

Regular Council Meeting  
September 6, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Arthur Craft, Bill Griggs, Mike MacNabb, Billy Ethridge, Tray Hicks, 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 Hartwell City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 in the council chambers of Hartwell City Hall. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Following the invocation given by City Manager David Aldrich, the Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Johnson announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission grant in the amount of \$150,000 had been awarded for phase I of the Railroad Street Project. The Mayor stated that City personnel would soon commence with some infrastructure work on the project.

A Proclamation was read by Mayor Johnson, proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A candlelight prayer vigil will be held in Hart County this year, with further details forthcoming.

Councilman Hicks moved that two items be added to the meeting agenda, which included discussion regarding a car for the City Manager, and a Hart County High School Homecoming Court parade route discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

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

The Mayor announced that a Christian Music Festival would be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., sponsored by The Knights of Columbus Council 9915 & Assembly 3307. Traffic control for this event will be provided by the Hartwell Police Department.

It was also announced by the Mayor that the annual Life Chain sponsored by Hart Life Pregnancy Center will be held on the sidewalk in front of Pinnacle Bank on E. Franklin Street from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2016-03, establishing Leard Street as an Enterprise Zone, and Ordinance No. 2016-04, establishing Gordon Street as an Enterprise Zone, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve both Ordinances. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-05, establishing the Liberty Circle area as an Enterprise Zone.

A motion was made by Councilman Haynie, seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously to adopt a Resolution, approving the Amended & Restated Gas Supply Contract with Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia.

A motion was made by Councilman Ethridge to accept the quote from Xylem Water Solutions in the amount of \$12,886.10 for repair of the Hodges Mill Pump. Motion was seconded by Councilman Griggs and carried unanimously. It was noted that the quote from Xylem for replacement of the pump was \$47,355.00.

As discussion ensued regarding purchasing a new car for use by the City Manager, Councilman Craft moved to go ahead and purchase a 2017 Chevrolet Impala in the amount of \$21,627.60. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie. Councilman Hicks stated that he felt this was a little premature due to having quotes for several different makes of vehicles and not quotes for the same type vehicle. He preferred that the City receive quotes on the same type vehicle, while looking at fuel economy, warranty, and preferably American-made. Upon further discussion, the motion and second were rescinded by Councilmembers Craft and Haynie. The City Manager stated that he would get other quotes for the same type vehicle such as the Impala or like size, and bring back before Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve a parade route around the high school and middle school campuses for the Hart County High School Homecoming Court on September 22, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously. The parade will conclude with a community-wide pep rally in the Hart County High School stadium.

#### City Manager Comments:

- Citizens are again asked not to blow lawn clippings or leaves into the streets, which causes a hazard to drainage and traffic. He asked that residents please put clippings or leaves between the street and sidewalk or behind the sidewalk, and not on the sidewalk.
- Only one campaign sign is allowed on a piece of property, with signs in a residential zone allowed to be only 4 sq. feet, and other zones allowing signs up to 32 sq. feet. Campaign signs are required to be removed from the property within three days after an election.
- Five streets have been resurfaced this year under the DOT's Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. Anyone having a street to be considered for resurfacing under the LMIG program for next year should let the City Manager know.
- Water main has been installed on Sanders Street. Also upgraded on this street was the gas bare steel line, and replacement of 3 out of 4 fire hydrants.

#### Council Comments:

- Councilman Hicks gave an update on Hart State Park, reporting that he, the City Manager, and legal consultant, met with the commissioner, assistant commissioner, and legal counsel

for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during the past month. Will be going before the DNR Board of Directors this month and should have a contract possibly in November. Councilman Hicks also stated that although lots of publicity on police brutality had been viewed recently around the country, he was very supportive of the Hartwell Police Department. In reviewing the monthly report issued by the Hartwell PD, the following year-to-date numbers were shown:

- 1,591 people were pulled over in the city
- Of these 1,591, 1,086 received a warning ticket, 78 had no action taken, and 427 had actually been given written tickets. Feel the City has a very compassionate Police Department who are to be commended for these accomplishments.

Mayor Johnson stated that it had been brought to his attention by some residents that there needs to be attention given to young children playing along the streets and speeding traffic. As several areas are having a continual problem, citizens are asked to please watch their children playing near the street or riding bikes, and watch your speed, as speeders will be ticketed. Councilman Hicks stated that some cities are allowing rubber speed humps, with neighborhoods deciding on the installation of the speed humps and everyone on a street agreeing to help with the cost.

- Councilman MacNabb apologized to the Chamber of Commerce, citizens, and businesses, for misleading them in telling them that Sunday Sales of alcohol would be on the November ballot. Councilman Griggs agreed with Councilman MacNabb, stating that he, too, had told many people that it would be on the ballot; however, three members of council did not want to put the issue on the November ballot.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn into executive session at approximately 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the possibility of leasing a parcel of property, and to discuss the possibility of acquiring a parcel of property. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of the executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to come out of executive session and reenter regular session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner  
City Clerk