

Regular Council Meeting

February 1, 2021

Present: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Stephen “Doc” Ayers, Arthur Craft, Tony Haynie, Mike MacNabb, Patrick Guarnella and Tray Hicks.

Others Present: City Manager Jon Herschell, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Economic/Community Development Director Jason Ford, City Clerk Janet Fleming (virtual), Representatives of the Press and interested citizens.

The Regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday February 1, 2021 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order at 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.

Mayor’s Comments:

The Mayor requested to amend the Agenda by adding

- * Nathan Buffington, Manager of Hartwell Lakeside for an update
- * Lake Hartwell Music Festival May 29, 2021
- * Library Board Appointment – Gail Cross
- * City Map Discussion

A motion was made by Councilman MacNabb to approve the changes to the Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously 6-0.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Ayers to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously 6-0.

Mr. Nathan Buffington, Manager of Hartwell Lakeside gave an informative update of the accomplishments and plans of the park.

The Habitat for Humanity Bike Run will be held on Saturday February 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Councilman Hicks made a motion to support this event. Motion was seconded by Councilman Guarnella and carried unanimously 6-0.

Mayor Johnson announced that Gail Cross has been appointed to the Library Board. The appointment was approved unanimously with a motion being made by Councilman MacNabb and second by Councilman Craft. 6-0

An official map of the City Hartwell was approved, contingent upon County’s approval, with motion being made by Councilman Hicks and second by Councilman MacNabb. Motion carried unanimously 6-0. Councilman MacNabb stated that after this is done, he would “like to have the map posted in City Hall”.

Jason Ford, Economic/Community Development Director, gave an update of the progress of the City of Hartwell Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Hicks made a motion to approve the request for the annual Cars and Guitars Festival to be held on May 29, 2021. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously 6-0.

The Historical Preservation Grant Resolution met with unanimous approval with a motion being made by Councilman Hicks and second by Councilman Ayers 6-0.

Councilman Guarnella made a motion to ratify the Gas Department Trencher purchase in the amount of \$119,600 and to include an extended warranty purchase as needed 6-0.

The Council heard the First Reading of the Open Container District Ordinance. As a discussion ensued, Councilman Haynie stated that he could not support this ordinance. Councilman Guarnella also stated he could not support it. Councilman Hicks spoke in favor of the ordinance. Councilman Ayers suggested that Police Chief Davis obtain input from other cities that allow open container districts. Also, it was suggested to find out how many businesses are interested in the change.

A Tablet discussion took place with Council members stating their thoughts and opinions of the agenda and other communications going digital vs the paper Council packets that are distributed each month for the City Council meeting.

Council Comments:

Councilman Hicks: Everyone continue accomplishing Social Distancing and wearing a mask Also reminded everyone about safety in crosswalks and safety for pedestrians.

Councilman Guarnella: Asked about the repayment of the sidewalk by Chicago Steakhouse since it is under new ownership. Attorney Leverett stated the repayment of \$400. per month for 100 months.

Councilman Haynie: Thanked everyone for wearing a mask. That is the best way to stop COVID-19.

Councilman Craft: Also agreed with Councilman Haynie.

City Manager Comments:

City Manager stated he is extremely impressed with the staff and how they handle situations that occur. The compassion and care that they show for each other is amazing and he appreciates them very much.

There being no further comments or business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fleming

City Clerk