

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bradley Greene at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bradley Green (Mayor Pro-Tem), Nan Bowen, Annie Sutton, and Kevin Stanley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the agenda for the October 7, 2019 City Council Meeting.

PROCLAMATION – CLEVELAND POLICE OFFICER RAYMOND RUTLEDGE, FIRE LIEUTENANT MARK GUNTER, AND FIREMAN MARTIN GODFREY.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley Greene read the proclamation to recognize the efforts of Officer Rutledge, Lt. Mark Gunter, and Fireman Martin Godfrey.

Whereas, emergencies can happen to anyone at any time and certain situations, including, self-inflicted emergencies, require immediate action to prevent further permanent injury or death; and

Whereas, providing education and resources to our Police and Fire Departments, and other basic first aid can reduce deaths and disabling injuries in emergency situations; and

Whereas, the courage, foresight, and compassion, shown to a fellow citizen in need, by administering Narcan and which such acts contributed to a lifesaving moment;

Officer Raymond Rutledge, Fire Lieutenant Mark Gunter, and Fireman Martin Godfrey,

Police Officer/Fireman of Cleveland Georgia deserves recognition of their colleagues and citizens for their selfless and courageous efforts, good citizenship, and service to others; and

Whereas, the City of Cleveland and its citizens are grateful for Officer Raymond Rutledge, Fire Lieutenant Mark Gunter, and Fireman Martin Godfrey and their dedication and bravery;

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, on October 7, 2019, the residents of the City of Cleveland and White County, Georgia express their gratitude and appreciation to Officer Raymond Rutledge, Fire Lieutenant Mark Gunter, and Fireman Martin Godfrey for their bravery, courage, and dedication to the City of Cleveland.

Given under hand and seal, by proclamation of the City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, this the 7th day of October 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley Greene asked the three men to come forward and be recognized. The Cleveland City Council expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the work of the city's law and emergency services.

2019-10 Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance – 1st Consideration

Section 64-219 Initiation of Proposals for Annexation Amendments (1) fee increase to cover the costs of administering, legal fees, and processing the annexation request

Mr. Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, presented 2019-10 Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance and offered the following information:

- a. The City is beginning to experience inquiries for additional city services, particularly for utility services along the highway corridors. It is the city's current policy to require, where possible, annexation into the city for utility services.
- b. The current city code establishes a fee of \$390 for requesting annexation into the City.
- c. This fee is the same general fee established for a re-zoning of property. However, additional work and research by city staff and the city attorney for annexation of property costs more staff time and fees.
- d. It is recommended that the city code be amended to add a fee for annexation of property into the City of Cleveland and be set at \$750.00 to cover administering, legal fees, and processing.
- e. City Council will need to adopt the proposed amendment to city code, proposed Section 64-219 – Initiation of Proposals for Annexation Amendments.
- f. This amendment will require two readings by the City Council.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council approved the first consideration to amend Section 64-219 Initiation of Proposals for Annexation Amendments (1) fee increase to cover the costs of administering, legal fees, and processing the annexation request. A second consideration and possible adoption will be held at the October 14, 2019 City Council Meeting.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, submitted the department statistics for September 2019. The department responded to 99 calls – 36 within the city and 63 outside the city with 23 being outside of the automatic aid area. The call volume is increasing due to number of calls for public assist.

Chief Pruitt informed the ladder truck is in need of repairs. The department staff found several cracks on the outriggers and had to put the truck out of service. Chief Pruitt has sent information and pictures to the manufacturer who also deemed the truck to be out of service. The company will submit a cost to repair, but the truck will have to be hauled to Pennsylvania. This will be very costly. Chief Pruitt is checking with another repair shop in Alabama. Mayor Pro Tem Greene asked about the time table for knowing the costs to repair. Chief Pruitt should have costs to present to the council at the next city council meeting.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, did not have new business to report, but will have an item for executive session concerning personnel.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Oak Springs School – Civil Improvements (Parking)

- a. RCCI has compiled the pricing for the civil or parking lot improvements. This is the final phase for improving the facility. This phase needs to move forward to complete the paving as asphalt paving season (warm temperatures) is coming to a close.
- b. The pricing totaled \$195,818.92. This price includes all construction and general requirement and contingency costs. This price is a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) which means the project could final out cheaper than the contracted amount.
- c. SPLOST funds are available to fund this work.
- d. City Council will need to approve funding for the parking improvements for Oak Springs School for the amount of \$195,818.92

Mr. O'Bryant asked the city council for approval so the project can begin before the companies that provide asphalt close for winter.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the civil improvements, parking, for the Oak Springs School at \$195,818.92.

2. City of Cleveland Water Loss Program

- a. Water loss from a water distribution system is a significant factor affecting water delivery to customers, including the water rates customers pay.
- b. Water loss can be either (a) apparent losses due to meter inaccuracies or unauthorized consumption or (b) real losses due to leakage at water service lines, breaks, or leakage on mains and hydrants, or, in Cleveland's case, well distribution facilities.
- c. City staff has worked directly with issues and items as they have occurred, but there is no formal program or policy in place to officially address the water loss issues as they occur.
- d. City staff recommends the development of a program to address water loss within the City of Cleveland's water system. The standard operating procedures for water loss will include methods of detection, cause, remedies, and the issuance of violations and fines.
- e. This is an EPD requirement of the renewal application for the City's groundwater discharge permit.
- f. The proposed Water Loss Control Program is presented to the City Council for consideration and adoption.
- g. It is requested that the City Council adopt the proposed Water Loss Control Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley Greene agreed there are issues with water loss and the program will help address the problem.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the City of Cleveland Water Loss Control Program.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

3. Affidavit of ownership – Talon Property

- a. The City is in the process of applying for the Recreational Trails Grant to create a nature trail behind Talon building.
- b. One of the requirements is an Affidavit of Ownership showing free and clear ownership to begin the project.
- c. City Council will need to sign the affidavit to submit with application.

On motion by Kevin Stanley seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council approved and signed the affidavit of the city's ownership of the Talon property.

4. Hayes James Engineering services to design Oak Springs Nature Trail

- a. Christie Sims, Hayes James Engineering, has presented a proposal to help engineer and design the trails at Oak Springs. The contract amount is \$14,720.00.
- b. Engineered plans are a part of the requirements of the Recreational Trails Grant.
- c. The grant, if awarded, will pay up to 15% of engineering fees for the trail design.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro tem and Council voted to approve the contract with Hayes James in the amount of \$14,720.00.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the minutes of September 3 and September 9, 2019 with the correction of the September 9 minutes to state the class requests for the officers of the police department.

2. Public Comments – Beth Truelove, White County Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Cleveland Police and Fire services provided for the Agri-Fest event. Ms. Truelove stated she was tasked with creating an environment in which everyone would have a chance to get to know their neighbors and she feels the event accomplished that goal. Ms. Truelove also thanked Cleveland Public Works and staff for assisting in the event.

Judy Lovell, White County Historical Society, invited the Mayor and City Council to attend the dedication of the potter's statue on October 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The society will hold a short unveiling ceremony. Chief Foster offered an officer to help with pedestrian street crossing during the event.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

Annie Sutton recognized the family of Fireman Martin Godfrey and thanked the family for their support of Fireman Godfrey.

Ms. Sutton also recognized Mr. Terry Goodger, Commissioner of the White County Board of Commissioners.

The council recognized the attendance of Camille Stanley, White County High School, Katie Barron, White County High School, and Carrie Evans of Habersham County High School. It was noted the council enjoys seeing the younger generation get involved with their city and local government.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 6:59 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 7:20 p.m. Tom O'Bryant checked the perimeter of the building to see if there was any one, from the public, that needed or wanted to return to the city council meeting. There was no one present to return to the meeting.

The council made no action from executive session.

Annie Sutton questioned if anyone knew why Mayor Ash was not present. No one knew why he did not attend.

Mr. O'Bryant informed of his conversation with Commissioner Goodger before the council entered into executive session. The White County Commissioners discussed the proposed new library and there was a consensus that the city should make a presentation to the commissioners. The City Council agreed that the White County Library Board should make the presentation to the commissioners. It is a county library. The city is offering property for the library to be built by including in the renovation or new build plans at Talon. This could potentially save the county over a half-million dollars by not having to purchase property. Costs could be saved by shared bathrooms in the new municipal facility and parking. The City Council will encourage the White County Library Board to continue to communicate with the White County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of October 7, 2019 at 7:28 p.m.

(ABSENT)

Shan Ash, Mayor

Nan Bowen, Council Member

Annie Sutton, Council Member

Kevin Stanley, Council Member

Bradley Greene, Council Member
Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: Connie Tracas, City Clerk