

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2017
MINUTES**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Shan Ash at 7:02 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Edward Young, and Nan Bowen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the August 7, 2017 City Council Meeting.

OCCUPATIONAL TAX LICENSE FEE 2017-10 – FIRST CONSIDERATION

History of discussion from June 10, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Occupational taxes are intended to raise revenues to support police, fire, and streets. The city has not increased the occupational tax since its adoption in 1995.

The city is allowed, by law and through our ordinance, to collect an administration fee. The clerk is proposing an annual \$10 admin fee to cover the following:

SAVE Fees (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements)	\$0.50
Supplies and postage	\$1.50
Admin Time	\$3.00
Software support	\$5.00

Under code 12-90 13(c) the city can require rental property owners to obtain a permit. The owners must have more than five residential units for rent and conduct work on site, such as rental and/or maintenance facility. Whitehall is complying with this requirement and the city will need to inform the other property owners.

The fee schedule is a \$110.00 base fee (includes admin fee). If a business states they have one employee, the rate is \$110.00.

The rate schedule will continue with \$25.00 per full-time employee up to 20. 21-50 at \$15.00 and each additional employee over 50 will be assessed at \$10.00.

The biggest impact will be on those employers that have over 20 employees. This is not an attempt to penalize or discourage employment, but reality is the city uses more resources at businesses with a heavy workforce and patronage.

There was no new discussion of the occupational tax increase.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Edward Young and Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to accept the first consideration of 2017-10 Occupational Tax License Fee to increase fees and to collect an administration fee.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

Grant Keene, City Attorney, requested to attend the city/county attorney's conference in Athens. The fee is \$300.00.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class request for City Attorney Grant Keene to attend the 64th Annual Institute for City and County Attorneys.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, gave the department statistics for July 2017.

The department responded to 86 calls – 51 city calls and 35 automatic aid calls in the county in which 8 of those calls were outside the automatic aid area.

Chief Pruitt informed fire department personnel has completed the Narcan training and the substance to prevent overdoses is stock on the fire trucks. Personnel had to administer Narcan on an emergency call.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foster will report the police department's monthly statistics at the next council meeting.

Chief Foster informed the department has been very busy and he is amazed of the amount of calls worked by the officers. In his words, "Wal-Mart is running his department to death". One of his officers received two calls in one day about a shoplifting incident that happened at Wal-Mart over thirty days ago.

Chief Foster stated he is interested to see how the bypass will affect school traffic. School begins Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

Chief Foster requested to discuss a real estate item in executive session.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, updated the Mayor and Council of his first couple of weeks of review and research.

1. In the process of reviewing and updating Standard Operating Procedures for development review, building permit requirements, and inspections. Mr. O'Bryant is in the process of instructing staff of asking and answering the right questions. Mr. O'Bryant is in review of what is the most appropriate access requirements for commercial developments that include DOT approval.

This review and update is in response to the current and future growth of the city and to insure the city is compliant with all local, state, and federal laws.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

2. Reviewing how the Alcohol Review Board operates in accordance with the ordinance and the alcohol licensing process. Reviewing the requirements of current districts.
3. Reviewing zoning ordinance and procedures. Mr. O'Bryant would like to meet with the zoning board and conduct planning sessions. He would like to discuss the role of the board and recommendations made to the council.
4. Current development activities:
 - Dollar Tree recently purchased the Satellite Store and obtained a permit for remodeling. Work will begin this month.
 - Ingle's is in the process of remodeling and will add a sushi center and expand Starbucks. The video rental center will be removed. The company will replace a couple of signs on the exterior of the building.
 - Café Cancun is in the process of adding a patio seating area.
5. The city will begin testing the proposed well site in the next week or two. The pump is scheduled to be installed and the city has made arrangements for the delivery of a generator to run the pump during the testing.
6. North Georgia Network (NGN) is in the process of updating and expanding existing lines for fiber optic in the city. The city has forwarded information of the city's franchise fees. This will give a large number of residents the opportunity to change to fiber optic.
7. Mr. O'Bryant requested to discuss a few items concerning real estate in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to accept the 2017-2018 School Resource Officer agreement with the White County Board of Education. Mayor Ash was given authorization to sign. The agreement provides a uniformed officer to monitor the school's activities during the school year. The board provides compensation for \$50,000 in a ten-month period.
2. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the minutes of July 10, July 27 (2), and August 3, 2017 (2).
3. Public Comments –
 - Chief Foster reiterated his interest in how the first day of school traffic will be with the new bypass. Most everyone stated there has not been a notable difference of traffic through town since phase two has been open.
 - Nan Bowen informed of the problem of large tractor-trailers driving down her road. East Underwood is a narrow street and has been designated as a "No Thru Trucks" street. Chief Foster stated he and his staff would be on the lookout.
 - Chief Foster also informed of an issue of delivery trucks blocking city streets and state routes to back into a delivery area. Mr. O'Bryant informed the cause of this issue is a site design problem and he is in the process of working on guidelines. Rite Aid and Dunkin Donuts cause the most traffic hazard issues during deliveries.
 - Annie Sutton would like more patrol at the stop sign of Helton and Campbell. Traffic does not stop and she is concerned of the children playing in the area.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bradley Greene brought up the issue of parking on the square. Mr. Greene feels there should be a requirement for employees to park off the square. Edward Young reminded the city had worked out parking areas with the chamber and Regions bank but could not get the merchants or employees to cooperate.
2. The minutes of June 2017 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss real estate at 7:30 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor Edward Young and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the council meeting at 8:14 p.m. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of August 7, 2017 at 8:15 p.m.



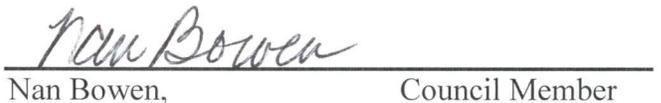
Shan Ash, Mayor



Edward Young, Council Member



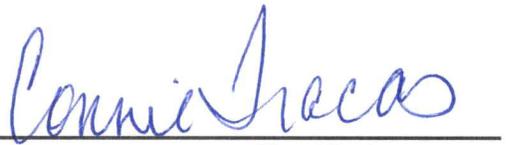
Annie Sutton, Council Member



Nan Bowen, Council Member



Bradley Greene, Council Member

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas, City Clerk

