

Regular Council Meeting

March 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, City Clerk Janet Fleming (virtual), Representatives of the Press and interested citizens.

The Regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday March 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:

Mayor Johnson made a request to make changes to the Agenda to Add:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Lighting
- Zoning Map Ready for Mayor’s signature
- Curb Parking Downtown

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 February 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Ayers to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Guarnella and carried unanimously 6-0.

Mr. Jerry McHan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke of future events planned by the Chamber:

The annual Cars & Guitars is planned for Memorial Day weekend.

A new executive director for the Chamber is planned to be announced on Wednesday of this week.

Mr. McHan requested permission from the Mayor and Council for the Pre-Fourth Fireworks to be held at Hartwell Lakeside Park in June. A motion was made by Councilman Guarnella and second by Councilman Hicks to grant permission for the Pre-Fourth Fireworks to be held at Hartwell Lakeside Park. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Peggy Vickery, Main Street Coordinator, reported that the DDA has obtained a quote in the amount of \$6,689. for 62 pole lights for year-round lighting in the downtown area and includes the Depot Building lights. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the expenditure of the downtown lighting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ayers and carried unanimously 6-0.

The updated zoning map was signed by Mayor Johnson. The map was approved by the Council at the February City Council meeting. The map was also confirmed by the county.

The Council discussed the problem of large vehicles “jumping the curb” in the boxed parking placed downtown. Councilman Hicks made a suggestion to remove the concrete between the street and sidewalk to allow more room for parking. It was also suggested that larger vehicles could park around the corner on side streets.

A special parking spot for Wounded Veterans was approved to be installed in the MLK Parking lot with a motion being made by Councilman MacNabb and second by Councilman Craft Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Councilman Hicks made a motion to approve a Zoning request for two parcels at 72 East Franklin Street to be rezoned from R-1 & B-1 to B-2, for a Popeye's Restaurant. Motion was seconded by Councilman MacNabb and carried unanimously 6-0.

Councilman MacNabb made a motion to approve rezoning of a parcel at 296 North Forest Ave. from R-1 to R-2 Multifamily. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously 6-0. The purchaser of the property plans to build 3 duplexes.

Mayor Johnson announced the appointment of Tina Howard to the Hartwell Planning and Zoning Board. The Council gave unanimous approval of this appointment 6-0 with a motion being made by Councilman Haynie and second by Councilman Guarnella.

Councilman Hicks made a motion to adopt the 2021 City of Hartwell Compensation Plan. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie and carried unanimously 6-0.

A request by the Gas Department to replace a regulator station on SR172/Bowman Highway was approved with a motion being made by Councilman Hicks and second by Councilman MacNabb to approve the request in the amount of up to \$41,600 by Southeastern Gas Engineering. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Councilman Hicks made a motion to table the Open Container district Ordinance indefinitely. Motion was seconded by Councilman Guarnella. Motion carried unanimously 6-0. Councilman Haynie stated that he would continue to oppose this ordinance if it was brought back before the Mayor and Council. Councilman MacNabb agreed.

Councilman Haynie made a motion to approve the concept of a Management Agreement for Hartwell Campground, LLC, to operate an additional 63 acres of Hartwell Lakeside in exchange for the continued maintenance of the property. Motion was seconded by Councilman Craft and carried unanimously 6-0.

Council Comments:

Councilman Ayers congratulated the Hart County High School boys' basketball team for playing in the finals.

City Managers Comments:

City Manager Jon Herschell gave an update on the City's new Website. www.hartwellga.gov

There being no further comments or business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fleming
City Clerk