

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF HARTWELL  
March 6, 2017

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

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, March 6, 2017 in the council chambers of Hartwell City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brandon Johnson who welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the invocation given by the Mayor, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 3, 2017 called meeting, February 6, 2017 regular meeting, and the February 16, 2017 called meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Members of the Hart County Support Group were introduced by Mr. Chuck Whelan. Speaking on behalf of the Support Group, Mr. Jim Martin stated the purpose of the group was to improve the quality of life and prosperity in Hart County. As he presented plans for the "Four Corners Beautification Project" at exit 177 off Interstate 85, he stated that financial contributions and gifts were needed. He explained that the proposed landscape project was very supportive by the Department of Transportation, Athens Technical College, Department of Corrections, as well as many others. As part of the Governor's program to train inmates for better jobs once they are no longer incarcerated, Arborist John Shearhouse explained that he would be training inmates from Whitworth Detention Center to assist in the project. Mr. Al Braxton also presented proposed plans for two lighted signs to be placed in the area, one from the north and one from the south.

Mayor and Council received an update of Chamber of Commerce activities. Upon request of the Chamber, a motion was made by Councilman MacNabb to approve the 10<sup>th</sup> annual 'Cars and Guitars' event on May 27<sup>th</sup> in downtown Hartwell, with street closures of Franklin from Carter to Jackson; Forest Avenue from Howell to Johnson; Carolina from Howell. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve the 2016 budget amendments as submitted.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve a request from Fire Chief Terry Vickery to declare as surplus a 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis (VIN #2MEFM74W11X603496). Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. Councilman Hicks commended the City Manager and Fire Chief for the inclusion of detailed information of the vehicle in the written request. It was also asked by Councilman Haynie that if it is later decided this vehicle could be used for another purpose, the issue would be brought back before Council. The City Manager agreed to see if the vehicle could be used by another department before placing on the GovDeals website for auction.

Mayor Johnson explained that the proposed parade policy included routes and costs associated with community events, such as parades, runs, etc. As listed in the proposed policy, no fee would be required for events sponsored or co-sponsored by the city. After a brief discussion, Councilman Hicks moved to table the issue until next month in order for Council to review the policy further. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie. Upon further discussion, Mr. Lonnie Robinson, representing the Hart County NAACP, stated that he would like clarity in order to understand what Council was asking, and to define "community event."

Councilman Hicks responded that all events could be considered community events, but because of ongoing costs associated with the events, Council felt they needed to put some type control in place. He further stated that the purpose of tabling action on this issue is to review further and work out details. As the vote was called, motion was carried unanimously to table discussion until the next meeting.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-01 regarding a road solicitation policy. As stated by the Mayor, the Ordinance places restrictions on organizations soliciting contributions from passers-by on public roadways. Referring to the proposed permit requirements stated in the Ordinance, Councilman Hicks felt that the permit application fee of \$100.00 should be reduced and asked the City Manager to evaluate. He also recommended the removal of the sentence, "The City Manager shall have the authority to waive or reduce the fees on a case-by-case basis." The second reading of the Ordinance will be considered by Council during the April regular meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to approve a request for alcohol license for Cateechee Golf.

#### City Manager's Report:

- The main on Clover Street has been installed and pressurized; will begin immediately tying customers onto new main once super chlorination is completed this week.
- Contractor is now mobilized at the Water Treatment Plant to begin upgrade of the plant.

#### Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks reported that positive news had been received regarding the City's efforts to acquire Hart State Park. A draft lease has been received from the Corps of Engineers, and the Corps has dropped the requirement that the City lease through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, with approval for the City to have a state form of lease. The Corps has also acknowledged that the City would put a hotel on the site at some time in the future. The City's consultant on the project has been working with the attorneys to finalize the lease, at no cost to the City by the consultant since last November. A major thanks is extended to Congressman Collins and his staff, along with Senator Isakson and his staff for working with the City on this endeavor.
- The annual Dancin' on Depot and Pre-4<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza will be coming up on June 23 and 24, and the Lake Hartwell Music Festival will take place on May 27<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the annual Cars & Guitars event.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

Following conclusion of the executive session and no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk

