

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Edward Young, in favor Bradley Greene and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the August 14, 2017 City Council Meeting with the addition of Lori Worrell to request an extension on the renovation of 36 East Kytyle Street.

**LORI WORRELL – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF RENOVATION OF 36 E. KYTLE ST**

Ms. Lori Worrell submitted a progress report of the renovation requirements for 36 East Kytyle Street. Ms. Worrell has been working with Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt on the required fireproof material needed. Ms. Worrell is working on the downstairs before beginning on the upstairs. According to Ms. Worrell, Paul Norris, City Building Inspector, informed her she did not need a building permit for the type of work she is conducting.

Mayor Ash asked how much additional time is needed to complete the requirements. Ms. Worrell answered she needed another six-months due to financial issues and this is her busiest time of year.

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Annie Sutton and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the request and grant an additional six-month extensional for the requirements stated at the February 13, 2017 City Council Meeting.

Ms. Worrell stated she does not have commercial contractor working on the project.

*History note: 02/13/2017 On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, a motion was made to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board with the following conditions:*

- *2-hour fire rated barrier – restaurant ceiling or apartment floor*
- *Automatic fire door to shut off access to fire area for safe escape*
- *Must have two means of egress to the outside.*
- *Carbon monoxide and smoke detector. This should be a multiple station alarm device. If the fire is downstairs, it will also sound an alert upstairs.*
- *If wood is covering the walls in the restaurant, it will need to be removed. Wood becomes a way for fire to travel.*
- *Six months to complete the requirements. Ms. Worrell must come before the council if an extension is needed.*
- *The hardship variance is in effect as long as Ms. Worrell's mother lives with her.*
- *The hardship variance is non-transferrable.*

*Mayor Ash asked for further discussion. Annie Sutton stated the decision should be tabled until the council could adopt an amendment to the ordinance for mix-use zoning.*

*Annie Sutton voted in opposition of the motion and the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board.*

**OCCUPATIONAL TAX LICENSE FEE 2017-10 – SECOND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION**

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 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.

**Occupational Tax Table**

Number of employees	Base Fee	Additional Employee Fee	Total
1	\$110.00		\$110.00
2	\$110.00	\$25.00	\$135.00
3	\$110.00	\$50.00	\$160.00
4	\$110.00	\$75.00	\$185.00
5	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$210.00
6	\$110.00	\$125.00	\$235.00
7	\$110.00	\$150.00	\$260.00
8	\$110.00	\$175.00	\$285.00
9	\$110.00	\$200.00	\$310.00
10	\$110.00	\$225.00	\$335.00
11	\$110.00	\$250.00	\$360.00
12	\$110.00	\$275.00	\$385.00
13	\$110.00	\$300.00	\$410.00
14	\$110.00	\$325.00	\$435.00
15	\$110.00	\$350.00	\$460.00
16	\$110.00	\$375.00	\$485.00
17	\$110.00	\$400.00	\$510.00
18	\$110.00	\$425.00	\$535.00
19	\$110.00	\$450.00	\$560.00
20	\$110.00	\$475.00	\$585.00
21-50	\$585.00	\$15 per each additional employee 21-50	
Over 50	\$1,335.00	\$10 per each additional employee	

Base fee includes a \$10 administration fee

**OCCUPATIONAL TAX LICENSE FEE 2017-10 – SECOND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION – continued**

The Mayor and Council stated they have not received any comments, positive or negative, on the proposed tax increase.

There was no further discussion on 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 approve and adopt Occupational tax License Fee 2017-10. The ordinance is effective immediately.

**BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER**

Brain Rindt, City Engineer, gave an update of the construction of the water tank located on the south end of town.

The area has been cleared, concrete and footings poured, the standpipe and legs are installed. The City Council will need to decide the lettering on the tank. Tom Guy, former employee, recommended “Cleveland Water System”. It was suggested to have a contest to name the tank. The Council decided to go with “Cleveland, GA.”.

**GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY**

Grant Keene, City Attorney, did not have new business to report.

**CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John Foster, Police Department, submitted the department statistics for May, June, July and August, 2017. Statistics include traffic stops, arrests, community/business/residential contacts, etc.

Dean Dyer, WRWH Radio, asked if there was a decrease in traffic since phase two of the bypass has opened. Chief Foster answered he is still evaluating the situation but there continues to be a lot of traffic downtown. Chief Foster noted there was no relief in school traffic for the first three days and most of the traffic was coming from the bypass.

Nan Bowen asked if the busses used the bypass and Chief Foster answered some bus drivers use the route and it helps that each school has its own bus fleet instead of going from school to school to pick up. Mayor Ash stated the bypass may help in avoiding school traffic and Chief Foster replied the dynamics of downtown traffic has not changed and that is why businesses want to locate in town

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

1. The state is beginning its preparation in the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA). The state has contracted with the Georgia Mountain Regional Commissions to collect the required information for the census count and mapping. The Georgia Mountain Regional Commission will take care of the information for Cleveland.  
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Edward Young and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to participate in the LUCA program with the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission and authorized Mayor Ash to sign the appropriate documents.
2. Georgia Power is offering an opportunity for community leaders to visit the Georgia Resource Center for a tour and to learn how Georgia Power can assist in promoting Cleveland, Helen, and White County. The visit is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017.
3. Mr. O'Bryant has made contact with Southern Company Gas, formerly Atlanta Gas, of the need for a franchise agreement for the use of city right-of ways for gas line installation. Mr. O'Bryant is working with the company to provide a map of the areas where gas is available and where the lines can expand.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The White County Chamber of Commerce has approached the city to participate in the community magazine and purchase ad space. The magazine will include wedding venues and a buyers' guide. After a very lengthy discussion the Mayor and Council decided on the following: 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 participate in the community magazine with a ½ page horizontal ad at \$1,695.00. The Council will approve the final design before print.
2. Tom O'Bryant presented a proposal for the purchase of radar signs. In the past, the Mayor and Council have discussed the need for speed control in the city. Most of the options for monitoring are very expensive and limited to the use. Council Member Nan Bowen acquired information on radar signs as an alternative. After researching, the city has found this to be the most viable method to approach the issue. The signs have the technology to collect data such as speed, traffic count, peak traffic, etc. The use of the signs would be very beneficial for the city to determine the use of certain roads.  
The quoted price is \$3315.00 for each sign, which includes the accessories needed for installation and the program to record traffic information. Staff is recommending the Council consider purchasing four radar signs. The signs are mobile and can be used in various areas. 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 purchase four radar signs from Radar Signs at \$3315.00 each (\$13,260.00). The purchase will be made from SPLOST 1 funding.

**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

3. Public Comments –

- Chief Foster informed the officers have received training to carry tasers. The training includes each officer being tased. Tasers will replace pepper spray as part of the officer’s equipment. Chief Foster explained pepper spray can be flammable and should not be used in conjunction with a Taser. Dean Dyer asked if all officers were certified and Chief Foster answered yes, all officers are certified.  
Brian Rindt asked if there is confusion of the look, feel, etc. between a Taser and a gun. Chief Foster answered it could be, but there are precautions such as the tasers Cleveland purchased are bright yellow and the officer is required to carry the Taser on the weak side of their body with the firearm on the strong side.
- Cindy Bailey, White County Chamber, informed of the annual meeting to be held at Babyland later next week.
- Chief Foster informed of the purchase of body cameras. The department is working with IS Consulting to set up the appropriate computer equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. The minutes of July 2017 and August 2017 (millage) were signed.

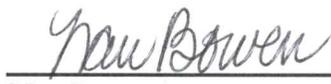
**ADJOURNMENT**

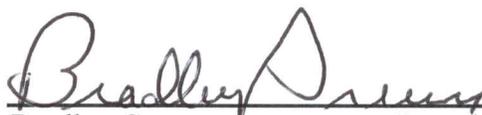
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of August 14, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shan Ash, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Young, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Sutton, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nan Bowen, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bradley Greene, Council Member

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

