain areas which included leaving the millage rate at the current rate of 11.3 mills. Also, the proposal for a couple of additional full-time employees has been changed to part-time employees. The budget still includes one additional full-time employee in the Fire Department and one additional person to be used in either the Water or Sewer Department. At a later time, personnel may be moved around in the Administrative Department, and a part-time Information Technology (IT) person may be utilized for website/social media assistance.

Councilman Hicks commented that he would like for Council to commit over the next few months to begin proper planning for the next year in an effort to accomplish things Council would like to see accomplished.

Mayor Johnson challenged all department heads, as well as each other, to work hard at trying not to see a bottom line spending increase next year, while still providing the needed services.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk