

Regular Council Meeting  
May 1, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, May 1, 2017 in the council chambers of city hall. Present were Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Billy Ethridge, Tray Hicks, Mike MacNabb, Tony Haynie, Bill Griggs, and Arthur Craft. Others present included City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Members of the Press/Media, and interested citizens.

Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting 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 United States Flag.

Mayor Johnson extended condolence to the families of Mr. Brent Tew in the loss of his wife, Karen, and Mr. James Harbin in the loss of his mother, Annie Mae Harbin.

No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of the April 3, 2017 regular council meeting; however, a correction was made to the minutes of the called meeting held on April 20, 2017 to reflect that the vote taken was 5 to 0, not 6 to 0, as Councilman Arthur Craft was absent from this meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Haynie to accept the minutes of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and also the minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> called meeting, with correction as noted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

A Proclamation was read by the Mayor, proclaiming the month of May as Historic Preservation Month. Hartwell Historic Preservation Chair Nancy Clark expressed appreciation to Mayor and Council for their support in helping to preserve some of the City's historic sites. Ms. Clark also stated that treasures from historic sites in the community, including architectural elements from the former Candler-Linder House, etc. would be for sale on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Art Center on East Howell Street from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., and everyone was invited.

Mayor Johnson also read a Proclamation to proclaim the week of May 7 – 13, 2017 as Municipal Clerks Week, and extending appreciation to City Clerk Jean Turner and all Municipal Clerks for services they perform.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-01 regarding solicitations on city streets, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. The Ordinance prohibits persons from soliciting on state rights-of-way, and also requires eligible persons or organizations to first obtain a permit and pay the required fee prior to permit approval by the Chief of Police.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Craft, and carried unanimously to approve an application from the Hartwell Downtown Development Authority for a temporary permit for alcohol license for the First Saturday Music Event to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 on Depot Street, between Carolina Street and Forest Avenue.

Following discussion regarding the City's new logo and securing control of the trademark, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept representation by the Firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in connection with general trademark matters, with a cap of \$3,000.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman MacNabb, and carried unanimously to accept the nominations for the following Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) District 2 officers for 2017-2018:

President	James Grogan, Mayor, Dawsonville
First Vice President	Michael Clemons, Councilmember, Dahlonega
Second Vice President	Buddy Moore, Councilmember, Blairsville
Third Vice President	Brandon Johnson, Mayor, Hartwell

A motion was made by Councilman Craft to accept the quote from Souder's Asphalt in the amount of \$194,546.50 for resurfacing of Randall Street, Fifth Street, and North Forest Avenue, as part of DOT's Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried 5 to 0, with Councilman Hicks abstaining. As reported by the City Manager, the DOT will also begin resurfacing Highway 29 through the city, past Home Depot, possibly by late summer. Mayor Johnson commented that disruptions would occur during this resurfacing, but once complete, it would be nice.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Griggs to accept the quote from Jefferson Motor Co. for two ½-ton trucks in the amount of \$21,322.64 each for the Sanitation Department and Wastewater Department, and one ¾-ton truck in the amount of \$26,087.28 for the Water Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously, 6 to 0. As requested by Councilman Hicks during last month's meeting, the City Manager reported that he had received two quotes for repairing a 2004 Ford Ranger, while also checking the truck value on Kelly Bluebook, and found it would not be cost effective to repair. He

further stated that this vehicle and others needing to be taken out of service will be placed on the GovDeals website for auction. Councilman Hicks stated that the City Manager was looking into software to help the city in keeping up with condition and maintenance of vehicles.

Upon recommendation of Public Works Director Dennis White, a motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept the proposal from Monumental Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$8,500.00 for preventative maintenance of sewer pumps. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of the amended Sign Ordinance (Ord. #2017-02). Mayor Johnson stated that the Ordinance would probably be tweaked a little prior to the second reading and final approval, and would also be made available to the public. He further stated that the amended Ordinance would be much easier to enforce and the downtown area would look cleaner.

As discussion ensued regarding placing alcohol Sunday sales on the November election ballot, Mayor Johnson stated that the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority continued to ask Council to conduct a referendum on the sale of alcohol in restaurants on Sunday. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to move forward and meet all legal deadlines to have alcohol pouring on Sundays on the ballot in November. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

#### City Manager Report:

- Beginning in a month or so, Council packets should contain a vehicle maintenance report from each department.
- Water tank on Carter Street is being drained this date and inspected as part of routine maintenance of the tank.
- Wastewater Plant reuse pump has been installed and operating. Lightning damage has caused some problems at the plant this month and prices for repair are being obtained to forward to insurance company.
- Cuts being made on North Forest Avenue to try to get services across the road prior to resurfacing of the street.
- Last run is being made on bulk leaf pickups, which will resume in October. Leaves and grass clippings will continue to be picked up if they are bagged and placed at the curb.

Mayor Johnson apologized for any inconvenience caused by the recent “boil water advisory” issued on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He explained that the City had asked the state more than once about issuing a boil water advisory due to work going on at the water plant, and was told it was not necessary. However, on Thursday before Easter weekend, the state notified the city that the notice would need to be issued. This caused the notice to be issued on the City’s website and radio, and not by the most effective way, which would be newspaper or mailings. Lab results of water produced during the boil water advisory indicated the water was safe for human consumption.

Councilman Tray Hicks reported that the DDA had volunteered to improve the looks of Constitution Alley, next to Bailes-Cobb Company. Citizens are asked to visit the alley and take a look at the improvements. He further reported that upcoming events included the “Cars & Guitars” event around the town square, as well as the “Lake Hartwell Music Festival” at the Longpoint Recreation Area on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Hicks also expressed his dissatisfaction of Council having to hold a called meeting regarding health insurance for city employees. He stated that Council had about three weeks to make a decision on something he felt was more important than only a 3-week timeframe, and he would like to have seen more data regarding insurance coverage.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk