

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 4, 2018
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 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan Bowen, Annie Sutton, Kevin Stanley, and Bradley Greene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the June 4, 2018 City Council Meeting.

BILLY MINISH, CHARLES BLACK CONSTRUCTION

Billy Minish, Charles Black Construction, was not present.

2018-11 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT TO EXTEND GA 400 THROUGH LUMPKIN AND WHITE COUNTIES

Mr. O'Bryant explained the need for the east/west extension from GA 400 into White County.

- a. Demographic and economic growth in the State of Georgia continues to take place, particularly within the Georgia Mountains Region.
- b. The City of Cleveland/White County are geographically central to the region and within the growth patterns in the region.
- c. There is a desire to improve east-west traffic connectivity and movement in North Georgia by the State and Counties.
- d. Both White County and Lumpkin County have adopted resolutions supporting the extension of state route Georgia 400 through Lumpkin and White Counties from the intersection of Highway 60 and Georgia 400 to the intersection of the new Appalachian Parkway in White County and Cleveland. (approximately 16.2 miles)
- e. This extension would improve access into Cleveland for visitors and for commercial markets.
- f. White County has requested that the Cities of Cleveland and Helen adopt similar resolutions supporting the extension of the state route.

Mayor Ash read 2018-11 Resolution to Support to Extend GA 400 through Lumpkin and White Counties:

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland is within the economic growth pattern that is making its way into the Northeast Georgia Mountains Region; and

WHEREAS, GA 400 has been a catalyst for commercial, industrial, and residential economic growth in the counties it currently runs through including Fulton, Forsyth, Dawson, and Lumpkin Counties; and

WHEREAS, continuing GA 400 another 16.2 miles, with improvements to GA Highway 115, from the intersection of Highway 60 and Highway 400 to the intersection of the new Appalachian Parkway in White County, would provide a valuable East-West connection opportunity for the Georgia Department of Transportation; and

2018-11 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT TO EXTEND GA 400 THROUGH LUMPKIN AND WHITE COUNTIES - continued

WHEREAS, Cleveland and the Alpine Village of Helen continue to invest in infrastructure to provide for the 1.2 million tourist visiting each year; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland continues to invest in infrastructure to encourage commercial growth, to accommodate the needs of Truett McConnell University, Woodlands Camp and Conference Center, which houses thousands of campers throughout the year and the 250 plus businesses within Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland, White and Lumpkin Counties and communities along the route, will benefit from the expansion of GA 400 by encouraging tourism, commercial, residential and agricultural growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland, join the Board of Commissioners of White and Lumpkin Counties in asking the State of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Transportation to make extending GA 400 by 16.2 miles a priority in their transportation plans and designate funds accordingly for the project.

RESOLVED this 4 day of June 2018.

Bradley Greene commented on the proposed extension and the possibility of improving the economic impact for the community, but expressed concerns of the impact on the city's infrastructure. The additional traffic of heavy trucks will affect city streets. Mr. Greene supports the extension but would like to see a plan to control and manage growth.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve Resolution 2018-11 Resolution to Support to Extend GA 400 through Lumpkin and White Counties.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, submitted the department statistics for May 2018. The department responded to 94 calls – 52 within the city and 42 outside the city. Nine calls were made outside the city's automatic aid area. The county responded to three calls within the city.

The department continues to respond to false alarms. Truett McConnell University had five false alarms in May. Mr. O'Bryant has contacted the school to inform of the ordinance and the fine schedule.

Annie Sutton inquired how the department fared during the floods. Chief Pruitt answered his staff was in the process of evaluating the flooded streets when they were called to an alarm at Truett (which turned out to be a false alarm). By the time the firefighters returned, Hwy 129, in front of Glenda's Restaurant was flooded and a car was stranded. The department closed the roadway until the waters receded.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foster informed he brought in extra officers during the time of flooding to check pump stations.

Chief Foster advised the council, due to a lack of an officer, he will be within his budget for salaries.

Chief Foster would like the council to consider a policy to bid out wrecker and impound services. Chief Foster stated there are currently three companies that, at this time, would semi-qualify to offer services. Chief Foster would like to charge an administrative fee for processing vehicles. Chief Foster is pulling statistics together to show how many vehicles are being towed or impounded. Chief Foster does not feel the current wrecker and impound services are meeting standards.

Annie Sutton thanked Chief Foster for the information concerning the Hands Free Calling law.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, discussed the following:

1. NextSite 360 Marketing Brochure

- a. The City has partnered with Georgia Power to employ NextSite 360 to promote the City of Cleveland and developable properties for commercial development and service.
- b. The City had provided NextSite with data on available properties.
- c. NextSite 360 has put a marketing flyer together to use in their promotion of the City and area.
- d. NextSite 360 will be at the national RECon Show in Las Vegas presenting its clients (including the City of Cleveland) to national and global commercial real estate developers and retailers.

2. Public Works Back Hoe Purchase

- a. The back hoe the Public Works Department currently uses is a 1985 Ford model for line excavation and other infrastructure related work.
- b. The Shop employees have done a great job making repairs and keeping it operational. However, as the piece of equipment has aged more repairs are needed.
- c. The department is impacted by the cost of repair and more importantly down time, which delays infrastructure work and repairs. It is determined that a new back hoe is needed.
- d. Administrative staff has met with the Public Works Director on equipment requirements and identified a piece of equipment that will best serve the City.
- e. Staff has priced a New Holland B95CSC 4WD with Piedmont Tractor in the amount of \$83,217.92.
- f. Funds are in the current budget to make this purchase from Water/Sewer and from SPLOST.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the purchase of a New Holland B95CSC 4WD back hoe from Piedmont Tractor in the amount of \$83,217.92.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

3. Playground Equipment Purchase

- a. Long term use and vandalism has required some updates to the playground equipment at Woodman/City Park.
- b. The Girls Scouts have researched park needs and helped determine improvements needed for the park.
- c. The City needs to replace the toddler activity section and purchase a special needs swing. There are people out there that seem to need the nylon harness more than special needs kids and they continue stealing the harnesses.
- d. Prices have been research to replace the equipment at \$789 plus shipping for the swing; and, \$16,629 plus shipping for toddler activity set.
- e. Money has been assigned in the budget and in the SPLOST budget to make this purchase.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the purchase of the special needs swing for \$789 plus shipping and the toddler activity set for \$16,629.

Mayor Ash recognized Ms. Callie Armour and Ms. Riley Robinson, Girls Scout Troop 11730, and thanked them for their participation in the project.

The city clerk informed the special needs gazebo swing is on its way and staff will begin promoting the brick paver program for the city park. The sale of bricks will go toward park improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the minutes of May 7 and May 14, 2018.
2. Public comments – Ms. Debbie Davis, and several residents, came before the mayor and council to ask for assistance of the poor conditions of a local cemetery. Gateway Memorial Park Cemetery, located on Boulevard St., is a privately owned perpetual care cemetery. Ms. Davis informed the owner has not cut grass, removed ant hills, repaired the dilapidated house, and it is disrespectful to the families and to those buried at the cemetery. The group has tried, in vain, to contact the owner. According to the county property tax records, the owner is Chris Shelnut. The state requires a license is held for funeral and/or cemetery businesses. Mr. Shelnut's license have expired.
Ms. Davis stated she feels unsafe and carries a gun while visiting the cemetery. The house, which was used as an office/groundskeeper residence, is now falling in and looks as if vagrants are occupying. Ms. Davis informed the owner is not abiding by the law. Several residents and church groups have been voluntarily cutting the grass.
Mr. O'Bryant stated the city was made aware earlier in the day of the condition of the cemetery and began to take proper action beginning with the building official inspecting the area. The city recently adopted a property maintenance code, which gives the city more authority for this type of situation.
As to the operation of the perpetual care cemetery, the group must file complaints against the owner through the Secretary of State's office. This operation is regulated through the state and not at a local level.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Public Comments – continued

Mr. O’Bryant informed the city will send notice of the property maintenance and nuisance violations, which will state a time to get the property in order or the owner may face fines.

Ms. Wanda Hood also expressed her frustration with the owner and reiterated the same concerns of Ms. Davis.

Ms. Nadine Wardenga informed 50’s day on the square was a huge success. Mr. Bill Huff stated the White County Historic Courthouse recorded 111 visitors during the event. Several visitors were life-long residents that have never been in the historic museum. Ms. Wardenga thanked the city, Callie Armour, the 4-H team, and the master gardeners for assisting with the planters.

Ms. Wardenga thanked the Cleveland Police Department for retrieving her son’s stolen car.

Ms. Wardenga asked the city encourage GDOT to add directional signs to Cleveland.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Documents from May 14, 2018 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL AND REAL ESTATE

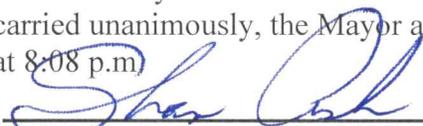
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Staley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel and real estate at 7:17 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

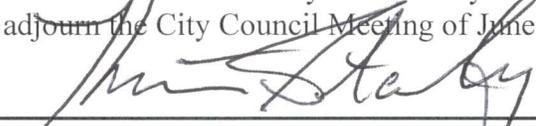
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the council meeting at 8:07 p.m. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

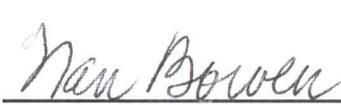
On motion by Annie Sutton seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of June 4, 2018 at 8:08 p.m.



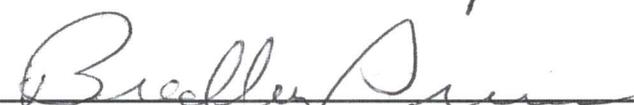
Shan Ash, Mayor



Kevin Stanley, Council Member



Nan Bowen, Council Member



Bradley Greene, Council Member



Annie Sutton, Council Member

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas, City Clerk

