

CITY OF HARTWELL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Tray Hicks, Billy Ethridge, Tony Haynie, Arthur Craft, Bill Griggs, and Mike MacNabb. Others present included City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, interested citizens, members of the Press/Media.

The Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 in the council chambers of city hall, 456 E. Howell Street. Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 5, 2016 Public Hearing, December 5, 2016 regular Meeting, the December 29, 2016 Public Hearing, and the December 29, 2016 called meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Mayor Johnson reported that once again the City had received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. He commended Finance Officer Joan Hughes and her department for accomplishing this achievement.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the Urban Redevelopment Plan for Oakview Crossing as submitted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. As reported by Mayor Johnson, a required public hearing was held on December 29, 2016 regarding the proposed Oakview Crossing project, with Mr. Billy Kidd presenting a detailed narrative on the proposed use of the project property.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve a request from the Hart County Branch NAACP for a Black History Parade to be held on February 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., with the caveat that the parade route be approved by the Chief of Police and City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. Upon further discussion, Councilman Hicks stated that the City needed to have pre-approved routes for such events as parades, runs, etc., with stated costs associated with each route, and event planners should participate in some of the cost. He commented that this upcoming parade would cost the citizens of Hartwell approximately \$2,000.00. Upon request of Councilman Hicks, the City Manager stated that he would try to have pre-approved routes and associated costs within the next 30 days for council's consideration. Councilman Craft also concurred with pre-approved routes, but not the cost, explaining that he did not want major highways blocked.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to maintain qualifying fees as in the past at 3% of the total gross salary of the office to be filled in the upcoming November Municipal General Election. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. Qualifying fee for Mayor will be \$144.00, and qualifying fee for Council position will be \$72.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to surplus a 2004 Ranger (VIN #1FTYR10U24PB51128) to be placed on the GovDeals website for auction. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. As Councilman Hicks questioned the condition of this vehicle, such as mileage, maintenance on vehicle, etc., the City Manager explained that once a new vehicle is purchased, normally the oldest vehicle in that department is taken out of service and auctioned on GovDeals. He further stated that he left it up to the discretion of department heads to determine what vehicle needs to be taken out of service and sold. Councilman Hicks stated that he would like to see a little more detail on a vehicle to be surplused rather than only the VIN number.

Mayor Johnson announced that an award presentation by the Georgia Public Library Association would be held January 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hart County Library.

City Manager Comments:

- Disc filters have been installed at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Locates have already been called in for Clover Street project. Materials have arrived and water-sewer bores should begin the following week.
- Pre-Construction conference to be held the following day on water treatment project. Crews are doing an excellent job.

Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks stated that he was excited about 2017, and wished to thank the Chamber for their involvement in the community. Chamber of Commerce breakfast is scheduled for Thursday morning, January 5th at Casa Grande Restaurant.
- Councilman MacNabb congratulated and offered appreciation to Finance Officer Joan Hughes and her staff for the great job they do.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk