**Regular Council Meeting**

**October 2nd, 2023**

Present: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Council members Stephen “Doc” Ayers, Dan Leard, Tony Haynie, Mike MacNabb, Patrick Guarnella and Tray Hicks.

Others Present: City Manager Jon Herschell, City Attorney Robert Leverett, Representatives of the Press and interested citizens.

 The Regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Monday October 2nd, 2023 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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.

Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes of the October 2023 Regular Council Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Leard to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilman McNabb and carried unanimously 6-0.

City Manager Jon Herschell requested the Mayor and Council consider approving the resolution and application for Georgia Exceptional MainStreet Program. Herschell explained that the Georgia MainStreet program has 3 tiers and Hartwell’s program was in tier 2. Herschell continued to explain that Hartwell Main Street program had just been recognized as the Downtown of Year and already met the requirements of the GEMP designation. A motion was made by Councilman Hicks and a 2nd was made by councilman Leard. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Johnson initiated the 1st reading of the FY 2024 budget. The budget called for a roll back of the millage rate to 8.708. All employees would receive a 5.25% raise. Capital purchases included a new trash truck, payment of the new fire station, sewer plant, and water treatment plant. The Mayor encouraged members of the public for questions or feedback. City Manager Herschell fielded a few questions and Mayor Johnson concluded the discussion by calling a special meeting in the coming days to finalize the budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Herschell

City Manager

**Special Called Council Meeting**

**October 13th, 2023**

Present: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Council members Stephen “Doc” Ayers, Dan Leard (phone), Tony Haynie (phone), Mike MacNabb, Patrick Guarnella and Tray Hicks.

Others Present: City Manager Jon Herschell, Jason Ford Economic and Community Development Director

The special called meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held Friday October 13th, 2023 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 456 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia**.**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order for the 2nd reading of the FY 2024 budget. There was discussion with City Manager Jon Herschell about the millage rate rollback, city employee raises, capital expenditures, health insurance, and utility rates. The budget included an outside city limit rate increase for water customers, an increase in natural gas gate fee for industrial users, and an increase rate for solid waste. City employees would receive a 5.25% increase in pay. Councilman Tony Haynie made a motion to pass the budget, Councilman Guarnella made a 2nd. The budget passed 6-0.

Respectfully,

City Manager

Jon Herschell