

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 6, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Tony Haynie, Mike MacNabb, Tray Hicks, Arthur Craft, Billy Ethridge, and Bill Griggs.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Members of the Press/Media, and Interested Citizens.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, February 6, 2017 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, GA. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Johnson. Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon recommendation of Mayor Johnson, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to amend the meeting agenda by removing item #11 (Oakview Crossing) from the agenda, and move item #12 (Cateechee Golf) to the end of the agenda for executive session discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

The Mayor stated that a called meeting was held by Council on Friday, February 3, 2017 to approve and sign necessary documents for the Oakview Crossing project.

As the Mayor asked Council to join him in making a presentation, he proceeded to recognize and present Councilman Tray Hicks with a Certificate of Distinction from the University of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association for satisfactorily completing the requirements for Certification of Distinction through the Harold Holtz Municipal Training Institute as of January 2017. Mayor Johnson stated that out of approximately 3100 elected city officials in the state, Councilman Hicks was one of only 95 elected officials to receive this distinction, which resulted from completion of 220 hours of training over his 12-year tenure as City Councilman.

Mayor Johnson introduced new Archway Professional Anna Strickland. Ms. Strickland thanked City Council for being so supportive of the Archway Program, stating that her goal was to represent the University of Georgia and bring resources back to help with community and economic development, and with the City's initiatives, moving forward.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 3, 2017 regular council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft to approve a request for the annual Hart County Little League parade on March 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., with the parade to travel from the Middle School along Fairview Avenue to Benson Street to the new Recreation Park off Hwy. 77. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and approved unanimously, 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept a request from the Downtown Development Authority for street closures as listed for the following 2017 events: Dancin' on Depot June 23, Mayor's Monster Mash October 31, Christmas Tree Lighting November 21, and possibly "First Saturday" events on May 6, June 3, and August 5<sup>th</sup>. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve temporary alcohol licenses for Hart Partners/CIS of Hartwell for a fundraiser for Hart Co. Imagination Library on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and for Hart Co. Community Theatre (HCCT) for a fundraiser for N. E. Georgia Council on Domestic Violence on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the HCCT. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs, seconded by Councilman Haynie, and carried unanimously to approve an Agreement with the Hart County Chamber of Commerce. The Agreement authorizes the allotment of portions of funds collected from hotel/motel tax to be expended to the Chamber for the purpose of promoting tourism in accordance with state law.

As discussion ensued regarding replacement or repair of influent pump drive number 1 at the waste water treatment plant, City Manager David Aldrich explained that one quote from Process Controls of Westminster, SC had been received in the amount of \$9,990.00 for upgrade of this drive, while another manufacturer of this unit, Cutler Hammer, could give a quote in the next couple of weeks. He further explained that two other pump drives are currently operational, which have also been replaced, but he preferred not to wait several more weeks for another quote to replace the inoperable drive due to delay time in getting something ordered. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to go ahead and accept the quote from Process Controls in the amount of \$9,990.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Councilman Hicks gave an update on negotiations with the Corps of Engineers for a lease regarding Hart State Park. He reported that a meeting was held with the Corps of Engineers at the beginning of January, with a representative of Congressman Doug Collins' office in attendance. Since that meeting, the City has received notification from Congressman Collins' Deputy Chief of Staff Joel Katz, stating that the City had the continued support from both Congressman Collins and Senator Johnny Isakson. Councilman Hicks further explained that the City wishes to make sure the Park will be able to be utilized to its full potential by receiving approval for a financeable lease from the Corps of Engineers. Councilman Hicks asked for Council's continued support for plans for the Park as negotiations with the Corps continues.

As discussion began concerning fund raising at busy intersections, Councilman Haynie stated that he had been approached by a number of people regarding the potential of someone getting hit at intersections while an organization has someone standing at the intersection to collect contributions from passers-by. The City Manager explained that this issue would come under "solicitation," and he was in the process of researching what regulations may be imposed, such as location, days and hours for solicitations. He further stated that he would try to have a draft of proposed regulations for Council to review in the next couple of weeks.

The City Manager gave a power point presentation of recent work accomplished throughout the city. Included in the presentation was the installation and operation of the new Kruger disk filter system at the waste water treatment facility, the Clover Street water main and gas main upgrade project, and the Athens Street sidewalk project.

Councilman Hicks stated that the City was still working with the Police Department on parade routes. He also stated that basically the City wanted to make sure that everyone knew there was a cost associated with holding parades; examples: the City having to close streets, or cleanup by the City when candy is thrown on the streets. However, a proposed parade policy may include some parades being grandfathered in, such as the annual Christmas Parade.

Councilman Griggs introduced Brazil native Isadora Orsini, past counselor at the Bell Family YMCA, and most recently completing her internship at Disney World in Florida. While on a return visit to Hartwell, Miss Orsini has been a guest at the home of Councilman Griggs and his wife.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the regular meeting into executive session for the purpose of discussing the potential sale of real estate. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Following conclusion of the executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn executive session and return into regular session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before Mayor and Council, Councilman Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk