

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020
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 Annie Sutton at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Annie Sutton, by appointment of the City Council on December 30, 2019, will be the acting Mayor, due to the resignation of Roy “Shan” Ash, III on December 30, 2019, until a Special Election is held and a newly elected mayor is seated.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council approved the agenda for the January 6, 2020 City Council Meeting.

2020-04 CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION – VACANT SEAT MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem Annie Sutton reviewed Resolution 2020-04 Call for Special Election to fill the vacant seat of Mayor for the City of Cleveland. On December 30, 2019 Mr. Ash resigned his position as mayor of Cleveland.

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton informed the special election will be held March 24, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Cleveland First Baptist Church. The qualifying fee is set at \$138.00. The qualifying period is Monday, January 27 through Wednesday, January 29, 2020; 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to approve Resolution 2020-04 Call for Special Election to fill the vacant seat of Mayor.

A copy of Resolution 2020-04 Call for Special Election is made part of these minutes.

2020-01 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton explained the duties of the Council, stated in the City Charter, to appoint citizens, employees, and/or the governing authority to various boards. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton noted several vacancies that will need to be addressed.

The Council held a brief discussion of the board appointment for the White County Water Authority. On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to nominate Mr. Tom O’Bryant to the White County Water Authority Board. Ms. Sutton had considered nominating Kevin Stanley but approved the nomination of Mr. O’Bryant.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve Resolution 2020-01 Board Appointments.

Resolution 2020-01 Board Appointments is made part of these minutes.

2020-02 PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT – 4.201 PERSONAL LEAVE

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton presented the amendment to the personnel policy in reference to personal leave. The current policy states employee accrual of personal leave, but does not give a clear breakdown of accrual as an employee years of service increases.

The accrual leave is as follows:

- For all employees - Personal leave will accrue for civil leave, funeral leave, paid temporary disability leave and holidays. Personal leave will **not** accrue for unpaid temporary disability and for family medical leave (FMLA). Personal leave will begin accruing once the employee has returned to work.

The accrual schedule is as follows:

Full-Time Employees

1 to 5 years of employment	1.84620 hours per week
6 years of employment	2.00000 hours per week
7 years of employment	2.15390 hours per week
8 years of employment	2.30770 hours per week
9 years of employment	2.46160 hours per week
10 years of employment	2.61540 hours per week
11 years of employment	2.76930 hours per week
12 years of employment	2.92310 hours per week
13 + years of employment	3.07700 hours per week

Employees with thirteen or more years of service will accrue no more than 3.07700 hours per week.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the first consideration of the amendment to the Personnel Policies and Procedures – 4.201 Personal Leave.

2020-03 AMENDMENT TO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CODES

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton asked Mr. O'Bryant to explain the amendment to the building codes.

Mr. O'Bryant explained the City follows state guidelines for building and construction codes as approved by the Department of Community Affairs. The new codes are typically adopted every two years.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the first consideration of the amendment to the Building and Construction Codes.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, submitted the department statistics for December 2019. The department responded to 98 calls – 35 within the city, 62 in the county, with 14 being outside the automatic aid area.

Chief Pruitt informed of the total statistics for 2019. The department responded to 1103 calls, with 468 within the city limits and 635 calls in the county. The White County Fire Department responded 16 times in the city during 2019.

The average response time within the city was 3.56 minutes in 2019. The average response time in the county was 6.49 minutes. The department has responded as far north as Unicoi.

The department has completed 589.30 hours of in-house training. This does not include training hours off premises.

In 2018, the department responded to 967 calls. The department recorded an additional 136 calls in 2019. As of the first of 2020, the department has responded to 21 calls. Bradley Greene noted the department responded to a third more calls out in the county than in the city.

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council expressed their appreciation to Chief Pruitt and the fire department.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster readdressed the issue of the city implementing Red Speed. Red Speed is a company that installs radar cameras around school zones and cites motorists violating speed limit laws.

There is a huge problem with motorists speeding in school zones and ignoring stop signs. Implementing this program will be a deterrent. The fees collected would go into a separate account in which the police department can use for technology expenses.

Chief Foster emailed the council an updated contract for review. The council asked if the city attorney had reviewed the updated contract. Chief Foster answered no, but would make sure Mr. Keene received a copy. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton would like to have the item on next week's agenda so she may have another opportunity to review.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement renewal

- a. The State of Georgia is vulnerable to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. The Georgia Emergency Management Act, as amended (The Act) gives the local governments of the State the authority to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. Pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies help to ensure the timely provision of mutual aid assistance and the reimbursement of costs incurred by those parties who render such assistance.
- b. The purpose of a mutual aid agreement is to: provide the framework to support mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster occurring within any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, other significant events or homeland security activity; and, identify those persons who are authorized to act on behalf of the Participating Party signing this Agreement as their Authorized Representative(s) concerning the provision of mutual aid resources and requests for mutual aid resources related to any mutual aid assistance sought from another Participating Party, or from or through the State of Georgia.
- c. The City of Cleveland, along with White County and other local jurisdictions currently participate in an existing statewide mutual aid agreement.
- d. The current Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement is up for renewal. At the request of White County Emergency Management Director, David Murphy, City Council will need to consider and vote to renew the existing agreement which will continue through March 1, 2024.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

2. Old Blairsville Road Emergency Water Line replacement

- a. The city water system has recently experienced numerous water line breaks and leaks on the water line that is along Old Blairsville Highway. Breaks in this line directly disrupts school facilities as well as local businesses and residents. This line is an aging line that was installed when the high school was originally constructed on Old Blairsville Highway. Due to the number of recent breaks and its age the line is in need of emergency replacement.
- b. Public Works is coordinating with an emergency contractor, Nelson Grading, to schedule the water line replacement. The project will also need to be coordinated and constructed in a manner to minimize impact on school traffic and activities.
- c. The emergency project will be funded by SPLOST funds designated for water and sewer projects. The City has materials in stock for the project. Installation costs are estimated at \$201,360.

Bradley Greene asked if the size of the line would be upgraded. Mr. O'Bryant answered yes, the line would be increased to an eight-inch line due to the potential development in the area.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the contract with Reggie Nelson Construction for the waterline replacement on Old Blairsville in the amount of \$201,360.00.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the minutes of December 2, December 9, and December 30, 2020.
2. Public Comments – Mayor Pro Tem Annie Sutton thanked Council Member Bradley Greene for serving as Mayor Pro Tem for the 2019 year. Ms. Sutton thanked the Council for appointing her to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for 2020.

Bill Huff informed the Council the White County Historic Courthouse/Museum showed an increase of 25 % in visitors for 2019.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro tem and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss possible litigation at 6:57 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 7:01 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. No one was present. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Annie Sutton and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 6, 2020 at 7:04 p.m.

Office Vacant/open Seat Mayor

Kevin Stanley, Council Member

Nan Bowen
Nan Bowen, Council Member

Bradley Greene
Bradley Greene, Council Member

Annie Sutton, Council Member
 Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST: _____
Connie Tracas
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

