

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 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 Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approved the agenda for the December 4, 2017 City Council Meeting.

BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER

1. The 129 South water tank is completed. The company is finishing the grading and will install the fence around the perimeter soon. Public works have been recording measurements between the 129 South tank and the Warrior tank to make sure water levels are coordinated.
2. The wastewater plant is having issues with maintaining ammonia levels. EPD has issued a permit level of 10 for ammonia levels and recently the plant exceeded the permitted levels. Andrea Smith, Water/Wastewater Supervisor, has conducted several tests in the pond. The tests will determine the areas that are failing to produce enough nitrifying bacteria to reduce the amounts of ammonia.
Ms. Smith informed she conducted a dye test and found the dye did not go through the nitrification zone. The problem is within the baffling system. Most of the baffles have sunk to the bottom of the pond or are in need of repairs and/or replaced. Mr. Rindt recommended raising the baffles and rehabilitating the nitrification zones in the pond. Mr. Rindt was questioned on the costs of the repairs as the wastewater permit is due and EPD may require changes. Mr. Rindt answered he has not looked into pricing, but expects EPD will require upgrades to the plant. Ammonia and phosphorus limits will likely be reduced to an amount that the existing plant cannot reach. Ammonia levels may be reduced to 2 from the current 10 permit level. Bradley Greene asked if the permit would list recommendations. Mr. Rindt answered, not recommendations, but requirements. Ms. Smith informed the City of Royston was allowed five-years to upgrade the plant, but EPD has now reduced to three-years for other facilities.
3. EPD has approved the installation of a 6” casing within the 8” casing for well #7. The city should receive written confirmation soon.
4. The bid package and specifications for the restoration of the Warrior tank are ready for advertising. Mr. Rindt suggested January 9, 10 or 11. There may be an issue with weather, such as painting and other repairs that cannot be performed during cold weather. Mr. Rindt informed the specs include additive alternates to replace things not needed on the tank, but did not go into detail.
Mr. Rindt is looking into a system in which the wells communicate with the tanks to prevent water storage shortage or overflow.
Bradley Greene suggested the city wait for a March construction date and consider January 30 for advertising the bids.

2016-2017 – 2017-15 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Tuck is asking the city to amend the audit to show the over expenditures in Streets and Sanitation and Public Safety. The over expenditures are due to the purchase of right-of-way, equitable pay increase for sanitation and police departments, payroll for fire department, and equipment purchases. SPLOST paid for a portion of the equipment purchases. SPLOST is not allowed to have “assets” and the equipment purchases were assigned to the respective department. The class grouping is “Streets and Sanitation”, but the overage is only in the street department due to street paving and ROW purchase. This would reflect the city’s portion of LMIG street projects.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Over Budget</u>
Streets & Sanitation	\$433,710	\$448,400	\$14,690
Public Safety	\$1,492,414	\$1,546,204	\$53,790

Although the city was under budget in other departments, the State of Georgia only requires that the city amend the budget for over expenditures.

In this budget amendment the city will show a decrease in expenditures under the General Government to show the source of revenues for the over expenditures for streets and public safety.

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Under Budget</u>
General Govt.	\$1,053,100	\$814,808	\$238,292
Culture & Recreation	\$37,600	\$12,244	\$25,356

It is necessary to amend 2016-2017 budget to reflect the true revenues and expenditures of the Cleveland Hotel/Motel Tax fund. The budgeted revenue and expenditures increased from \$18,000 to \$24,633.00.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve Resolution 2017-15 to amend the 2016-2017 Cleveland Budget.

WAYNE TUCK, WALKER, PIERCE & TUCK – 2016/2017 AUDIT

Wayne Tuck, Walker, Pierce, and Tuck, CPA, came before the Mayor and Council to present the 2016/2017 Audit. Mr. Tuck thanked the Mayor and Council for giving his firm the opportunity to work with the city.

Mr. Tuck began by stating in the opinion of Walker, Pierce, and Tuck, CPA; the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, funds, and governmental activities in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Mr. Tuck stated this is a reflection of the hard work and organization of Beth Rohmeyer, Finance Officer, and Connie Tracas, City Clerk. All of the city staff keep documentation in order for easy auditing. Mr. Tuck added he is able to issue an unqualified opinion on the audit.

Mr. Tuck discussed the balance sheet for the general funds. Pages three and four reflects government wide financial statements if government was a for-profit business. SPLOST shows a decrease, but it is a fund that is meant to be spent on infrastructure projects. The general fund is up by approximately \$29,154. The audit looks for financial trends from year to year.

WAYNE TUCK, WALKER, PIERCE & TUCK – 2016/2017 AUDIT - continued

The water and sewer fund is doing well and is shows an increase in assets. The water and sewer revenue is up, as well as the assets due to the completion of water and sewer projects. The department is self-supporting without the need of funding from other city funds. Mr. Tuck cautioned the Council to stay on top of water and sewer rates, so that the fund sustains the water and sewer departments and activities. Mr. Tuck recommended the council look at the depreciation values of equipment. The equipment will need to be replaced and the city will need to find funding.

Mr. Tuck encouraged the council to read through the notes of the audit, including the sections referencing the pension plan.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Pruitt submitted the department statistics for November 2017. The department responded to 86 calls – 51 inside the city and 35 outside the city, with 9 calls outside the automatic aid area.
- Chief Pruitt informed the Christmas in the Mountains parade went very well. Chief Pruitt stated it was one of the largest crowds he has seen for the parade and was grateful there were no emergencies. Mayor Ash thanked everyone for a good job during and after the parade events.

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, did not have new business to report.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, presented a sampling of the information Next Site 360 has gathered to market Cleveland. Next Site 360 has contacted twenty-nine developers and tenant representatives to encourage interest in our area. The company will identify feature properties on the city's corridors and downtown area. Mayor Ash expressed his surprise of the amount of data collected in such a short time. Mr. O'Bryant offered to meet with each of the council members if they have questions or ideas.

2017-16 – RESOLUTION OPPOSING DE-ANNEXATION WITHOUT COUNCIL AND/OR VOTER APPROVAL

At the GMA conference there was a discussion and a unanimous vote to support existing municipalities should not be de-annexed unless consented by the governing body of the existing municipality or the voters of the existing municipality.

The City of Stockbridge is asking cities to reaffirm the vote taken at the GMA conference and approve the attached resolution. The resolution begins with a brief history of the City of Stockbridge and the problem with de-annexing with local governing or voter approval and ends with our city showing support for the requirement to go before the mayor and council before going to state legislation.

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 approve resolution 2017-16 Opposing De-Annexation without Council and/or Voter Approval.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Bradley Greene and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the minutes of November 6 and 13, 2017.
2. Public comments - Chief Foster commented on how well the parade went and could not have succeeded without the help of the fire department, White County Emergency Management, CERT, and the ROTC. Chief Foster issued a special thank you to David Murphy and his staff for their assistance and providing barricades. Debbie Gilbert, White County News, asked an irrelevant question of if there were any rowdy people from Helen at the parade. Chief Foster answered no comment. Chief Foster requested the city look into purchasing approximately fifty barricades. CERT provided barricades, but was short that amount to properly section off the parade route.

Beth Truelove, White County Chamber of Commerce, expressed her appreciation to the police, fire and public works departments. Ms. Truelove thanked Mayor Ash for attending the tree lighting at Freedom Park. She is truly thankful of how the community came together to help and is thankful she lives here. Bradley Greene stated people commented of how they felt safe with public safety in the area. Mayor Ash added people do not know what goes on behind the scenes for an event of this size to be successful. Mayor Ash thanked everyone for a job well done. Chief Foster expressed his appreciation to Captain Weiland for orchestrating the support for the Cleveland Police.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor Bradley Greene and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss possible litigation at 7:51 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 8:13 p.m.

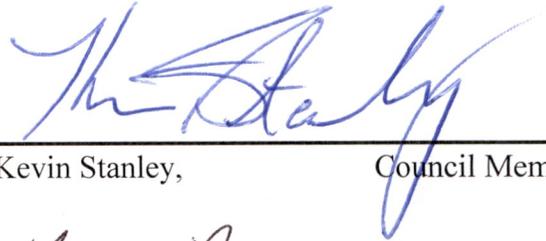
On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to issue a one-time water leak adjustment for \$341.04 for utility account 1601-00. The property owner is to be informed to either install a master meter to the development or reinstall new plumbing through the development.

ADJOURNMENT

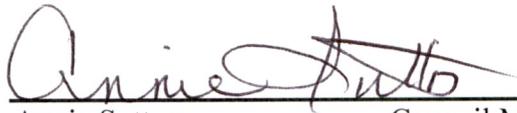
On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor –Edward Young and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of December 4, 2017 at 8:15 p.m.



Shan Ash, Mayor



Kevin Stanley, Council Member



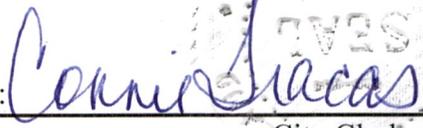
Annie Sutton, Council Member



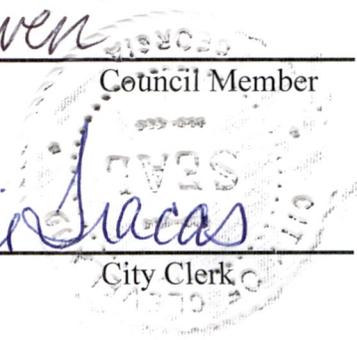
Nan Bowen, Council Member



Bradley Greene, Council Member

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas, City Clerk



Note: Edward Young proceeded over this meeting, but will not be in office when the minutes of 12.04.2017 are approved. Minutes to be approved by Mayor Shan Ash, Council Members Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Kevin Stanley, and Nan Bowen.