



**Cleveland City Council
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 6, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.
Cleveland Community Center/Police Department
342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA**

1. Call to Order

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

PRESENT:

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

Also present were City Administrator Kevin Harris, City Attorney Keith Whitaker, and City Clerk Lisa Ritchie

- 2. Invocation – Associate Pastor Dennis Turner, Cleveland First Baptist Church, and White County Ministerial Alliance**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approve Agenda**

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the following items:

- RFP 23-001 for the Talon Property Bid Opening is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, at 5:00 p.m. at Cleveland City Hall. The status and next steps will be discussed at the November 13, 2023 Meeting.
- Water/Wastewater Director Andrea Smith will begin providing department reports at the December 11, 2023 Meeting.
- The city's portion of the preparation for the BatesCarter audit will be complete in the next few weeks.
- Mayor Turner and Mr. Harris are scheduled to attend the SPLOST Meeting with White County on Monday, November 13.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Resolution 2023-26 Amendment to Board Appointments – Planning & Zoning to fill an unexpired term

Motion by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the appointment of Valerie Mateen to the Planning and Zoning Board.

6. Request for a Variance to Code Section 12-402 for Occupation, Time Limits by Sid Patel, M-Star

The Mayor and Council Members considered Mr. Patel's request with input from Mr. Patel, Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker, Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant, Mr. Whitaker, and Mr. Patel.

There was no evidence of a hardship to warrant the request.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to deny the variance request.

7. Request for sanitation services and road closures of Highway 115 West/West Kytile Street from Jess Hunt Road to 129 South Main Street to the intersection of Helen Highway and Wilford Ash Sr Parkway for the Christmas in the Mountains Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

White County Chamber of Commerce President Beth Truelove addressed the Mayor and Council Members to discuss the event. She stated the road closures will be minimal amount of time for the parade and a meeting is scheduled with the Cleveland Police Department and White County staff for closing procedures.

Ms. Truelove stated that the parking lots on the square will close at 2:00 p.m. for the festival.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the request for sanitation services and road closures for the 2023 Christmas in the Mountains parade.

8. Approve Meeting Minutes
 - October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - October 12, 2023 Called Meeting Minutes

- October 23, 2023 Called Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes and the October 12 and 23, 2023 Called Meeting Minutes.

The Mayor and Council Member took a short recess to review the Executive Session Minutes for consideration.

9. Approve Executive Session Minutes

- October 2, 2023 Executive Session Minutes (Litigation)
- October 2, 2023 Executive Session Minutes (Real Estate and Personnel)
- October 12, 2023 Executive Session Minutes (Personnel)
- October 23, 2023 Executive Session Minutes (Personnel)

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 2, 2023 (two separate sessions), October 12, 2023, and October 23, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council Member Annie Sutton discussed concerns with the traffic caused by people trying to get into Dunkin Donuts. Ms. Truelove stated that the situation has been made worse by issues with fewer people working and dining rooms closing, doing business through drive-thru only.

Ms. Truelove stated that she will set up a meeting with the owner of Dunkin Donuts for possible resolutions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

Upcoming calendar items:

- 10.** White County Water Authority Meeting – Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority
- 11.** City of Cleveland offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans’ Day
- 12.** Planning & Zoning Meeting – will not meet in November
- 13.** Downtown Development Authority – Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the White County Chamber of Commerce

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

14. Discussion regarding personnel and real estate

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow attendance to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of November 6, 2023, at 7:59 p.m.