

CITY OF HARTWELL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
January 4, 2016

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

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, January 4, 2016 in the council chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia. Immediately prior to the opening of the meeting, re-elected councilmembers Bill Griggs, Mike MacNabb, and Tony Haynie were sworn into office by City Manager David Aldrich.

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

A motion was made by Councilman MacNabb to approve the meeting agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Comments:

- Reappointing Mr. Bill Chafin as a board member of the Hartwell Housing Authority. Also, as a Councilmember on the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) Board, Mr. Chafin was named Councilmember of the Year by GMRC during their annual meeting/awards dinner held December 2, 2015.
- Police Department and city crews are commended for helping make the holidays safe during Christmas and New Year's.
- 2015 was a good year, and according to building permits being issued and other projects proposed, 2016 could prove to be one of the best years the city has had.
- Hart State Park update: Councilman Hicks reported that the city received two proposals in response to Request for Proposals for operation of Hart State Park, which will be evaluated by the city's consultant, Shawn Davis of Break Point Consulting. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will also be reviewing the application for possible lease of the Park by the city.
- Attention is given to the fact that citizen comments has been removed from this meeting agenda, but does not mean that citizens cannot discuss any particular item on the agenda.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 7, 2015 public hearing and regular meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Griggs, and carried unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Main Street Program.

As Councilman Tray Hicks volunteered to serve as a voting delegate for the Georgia Municipal Association Membership Business Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to appoint Councilman Hicks as the voting delegate. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried 5 to 0, with Councilman Hicks abstaining.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-06 regarding speed zones on city streets as recommended by the Georgia Department of Transportation, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-07 regarding barking or howling dogs, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. As Councilman Hicks asked for clarification on what citizens should do if filing complaints of barking or howling dogs, City Attorney Robert Leverett

explained that citizens should contact the Police Department with their complaint. He stated that the previous language, requiring a formal written complaint, had been removed from the Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to ratify the previous approval to accept the lowest quote from HD Supply in the amount of \$58,404.30 for materials for the downtown water line upgrade. As explained by the City Manager, two other quotes were received: one from Fortline in the amount of \$62,590, and one from Ferguson in the amount of \$65,700. The water line upgrade will be for the areas of Jackson, Howell, and Franklin Streets, and SPLOST funds will be used for the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve a request for the annual Little League Parade to be held April 2, 2016. As Mayor Johnson stated that this parade would be the same as in previous years, Councilman Hicks again commented that he would like to get some type policy in place this year regarding parade routes. Councilman Haynie also stated that ample notice should be given to parade planners regarding approved routes. The City Manager stated that he was already discussing this with the Police Department and would like to get some type proposal to Mayor and Council regarding parade guidelines.

As discussion ensued regarding the purchase of a boring machine, the City Manager stated that he had placed a call to Georgia Municipal Association regarding possible funding of the machine through GMA's Lease-Purchase Program. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept the low bid of \$163,712 from Ditch Witch for purchase of a boring machine, with possible funding from GMA's Lease-Purchase Program. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. It was also stated by the City Manager that this was a budgeted item.

#### City Manager Comments:

- Johnny Street project getting close to completion;
- Moving forward with downtown water main upgrade project;
- Approximately 30-35 new poultry houses will be coming on line, which is one of the reasons for purchase of boring machine.

#### Council Comments:

- Councilman Ethridge stated that the new boring machine would not only be used in the Gas Department, but also in the Water and Sewer Departments as well. He further explained that the Water, Sewer, and Street Departments continue to gradually upgrade the city's infrastructure, some being approximately 40 or 50 years old.
- Councilman Hicks stated that he was excited about positive growth happening in the city for 2016. He also commended the Downtown Development Authority for the recent "Girls and Guys Night Out" event in downtown Hartwell.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk

