

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 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 Shan Ash at 6:30 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the January 14, 2019 City Council Meeting with the addition of a class request for Judge Garrison Baker for required recertification for Municipal Court.

WARD GANN – DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND MERCHANTS ALLIANCE

Ward Gann, restaurant proprietor and member of the Downtown Cleveland Merchants Alliance (DCMA), came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the Sunday Brunch Bill and give an update on DCMA.

Mr. Gann asked the Mayor and Council to consider having the Sunday Brunch Bill question on the ballot for the next municipal election. The State has passed legislation allowing for cities to put the question to the voters. The Sunday Brunch Bill allows restaurants to serve alcohol at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays instead of 12:30 currently in place.

Mr. Gann does not feel it will make a huge impact on his business, but will give him a level playing field with other communities where the ordinance is in place. Mr. Gann is not currently open on Sundays, but may extend his hours and would like to include a brunch menu. Mr. Gann thanked the mayor and council for their support of his restaurant. Clyde's Table and Tavern has been open for fourteen weeks.

Mr. Gann updated the mayor and council of events, ideas, and concerns of the Downtown Cleveland Merchants Alliance (DCMA). DCMA is a group of business and property owners, which work towards promoting businesses on the square.

Carl Dann, Smoky Mountain Trader, informed of upcoming events. February 9th is the scheduled Chocolate Walk. Patrons would purchase tickets and go from business to business to receive some type of chocolate, such as candy, cookies, chocolate drinks, etc. April 13th the group will hold a spring fling event in conjunction with Eggstravaganza, and a 50's festival on May 25th. The group feels these are low impact events that would not require city services. The amazing race event has been tabled.

Mr. Dann thanked the mayor, council, and Chief Foster for their continued support of the businesses on the square. Mr. Dann has conducted business on the square for twenty-years.

Mr. Gann asked the mayor and council to think about the parking situation on the square and if there are any solutions. Mr. Dann concurred and stated those that are cooperating by parking off the square continue to do so, but there are still those businesses that allow employees to park on the square.

WARD GANN – DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND MERCHANTS ALLIANCE – continued

Bradley Greene mentioned the merchants on Blue Ridge purchased two electric cars to trolley visitors to the downtown businesses. The City of Blue Ridge did not purchase the vehicles and the program is ran by the merchants. Mr. Gann stated that would be an expensive venture for the merchants with the purchase of the cars and insurance. Mr. Gann would rather the city acquire property for parking. The DCMA group would also like the city to consider public restrooms. The city is working with the county to provide public restrooms at Freedom Park.

Mr. Gann encouraged the city to become a part of DCMA.

TREE CITY PROCLAMATION 2019-02 – 2018

Mayor Ash read the proclamation for Tree City USA 2018:

WHEREAS, it is a time to encourage, promote, and recognize the environments and creation of healthier, more livable communities; and

WHEREAS, the forests are important to all citizens and the preservation of trees is important during the process of development; and

WHEREAS, trees provide citizens with the benefit of energy conservation, cooler summer temperatures, protection from winter winds, wildlife habitats, water-runoff reduction, noise absorption, property enhancement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources urban and community forestry program provides support for local communities to manage forest resources with our populated areas; and;

WHEREAS, TREE CITY USA designation recognizes cities, towns and communities across the state that meet the standards that effectively manage the community public tree resources, and encourages the implementation of community tree management; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in **2018** the City of Cleveland celebrated its fifteenth year as a TREE CITY USA City and celebrated by participating with materials and services in the Keep Cleveland Beautiful project, headed by White County student Callie Armour, White County 4-H Club Members, and Cleveland residents Tom and Nadine Wardenga, in which project won the Keep Georgia Beautiful Award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all those in Cleveland, White County, Georgia joins the celebration by extending their knowledge about the care and preservation of trees and undertaking actions that will support a healthy environment for our community.

PROCLAIMED this 14 day of January 2019.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the Tree City USA proclamation for 2018. The council thanked Ms. Wardenga for her time in the Keep Cleveland Beautiful program. Ms. Sutton asked if the flowerpot program can be extended to the pet store and south towards McDonald's. Ms. Wardenga answered the program can be extended if the city is willing to put in more funding. The flowerpots are \$189.00 each with approximately \$100.00 of flowers and vegetation. Several council members expressed an interest in participating in the program.

The merchants would like to continue to be involved with planting on the square.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foster submitted an agreement between the City and the White County of Board of Education to provide a School Resource Officer for Jack P Nix and the White County Middle School for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Chief Foster will meet in advance of the next budget year to renegotiate fees.

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 agreement with the White County Board of Education to provide a School Resource Officer for Jack P Nix and the White County Middle School for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and authorized Mayor Ash to sign.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

Grant Keene, City Attorney, informed he will provide information for the annexation to Totherow Road.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Franchise Agreement with Habersham EMC

- a. Much of the City right-of-way (ROW) serves as the location for hosting the electrical utility infrastructure for the community.
- b. In addition to electricity, city ROW host other infrastructure such as water and sewer line, natural gas line, city streets and sidewalks.
- c. City staff, particularly city public works, spends time inspecting and maintaining the ROW throughout the year and often informs the external utilities of potential problems with the infrastructure.
- d. The City has worked very hard on recovering costs associated with the management and maintenance of the ROW through franchise agreements with Georgia Power, Windstream and most recently Atlanta Gas Light.
- e. City staff has been working very closely with Local Government Management Services (through GMA) to recommend and negotiate a franchise agreement with Habersham EMC since they also exist and operate their facilities within the city ROW.
- f. Habersham EMC has consented and approved to participate with the franchise agreement at a rate of 4%. This is the same rate that is applied to Georgia Power and their franchise agreement.
- g. City Council will need to approve granting the franchise agreement to HEMC and approve the Mayor to sign the agreement.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the franchise agreement with Habersham EMC. Mr. O'Bryant informed HEMC will have 45 days to put the terms of the agreement in place.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

2. American Disabilities Transition Plan

- a. The city has received correspondence from the Georgia Department of Transportation requiring the city to develop and submit an ADA Transition Plan.
- b. All municipalities receiving federal aid must submit the transition plan to the Georgia Department of Transportation.
- c. It is the responsibility of the City to ensure that all services are accessible by residents who are represented and service by the city.
- d. The City Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer will conduct a survey of city facilities for compliance with ADA standards. After the survey is complete the staff will develop the Transition Plan.
- e. The Transition Plan must identify all structural modifications that are needed to buildings and facilities to ensure that programs, services and activities are accessible to people with disabilities.
- f. The Transition Plan must identify the steps necessary to complete the modifications and a time-frame for the needed modifications.
- g. Staff will provide the plan to council for review and approval and to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

3. Update Status on Talon/Oak Springs Project

- a. Last Monday, January 7, 2019, City Council award the bid proposal for Design Build and Construction Management Services for Talon/Oak Springs to Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc.
- b. Upon notification a meeting with RCCI was held to discuss the project status, contracts, and scheduling.
- c. It was determined that the exterior improvements at Oak Springs School should move forward. This would include the improvements for the roof, windows and doors. The city and RCCI will meet later this month to begin discussion interior improvements.
- d. RCCI will be developing as-builts for the Talon building, conduct a topographical survey of the Talon property, conduct an updated environmental assessment and structural analysis on the structure.
- e. A meeting schedule will be established to assess information, develop a design and to manage the construction of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

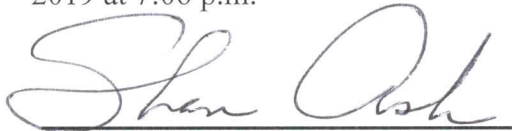
1. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the class requests for Charlie LaVelle and Sheena Wright – recertification for municipal court, Judge Garrison Baker – required annual training for municipal court judges, and Tom O'Bryant for Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators training.
2. Public comments – Mayor Ash welcomed the family of Council Member Kevin Stanley. Mr. Stanley jokingly stated his wife Lauren plans to run against him due to not responding to her comments and concerns.


OLD BUSINESS

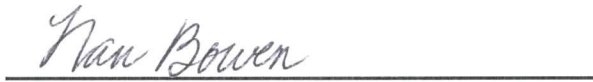
1. The minutes of December 2018 were signed.


ADJOURNMENT

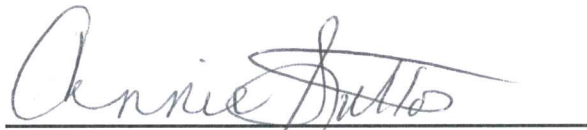
On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor –Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 14, 2019 at 7:06 p.m.

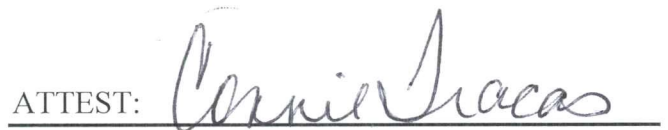

Shan Ash, Mayor


Kevin Stanley, Council Member


Nan Bowen, Council Member


Bradley Greene, Council Member


Annie Sutton, Council Member

ATTEST: 
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

