CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 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 Annie Sutton, in favor – Edward Young and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the October 2, 2017 City Council Meeting.

WARD GANN – UPDATE ON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
Mr. Ward Gann came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the downtown square area. Mr. Gann began by stating the correct name assigned to the downtown merchants is Downtown Cleveland Merchants Alliance (D.C.M.A.). The group have been meeting to discuss ways to improve the downtown area.

- Mr. Gann thanked the Council for having flowers planted before Agri-Fest. He understands it was a minimal effort and the city will do a complete change out and overhaul in the spring. Todd Marks has been working with the extension office.
- White County has plans to construct public bathrooms next spring.
- Mr. Gann informed of the practice in Madison, Ga. of the use of pedestrian crossing flags as a way to inform drivers of pedestrians crossing the street. The group would like to see a pedestrian friendly square.
- The merchants would like to have murals on the buildings.
- The merchants would like to have signs directing patrons to parking areas.
- November 25 has been designated as "Shop Small Business Saturday".

Nan Bowen asked what area would be the best for the use of the flags. Mr. Gann answered all pedestrian crosswalks. Mr. Gann stated a need to slow traffic down on the square.

Mr. Gann thanked the council for their time and welcomed any suggestions and ideas for the downtown to be successful.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Pruitt submitted the department statistics for September. The department responded to 111 calls – 65 inside the city and 46 outside the city, with 12 calls outside the automatic aid area. The department was very busy during the storm and it is fortunate there were no injuries.
- The city has been awarded the AFG Homeland Security grant for $80,000. The money will be used to purchase air packs. The city will have a cost share of $4000. Chief Pruitt thanked Anna Robertson for her help in obtaining the grant.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT - continued

- The ladder truck has been tested and did not pass inspection. Most of the parts needed to repair the truck are no longer available due to the manufacturer going out of business and it would be cost prohibitive to repair. The ladder truck is required to keep the ISO rating down. The department will experience the same issues if an older model truck is purchased. Annie Sutton informed Tom O'Bryant is checking on financing.
- A class request has been submitted for Mark Gunter. The class is to identify causes and determine fires – accidental or intentional. The state used to conduct investigations but have recently cut staff. The city has used Charlie Bryson in the past, but he is not always available. On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class request. The cost of the class is $600.00. Chief Pruitt stated he would contact the facility to see if there is bunk available for lodging.

Mayor Ash thanked Anna Robertson for her work on the grant for the air packs.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, went over the details of the offer from Georgia Power and NextSite 360 to evaluate areas for industrial, manufacturing, and commercial growth. Georgia Power has chosen the area of Cleveland and White County due to the potential growth. For the next three years, the company will evaluate and promote the city.

- The City has made a substantial investment in its infrastructure over the past six years with improvements on US 129 south and US 129 north.
- The City has taken on a growth policy approach through tools such as annexation and updates of development standards and procedures.
- These two efforts have placed Cleveland in position to accommodate growth, particularly commercial development.
- The next step is to promote Cleveland and its strategic location and resources to business and industry, recoup the investment the City has made in its infrastructural services.
- Georgia Power has created a program to provide technical assistance to select communities with development potential.
- This technical assistance includes demographic and consumer research; data and market analysis, proactive marketing, promotion and targeted business recruitment.
- Georgia Power has selected NextSite 360 to serve as their consultant and provide this technical assistance to growing cities and counties around the State.
- Cleveland/White County has been selected as one of the communities eligible for this assistance.
- Georgia Power is taking on a large majority of the costs of these services. Normally this type of consultation analysis and marketing activity costs more than $50,000 initially and annually around $10-15,000.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

Georgia Power/NextSite 360 continued:

- Cost for the City of Cleveland to participate is only $7,500 per year for three years.
- NextSite 360 will focus their research and promote three areas/corridors for the City of Cleveland - the US 129 corridor, Helen Highway and Downtown Cleveland.
- Funding for this project would come out of Economic Development and Contingencies.

The White County Board of Commissioners may participate in the program, which may reduce the fee. 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 Georgia Power/NextSite 360 program for three years at a cost of $7500 per year. Mayor Ash was given authorization to sign the agreement.

Mr. O'Bryant gave an update on the events of the storm damage from Hurricane Irma on September 11, 2017.

City staff met on several occasions to prepare in advance of the storm. The city purchased fuel in advance in the case of fuel shortages. The city departments did a great job, but there are some areas that need to be improved, such as the need for generators for the wells and wastewater plant.

The city experienced quite a bit of damage due to the storm.

- Numerous trees were down. All roads have been cleared of trees. Will need to continue with the cleanup of tree debris on the side of the roads and ditches.
- Lost power to the shop for several days. Lines are down in the area, but power has been restored. City Hall lost power for a short amount of time, but the generator kicked in and supplied power to the entire building.
- Fiber optic lines were down and we were unable to process credit card payments for several days. City phone lines were down. The city will need to consider retaining a land line for emergencies.
- We had limited admin staff come in the day after the storm to reset the system and get everything back online. We were unable to open the day after the storm.
- Public works, police, and fire departments worked several shifts for damage control and cleanup.

City facility damages

- During the storm, the city had 3 of 4 wells down. The Jack Howard well has significant damage and the well house will need to be replaced. The Jack Howard well is still out of service. At the time the wells were out of service, the city made a public service announcement on WRWH asking citizens to conserve water. The city will need to invest in a generator for the Clint Street well. This well produces the city's highest yield of water.
- Roof damage at City Hall, and the blower and chemical buildings, and the pontoon boat shelter at the sewer plant. Several areas of fencing, at the sewer plant, was crushed by downed trees.
- Sewer plant lost power. The city will need to look at a generator for the plant. Several days without power will cause issues with the chemical levels in the plant.
- Power to the Blue Creek Tank was down causing the water to overflow.
- Insurance adjuster has visited and issued payment of $38346.98 for repairs. This amount can be amended if it is found the repair costs are more than projected.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

Storm cleanup continued:
FEMA is requesting information and may offer disaster relief. Public safety and public works need to be commended for getting the city back in line after the storm.

Mayor Ash agreed and commended all city staff for their diligence protecting and with the cleanup. The city learned some lessons, and will improve in the future, but everyone did a good job.

Debbie Gilbert, White County News, asked about debris pickup in the city. Mr. O'Bryant informed public works will pick up debris as long as it is on the city's right of way.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 replace White County Chamber Board Member Alex Cruz and appoint Tom O'Bryant as a representative of the city.
2. EPD has issued a consent order and fine due to ammonia levels exceeding the permitted amounts at the wastewater treatment plant. 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 accept the consent order, make necessary corrections, and pay the $500.00 fine. Mayor Ash was given authorization to sign the consent order.
3. 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 September 5, 2017. The city council did not hold a meeting on September 11, 2017 due to hurricane Irma.
4. Public comments – Annie Sutton gave thanks to public works, police, fire and administration departments for the work assisting with the Agri-Fest and Pottery Comes to Town. Judy Lovell agreed and expressed appreciation of the cooperation from the city. The pottery vendors were pleased to be located on the park grounds. Beth Truelove, interim Chamber President, also thanked the Cleveland Police Department for directing traffic and keeping everyone safe.
5. Mayor Ash read a letter addressed to the Mayor and Council concerning the police department.

   Dear Sirs:

   Just a note of thanks to Police Chief John Foster and the officers of the Cleveland Police Department.

   Several weeks ago in the evening, my wife, Katherine Workman, was robbed inside the Walmart store in Cleveland. A woman approached her and asked for directions. Her accomplice lifted Katherine's wallet out of her pocketbook from the shopping cart.

   The Cleveland police were called, the robbery caught on store video. Within a few hours and a trail of credit card charges, the police had the information they needed. The following morning the Clipper Store provided its video of the vehicle. The Chief, himself, spotted the vehicle and made the arrest later that day. The culprits were arrested and charged.

   The entire Cleveland Police Department could not have been nicer through the whole process. not to mention their total adeptness in bringing these two individuals to justice. As I have been told, they have pending warrants in three states.

   Again, a note of thanks to Chief John Foster and his staff.

   Johnny Workman

   Mayor Ash asked the letter be made a part of the minutes

NEW BUSINESS - continued

Public Comments - continued

6. Annie Sutton expressed her congratulations to Beth Truelove on being named Interim White County Chamber of Commerce President. Cindy Bailey resigned from the position.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The mayor and council reviewed the ongoing to-do list of projects. Several projects have been completed and city staff is now asking what the mayor and council would like to see as a "priority" project. Nan Bowen asked if the city was eligible for grants. Mr. O'Bryant answered the city would be eligible for One Georgia and EDA grants.
   The council would like to replace the sign in front of city hall. 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 approve the sign concept from Jubilee Signs and directed city staff to place the order.
   Annie Sutton asked about the status of the county deeding the Oak Springs School and property to the city. Ms. Sutton was informed there is a belief the paperwork is completed but has not presented to the city for acceptance. Ms. Sutton is concerned the school will fall in to disrepair that cannot be fixed.
   Ms. Sutton also asked about the status of the new water tank. The tank is being prepped for painting and then testing.
   Bradley Greene would like to see improvements to Quillian Street a priority.
   Nan Bowen would like to follow up with the county on the construction of the public bathrooms at Freedom park.
2. The minutes of August 2017 were signed.
3. Photos of the Mayor and Council can be reviewed at City Hall.
4. GMA will hold a fall conference at Helen City Hall October 19 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
5. Beth Truelove will confirm with Georgia Power the visit to the resource center scheduled for November 2, 2017.
6. Mayor Ash stated he was glad to see council member Edward Young back and feeling better.

ADJOURNMENT

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 adjourn the City Council Meeting of October 2, 2017 at 7:53 p.m.

Signatures next page

Shan Ash, Mayor

Edward Young, Council Member

Annie Sutton, Council Member

Nan Bowen, Council Member

Bradley Greene, Council Member

ATTEST: Connie Tracas

Connie Tracas, City Clerk