



**Cleveland City Council  
Called Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 17, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.  
Cleveland Community Center/Police Department  
342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA**

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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Josh Turner, Council Members Nan Bowen, Rebecca Yardley, Jeremy McClure, and C.J. McDonald (Mayor Pro Tem)

Also present were City Administrator Kevin Harris, City Attorney Keith Whitaker, Co-Counsel Grant Keene, and City Clerk Lisa Ritchie

- 2. Invocation – Pastor Tim Morgan of Faith Lutheran Church & White County Ministerial Alliance**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approve Agenda**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**5. Proclamation Recognizing Backpack Buddies**

Mayor Turner presented the Proclamation to Kay Cochran, Backpack Buddies volunteer, and Board Member. Ms. Cochran stated that Backpack Buddies purchases food from the food bank to provide to children.

Mayor Turner and the Council Members expressed their appreciation for the services Backpack Buddies provides.

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Proclamation recognizing Backpack Buddies.

## 6. Henry Bowman Eagle Scout Project

Chief Shoemaker addressed the Mayor and Council and presented a letter to Mr. Bowman for his project, creating a flag retirement receptacle to collect and retire worn and aging flags at the Police Department.

Mayor Turner presented a certificate to Mr. Bowman.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN NADINE WARDENGA**

Ms. Wardenga addressed the Mayor and Council Members.

## 7. First Reading and Public Hearing Hotel/Motel Ordinance

Ms. Wardenga stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted, unanimously, in favor of the proposed Ordinance.

Discussion ensued for further clarity.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### 8. Economic Development and Planning– Director Tom O’Bryant

- September 2022 Report

Mr. O’Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following September items:

- Occupational Licenses - 3
- Building Permits - 5
- Sign Permits - 3
- Building Inspections - 12
- Plan Reviews – 1
- Zoning Application - 1
- Current Commercial Activity – 8 projects
- Development Inquiries – 6
- Grant Applications
  - GDOT Transportation Alternative funding application to assist with preliminary engineering for a pedestrian sidewalk linking Freedom Park and City Park.
  - Contract with the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission (GMRC) for the preparation and submittal of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant application for a strategic plan for downtown has been signed.
- Infrastructure

- Public Works met with London Land Surveying to map out a proposed route to gravity flow the sewer line from the lift station location on Head Street.
- City engineer is communicating with GAEPD on approval of a new well site. The site has been approved, but the focus is now on the source (well). A 24-hour pump test must be conducted. Public Works is working with Freeman Electric to get temporary power in place to conduct the test.
- GDOT provided public works and the city engineer a proposed plan and asked for comments. The city has responded with comments and is now waiting on a final response from GDOT.

**9. Finance Department – Finance Director Connie Tracas**

- September 2022 statistics

Ms. Tracas addressed the Mayor and Council Members. She reported the following September items:

- Current revenues are down as well as SPLOST which came in at \$20,000 less than the previous receipt

**10. Fire Department – Chief Ricky Pruitt**

- September 2022 statistics

Chief Pruitt addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following September items:

- Total of 96 Calls: 60 inside the city and 36 in the County
- White County Fire Department responded 3 times in the city
- 3 lives were saved with Narcan

**11. Police Department - Chief Jeff Shoemaker**

- September 2022 statistics

Chief Shoemaker addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following September items:

- Total occurrences - 2,553
  - Public assists - 415
  - Premise checks – 1,377
  - Field interviews - 20
  - Incident reports - 64
  - Accident reports - 25

- Investigative/supplemental - 99
- Administrative duties - 325
- Citations Issued - 95
- Warnings - 108
- Warrants - 24
- Juvenile - 1
- Citations
  - Misdemeanor, non-traffic - 6
  - DUI, Alcohol, & serious offenses - 4
  - Driver's license, Registration, & Insurance - 19
  - Moving violations, traffic control, etc. - 57
  - Equipment, seatbelt, etc. - 9

**12. Public Works Department – Assistant Public Works Director Ricky Hunt**

- September 2022 statistics

Mr. Hunt addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following September items:

- Service orders - 164
- Meters read – 2,220
- Meters re-read – 27
- Locates – 175
- Emergency Locates – 10

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS**

Mr. Harris addressed the Mayor and Council Members.

**13. City Branding Proposal**

Zach Shook, a Graphic Designer for Jason Hogan Designs, addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He stated that there will be four phases for a rebranding:

- 1) Brand discovery
- 2) Identity package
- 3) Build brand guidelines
- 4) Rebranding strategy (optional)

**14. Personnel Handbook**

Mr. Harris discussed sections 6 through 10 of the proposed personnel handbook.

**15. Employee Incentives**

Mr. Harris stated that, rather than waiting until December, he would like to move forward with an employee bonus during the third week of November.

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve employee bonuses in November rather than in December.

**16. Upcoming Board and Authority Appointments**

Mr. Harris stated that Jessica Adams resigned from the Planning and Zoning Board. He said an attendance chart will be provided in the November Meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER/CO-COUNSEL GRANT KEENE**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Ritchie addressed the Mayor and Council Members.

**17. Annual Renewal of Employee Medical, Dental and Vision Coverage for the plan year 2023 Medical**

Ms. Ritchie proposed delaying the Council's decision a little longer to allow more time to look over different plan options.

**18. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- October 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member Yardley, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to approve October 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

**19. Approval of Executive Session Minutes**

- October 3, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to approve October 3, 2022 Executive Session Minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Turner announced that today, October 17, was the first day of early voting.

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

20. Upcoming calendar items:

- Carol Leigh Ledford Intersection Dedication Ceremony – Friday, October 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. on Hulsey Road at NOK Drive
- Planning and Zoning Meeting – Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Police Department

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.





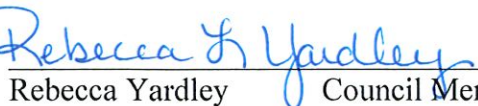

21. Discussion regarding real estate and personnel matters

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow citizens to return to the regular meeting. There were no citizens waiting to return to the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Called Meeting of October 17, 2022, at 10:36 p.m.

 _____ Josh Turner	Mayor	 _____ Jeremy McClure	Council Member Ward 3
 _____ Nan Bowen	Council Member Ward 1	 _____ C.J. McDonald	Council Member Ward 4 Mayor Pro Tem
 _____ Rebecca Yardley	Council Member Ward 2	ATTEST:  _____ Lisa A. Ritchie	City Clerk