

Regular Council Meeting

March 4, 2024

Present: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Council members Zach Adams, Richard Sheller, Mike MacNabb, Patrick Guarnella and Tray Hicks. Councilman Leard was absent due to work related engagement out of town. Others Present: City Manager Jon Herschell, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Zoning/Economic Development Director Jason Ford, Representatives of the Press and interested citizens.

The Regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday March 4, 2024 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Johnson, everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Hearing no corrections to the February 2024 Regular Council Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman McNabb and carried unanimously 5-0. The Mayor requested the Council to consider moving the regular scheduled April Council meeting to Monday April 8th. Councilman McNabb made a motion and was seconded by Councilman Scheller. The motion passed 5-0.

The Mayor then asked the Council to consider amending the Cateechee Spray Agreement to reflect the new owners. Councilman Hicks made a motion and Councilman Guarnella seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Mayor then requested the Council move to accepting the approval of Cateechee's new owners alcohol license. City Manager Jon Herschell confirmed that there were no issues with application. A motion was made by councilman Hicks and seconded by councilman McNabb. The motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor asked the council to consider the purchase of a dump truck for the gas department. Councilman McNabb stated the gas department needed this truck to keep the department from using backhoes to haul material and gravel for new services. McNabb made a motion to approve and councilman Hicks seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was the annexation and zoning case 2023-08. Jason Ford presented information regarding the case which included maps, the city and county comprehensive plan, and surrounding zoning of the area. Mr. Ford also disputed claims from the county that the annexation would create an island by showing a close up the proposed parcel and surrounding unincorporated county boundaries. After some discussion amongst the council regarding the merits of the case councilman Hicks made a motion to accept the annexation and zone R-1 with conditions recommend by the staff. Councilman Guarnella seconded and the motion passed 4-1 with councilman Sheller voting nay.

The mayor requested the council consider adopting the 2nd reading of an Urban Camping Ordinance. Assistant Police Chief Stan Sayer explained this ordinance would help the police usher any homeless persons from areas that may disrupt commerce and help them receive proper assistance. A motion was made by councilman Hicks and McNabb seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Herschell
City Manager