

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 2, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Bill Griggs, Mike MacNabb, Tray Hicks, Billy Ethridge, Arthur Craft, and Tony Haynie. Others present included 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, May 2, 2016 in the council chambers of Hartwell City Hall. Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

### Mayor's Comments:

- Expressed thanks to gentlemen for the current work accomplished on Athens Street sidewalks. Work on sidewalks in the proximity of South State Bank and Townsend Law Office will begin this week by the contractor who worked on the water project.
- Upcoming events include the annual Cars & Guitars on May 28<sup>th</sup> around the town square, and the Lake Hartwell Music Festival at the Long Point Recreation site at the end of Old Hwy. 29 on Lake Hartwell.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 4, 2016 council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

As a couple of side notes, the Mayor reminded everyone of the "Party in the Park Dance-A-Thon" on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Hart County High School gym. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for the TORCH railroad street project. Mayor Johnson also stated that Mr. Tom Hardigree had been sharing on Facebook photos of old historic structures of the community. He referred to the photo of the current Market 50 building on the corner of Forest Avenue and Franklin Street that was shown on Facebook this date, stating that the structure looked very similar to the original building.

Mayor Johnson read and presented a Proclamation to Hartwell Historic Preservation Commission Chair Nancy Clark, proclaiming the month of May as Georgia Historic Preservation Month. Ms. Clark expressed appreciation to the Mayor, and issued an invitation to everyone to attend a community-wide program on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Arts Center, with artwork displays, paintings, and photographs by community members. Also featured will be information on Leila Ross Wilburn, a female architect in the early 1900's. Many of the Craftsman style homes in Hartwell were built using Ms. Wilburn's plans, in which Councilman Griggs lives in one of these homes today.

A Proclamation was also read by Mayor Johnson designating the week of May 15-21, 2016 as National Public Works Week as sponsored by the American Public Works Association. The Mayor expressed appreciation for the hard work of the City's Public Works Department.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Griggs, and carried unanimously to approve the application of the Downtown Development Authority for a temporary alcohol permit during the annual 'Dancin' on Depot' event June 24, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve the Operator Training and Qualification Records Retention Agreement with the Georgia Utility Training Academy (GUTA). Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously. As explained by the City Manager, this training academy was established in Monroe, Georgia to provide utility operators unlimited operator qualification training as required by the state. He further stated that the training could also be conducted in-house by GUTA, and the cost of training would be \$1,000.00 per employee per year. As required by the Public Service Commission, there are currently 86 covered tasks associated with natural gas in which the Gas Department operators are required to be tested and certified. Currently, there are eight (8) Gas Department personnel who are required to be certified on these tasks. Training records will also be maintained by GUTA and available to the Public Service Commission.

Following the second reading of Annexation Ordinance No. 2016-01, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. The Ordinance approves the annexation of property of C. William Kidd located at 523 Parkdale Drive, with a zoning classification as B-2, General Business District.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2016-02, designating certain areas in the city as Enterprise Zones, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance and to continue to work with the County on this issue. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. In answering Councilman Haynie's question regarding what process is required in the selection of an enterprise zone, the City Manager explained that there are five criteria established by the state, and an area to be designated as an enterprise zone must meet at least three of the five criteria. The City Attorney also stated that he felt Council should approve a separate Ordinance for each property designated as an enterprise zone.

Councilman Hicks moved that Council remand Tom Habel's application for rezoning back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further consideration and action, after the appropriate notice to all interested parties, including evidence by Attorney Walter Gordon to the City Council, and that the Planning and Zoning Commission make a recommendation back to City Council. Councilman Griggs stated that the issue failed due to the lack of a second to a motion during last month's council meeting. Councilman Hicks replied, "The motion I made during that meeting died for lack of a second; the motion I am making now is not the same as the motion I made then." Hearing no second to this new motion by Councilman Hicks, motion died due to lack of a second. As Mayor Johnson stated that Council had not approved or disapproved the rezoning request, a motion was then made by Councilman Craft to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny the rezoning request. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Hicks opposing.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept a quote from Xylem Water Solutions in the amount of \$12,934.67 for repair of sewer plant influent pump. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to appoint City Manager David Aldrich as Voting Delegate, and Gas Superintendent Audie Laviolette as Alternate Delegate for the annual membership meeting of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Griggs, and carried unanimously to appoint Councilman Tray Hicks as Voting Delegate for the annual Georgia Municipal Association Membership Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to approve the following proposed slate of officers for Georgia Municipal Association District 2 for 2016-2017:

President: Danny Dunagan, Mayor, Gainesville  
First Vice President: James Grogan, Mayor, Dawsonville  
Second Vice President: Michael Clemons, Councilmember, Dahlonega  
Third Vice President: Buddy Moore, Councilmember, Blairsville

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept the low bid of \$111,066.00 from Souder's Asphalt for street resurfacing as part of the Department of Transportation's Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. Streets approved for the resurfacing include Smith, Fifth, N. Jackson, N. Webb, N. Carter, Opal, Carolina, and N. Forest Avenue.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve Police Department Policies and Procedures as submitted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman MacNabb to accept the low quote of \$22,050.00 from Souder's Asphalt for paving the Gas Department parking lot. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. It was noted that payment for the paving would come from Gas Department funds.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to untable discussion regarding Resolution #2016-04-02, establishing a policy concerning demolition of dilapidated structures. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously. As the City Attorney gave an overview of the policy concerning demolition of dilapidated structures, he explained provisions that had been corrected, added, or removed from the Resolution due to concerns of Council. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve Resolution No. 2016-04-02, establishing a policy concerning the selection of dilapidated structures for demolition. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Griggs, and carried unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Archway Program.

Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks encouraged everyone to attend upcoming community events, which included:
  - The “First Saturday” summer event will begin this coming weekend at the Swamp Guinea Restaurant, with music provided by Mr. Clay Page;
  - On May 6, 7, & 8 the “Anything Goes” musical will be held at the Hart County Community Theatre;
  - A Garden Party will be held Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Adult Learning Center;
  - “Lake Hartwell Music Festival” will be held May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Long Point Recreation area at the end of old Hwy. 29. All proceeds will go to HYDRA to help support the many valuable programs offered to youth within the community.
  
- Councilman Haynie also reminded everyone that the “Challenge of the Centuries” 2-day bike ride would be held during the Memorial Day weekend, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Hartwell.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk