



Cleveland City Council Minutes

Monday, December 4, 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 6:31 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 – Student Ministries Pastor Garrett Kersey, The Bridge Church and White County Ministerial Alliance

Pastor Kersey was not in attendance. Dr. Mark Griffin led the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve Agenda

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda with an amendment to strike the Executive Session from the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

5. Lifesaving Awards

Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker and Deputy Chief Aaron Weiland addressed the Mayor and Council Members. Chief Shoemaker presented Lifesaving Awards to Officers Sarah Emery and Justin Baldwin.

Mayor Turner called for a brief recess to allow pictures to be taken.

Mayor Turner called the Meeting back to order.

6. Governor's Challenge Award

Chief Shoemaker stated that Cleveland Police Department won 2022-2023 Governor's Challenge Awards; Rookie of the Year, and 1st Place Category 2.

He stated the award is the result of the police department's efforts that have made differences reducing crashes, injuries, citations for child safety and seat belt violations, etc. in Cleveland.

7. Family Connection 2022-2023 Annual Report

Family Connect Executive Director Dr. Mark Griffin addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He discussed many programs including White Christmas and Shop with a Cop. Dr. Griffin expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their support.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Turner introduced the item.

Mr. Harris discussed the item stating that the amendment will make it clearer and fairer to the employees.

8. Second Public Hearing and Consideration – Resolution 2023-28 – Amendment of The Ordinance Establishing Personnel Policies and Procedures

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Turner closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve Resolution 2023-28 amending the Ordinance establishing the personnel policies and procedures.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the Talon property. He stated that it is officially for sale and bids will be accepted until January 12 at 4:30 p.m., with the opening of the bids at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Harris praised White County Chamber of Commerce for the Christmas in the Mountains event.

White County Chamber of Commerce President Beth Truelove stated that it is a testament of how well everyone works together in Cleveland.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

NEW BUSINESS

9. LMIG 2024 Project – City Road Resurfacing

Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the approve the 2024 LMIG project list as presented by Mr. O'Bryant.

10. Ratify request to use SPLOST funds for the purchase a 2007 garbage truck for the Sanitation Department in the amount of \$16,125.

Finance Director John Solmon addressed the Mayor and Council Members.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the ratification.

11. Approve Meeting Minutes

- November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

12. Approve Executive Session Minutes

- November 13, 2023 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the November 13, 2023 Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Public.

Mayor Turner expressed his appreciation to the White County Chamber of Commerce, community, and staff for the successful Christmas event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. Rebranding/Logo Consideration

Mr. Harris presented a new logo.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the proposed logo with changes (moving the tree closer in and verifying the windows on the courthouse).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie provided the announcements.

14. Upcoming calendar items and cancellations:

- Planning and Zoning Meeting – December Meeting has been cancelled
- Downtown Development Authority Meeting on December 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the White County Chamber of Commerce
- White County Water Authority Meeting – Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. at the Water Authority

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. Discussion regarding real estate

Executive Session was struck from the agenda during the adoption of the agenda.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of December 4, 2023 at 7:40 p.m.

Approved this 11th day of December, 2023

Josh Turner
Josh Turner Mayor

Jeremy McClure
Jeremy McClure Council Member
Ward 3
Mayor Pro Tem

Nan Bowen
Nan Bowen Council Member
Ward 1

C.J. McDonald
C.J. McDonald Council Member
Ward 4

Annie Sutton
Annie Sutton Council Member
Ward 2

ATTEST:
Lisa A. Ritchie
Lisa A. Ritchie City Clerk