

CITY OF HARTWELL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 2, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Billy Ethridge, Mike MacNabb, Tray Hicks, Bill Griggs, Arthur Craft, and Tony Haynie. Others present were City Manager David Aldrich, Assistant City Manager Jon Herschell, 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, October 2, 2017 in the council chambers of city hall. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brandon Johnson. Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Upon request of Mayor Johnson, a motion was made by Councilman Craft to add to the agenda as item #15 a request from Trinity Outreach Baptist Church for their annual Festival of Praise to be held on October 21st on Rome Street, and also the addition of a request for the Hart County High School Homecoming Parade as agenda item #16. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Mayor Comments:

- A “Bikes, BBQ & Blues” fundraiser event will be held October 7th on Depot Street to help raise funds for the Northeast Georgia Council on Domestic Violence.
- A “Tiny House” demonstration will be held on Friday, October 6, in the Hart Telephone Co. parking lot beginning at 11:00 a.m. Purpose of the demonstration is to understand the need and restrictions regarding the growing popularity of the tiny houses.
- Upon being contacted by Representative Alan Powell, Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner visited the city recently to meet with city officials to discuss issues regarding traffic concerns. A 20-year study is being planned by the DOT regarding all traffic issues. A traffic study by the DOT was requested by the city last year, but due to DOT’s lack of funding, the study was side-lined.

Mayor Johnson stated that Councilman Haynie had been asked to present actual numbers regarding the impact of approving or not approving the proposed 1% Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) on the upcoming November election ballot. Councilman Haynie stated that the city currently receives approximately \$400,000 from SPLOST funds, used primarily for infrastructure projects such as water/sewer lines, etc., with only about 30% of the City’s operating revenue coming from ad valorem (property) taxes. As he continued to explain the math showing the potential effect on city residents should SPLOST fail to pass, he discussed the probability of an increase in the City’s millage rate just to break even. The City Manager also presented examples of infrastructure project improvements completed in the city, using SPLOST funds. Mayor Johnson encouraged everyone to just make an educated decision whether or not they are for or against the 1% SPLOST.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the September council meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Haynie to approve as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Griggs, and carried unanimously to approve a parade request by Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church for Sunday, December 10th.

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs to approve the request of Nancy Hart Foundation (Service League) for a temporary alcohol permit. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-03, annexing property of Roy Alton Wilkins containing approximately 3.73 acres on Rome Street, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge, seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously to adopt the following Non-Criminal Justice Policies for the Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures:

- Disciplinary Policy
- Man-Made/Natural Disaster Policy
- Media Protection Policy
- Denial of Alcohol License Due to Background Check Policy

In considering quotes for a 33 HP tractor and 6-ft. pulverizer for the Gas Department, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the lowest quote from Oakway Tractor in the amount of \$16,650.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. The tractor will be used to clean up yards along state highways and county roads where gas lines have been installed.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks, seconded by Councilman Ethridge, and carried unanimously to approve a water treatment plant change order in the amount of \$9,585.05. The change order relates to the demolition of 36 additional concrete piers in the four filter basins. Old 1963 drawings showed only 9 piers per basin, but upon emptying filter basin #4, a total of 18 piers were found instead of 9.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to set the following dates for budget public hearings to be held in the council chambers of city hall:

Monday, November 6, 2017 at 12:00 noon

Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to table discussion regarding golf carts until the next council meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried 5 to 1, with Councilman Griggs opposing. Councilman Griggs requested that the Chief of Police receive more information from other cities concerning the use of golf carts on city streets.

In discussing the need for a motor grader for use in cleaning ditches and putting in water/sewer lines, Councilman Ethridge reported that while traveling to Florida he had located a used motor grader at a cost of \$14,000. He stated that he had checked out the machine but would like to take the Public Works Director, along with a city employee who would be operating the machine, to inspect and try

out the machine. Upon recommendation of Councilman Ethridge, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the expenditure of \$14,000 from Street Department funds for purchase of the motor grader, contingent upon inspection of the equipment. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Officer, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to accept the proposal from Pinnacle Bank for the City's banking services. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously to approve the request from Trinity Outreach Baptist Church for their annual Festival of Praise to be held on Rome Street on October 21st from 1 to 5 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Craft, seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously to approve the request for the Hart County High School Homecoming Parade, with the assistance of two police officers, one in front of the parade and one at the back of the parade.

City Manager Comments:

- Striping of city streets will begin tomorrow, October 3rd, using the 70/30 percent matching grant funds from the Department of Transportation, with the DOT funding \$29,855 and the City's share totaling \$12,795.00.
- Video was shown by City Manager of project completions funded by SPLOST, as well as ongoing city projects.
- Very proud of city crews for doing an outstanding job of cleanup after the Hurricane Irma storm. Extra chipper was rented, with two crews working overtime and weekends.

Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks encouraged everyone to vote either for or against Sunday sales of alcohol. He also gave an update of Hart State Park, stating that sub-leases are continuing to be worked on.
- Councilman Haynie reiterated the City Manager's comments regarding the outstanding cleanup efforts of city employees following the recent storm.
- Councilman Griggs reminded everyone that the City will begin enforcing the new sign ordinance the following day.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk