



*City of Mountain Breezes*  
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA

## **Cleveland City Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 11, 2024 - 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, 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**

Associate Pastor Dennis Turner was not present. Council Member Sutton gave 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.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5. Proclamation recognizing Ollie Weiland for winning her second consecutive wrestling state title in the Georgia High School Association's (GHSA) Girl's 105-pound weight class at the Girls All-Classification State Tournament**

Mayor Turner presented the proclamation to Ms. Weiland. Ms. Weiland's family and her Coach Lowendick were in attendance.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the proclamation recognizing Ollie Weiland for winning her second consecutive wrestling state title in the Georgia High School Association's (GHSA) Girl's 105-pound weight class at the Girls All-Classification State Tournament.

6. Proclamation recognizing Christian Keheley for winning the wrestling state title in the Georgia High School Association's (GHSA) 157-pound weight class at the All-Classification State Tournament

Mayor Turner presented the proclamation to Mr. Keheley. Mr. Keheley's family and his Coach Lowendick were in attendance.

Motion by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the proclamation recognizing Christian Keheley for winning the wrestling state title in the Georgia High School Association's (GHSA) 157-pound weight class at the All-Classification State Tournament.

7. Proclamation proclaiming April 2024 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

Mayor Turner presented the proclamation to Rebekah Perethian of The South Enotah Child Advocacy Center, and Court-appointed special advocate (CASA) Director Della Lago.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the proclamation proclaiming April 2024 as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

8. Proclamation – Clyde, The English Setter

Mayor Turner presented the proclamation to Ward Gann, owner of Clyde's restaurant.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the proclamation paying tribute to Clyde the English Setter.

## 9. Lifesaving Awards

Chief Shoemaker presented Lifesaving Awards to the following:

- White County Deputy Jed Ferguson
- Officer Laura Riebold
- Officer Keith Rayner
- Sergeant Denton Vaughan

Mayor Turner called for a recess for photos. Mayor Turner called the meeting back to order.

## 10. FY 2022/2023 Audit Presentation by City Auditor Wayne Tuck of Walker, Pierce, and Tuck

Mr. Tuck addressed the Mayor and Council Members and gave his report.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to accept the FY 2022/2023 Audit.

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 11. Second Public Hearing and consideration – Resolution 2024-06 Amend Future Land Use Map, Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Turner opened the Public Hearing.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Turner stated that the first Public Hearing was held on March 4, 2024. He closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve Resolution 2024-06 Amend Future Land Use Map, Comprehensive Plan.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### 12. Economic Development and Planning – Director Tom O'Bryant

- February 2024 Report

Mr. O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following February items:

- Building Permits – 7 (Justin's Spirits, Cleveland Cellars, Anderson Power Services)
- Building Inspections – 67 (Old Nacoochee Village, Gateway Village, Oak Springs Cottages)
- Sign Permits – 3 (Smokey Mountain Traders, Gateway Village, Allstate Insurance)
- Plan Reviews – 3 (Cleveland Cellars, Justin's Spirits, Mountain Spirits)
- Current Commercial Activity – 7 (6 Courthouse Square, Wendy's, Scooters, Atlanta Hardwoods, Package Stores)
- Development Inquiries – 6 (Vickers Design Group, ARC Vision Architectural, Sullivan Wickley)
- Grant Applications
  - The Appalachian Regional Grant full application for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, moved to funding. Waiting for the EDA grant to be packaged together.
  - The EDA Grant application related to Disaster Declaration FEMA-4600-DR, for resiliency relief to help fund the proposed wastewater treatment plant – the project is in final administration. Waiting for an announcement.
- Infrastructure
  - Phase I of Cemetery Street waterline replacement – Survey completed. Field meeting conducted. Construction easement under preparation for Ash Feed Store.
  - The new well (well 6) - preconstruction meeting – mobilization is initiated.
  - LMIG 2022-2024 project – five bids received. Bid review and selection to occur later this month

### 13. Finance – Director John Solmon

- January 2024 Report

Mr. Solmon addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following January items:

- Comparison of January 2023 and January 2024
  - General Fund Revenue is up (Intergovernmental revenues, LMIG grant, monies from White County for shared services for fire services)
  - Expenditures are up, slightly
  - LOST collections are up
  - SPLOST collections are up
  - General Fund Expenditures are up, slightly, 57% of expenditures are for public safety (police and fire)
  - Water and Sewer Fund Revenue is up
  - Water and Sewer Fund Expenditures are up

Mr. Solmon gave updates on the American Rescue Plan, SPLOST V, SPLOST IV, and balances of the checking accounts

#### **14. Fire Department – Chief Ricky Pruitt**

- February 2024 Report

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

- Total of 115 Calls: 65 inside the city and 50 in the County
- White County Fire Services responded into the city 3 times

#### **15. Police Department - Chief Jeff Shoemaker**

- February 2024 Report

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

- Public assists - 477
- Premise checks – 831
- Field interviews - 11
- Incident reports - 67
- Accident reports - 16
- Investigative/supplemental – 64
- Citations Issued - 112
- Warnings - 305
- Warrants - 5

- Citations
  - Drug Arrest - 5
  - DUI - 3
  - Driver's license, Registration, & Insurance - 20
  - Moving violations, traffic control, etc. - 46
  - Equipment, seatbelt, etc. – 32
  - Other – 7

**16. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Ricky Hunt**

- February 2024 Report

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

- Inside New Water Cut-In & Sewer – 17
- Meter Change Out – 8
- City Hall Office Maintenance – 1
- Sewer backup - 3
- Dumpster Repair/Replace - 5
- Check For Leak – 6
- Final Reading Do Not Lock – 15
- Garbage Request – 16
- Inspection – 4
- Cut Off and Lock Meter for Non-Payment – 16
- Garbage Request Change – 2
- Culvert clean out - 1
- Meeting with Customer – 9
- Snowbird - 2
- Final Read and Lock meter - Disconnect – 14
- Payment Agreement – 1
- Street Repair – 2
- Meter Inspection – 20
- Residential Turn On – 27
- Commercial Turn On – 4
- Residential just unlock do not – 2
- After hours work - 5
- Line inspection – 181
- Outside new water cut-in & sewer cut-in - 2
- Meter Readings – Monthly – 2,243

- Meter Re-Reads – Monthly – 30
- Utility Locates – 113
- Total Number of Service Orders – 2,749
- Inmates worked 15 days and missed 2
- Residential and Commercial Sanitation – 54 loads, 177.91 tons of waste sent to the transfer station
- Routine sewer lift station daily inspections – 9 lift stations, 7 days a week, 252 inspections
- New water line project (Old Nacoochee Village) pressure tested, chlorinated and dechlorinated 700-feet of 8-inch water line

#### 17. Water Resources – Water Resources Director Andrea Smith

- February 2024 Report

Ms. Smith addressed the Mayor and Council Members. She reported the following February items:

- Water Treatment
  - Water produced by the city wells - 14.8 MG
  - Water purchased from the County - 8.8 MG
  - Flushed 5 hydrants for water quality
  - Laboratory tests on drinking water – 195
  - Collected and shipped all required samples to the EPD's lab
  - Submitted all Monthly Operating Reports to EPD
  - The water loss was 37.1%
  - Submitted the Water Audit to EPD – 2023 score was 67 (good score)
- Water Reclamation
  - Discharged 13.1 MG of treated effluent into the Tesnatee Creek
  - Performed 108 laboratory analysis on the influent and effluent wastewater
  - American Water Services installed buck boosters on the UV system and installed new breaker boxes and rewired the main panel

- Replaced lamps, sleeves, and ballast on the UV system
- Repaired 8 broken cables on the pond
- Installed a new hoist on the UV system
- Submitted Discharge Monitoring Report to EPD
- Reviewed and filed monthly grease trap manifests
- Reported a spill on White Street to the EDP
- Industrial Pretreatment
  - Reviewed Cobb-Vantress and NOK Self-Monitoring Reports
  - Reviewed Waste Manifest from White County Moldings
  - Received a letter from EPD stating that the Pretreatment Annual Report for 2023 was complete and acceptable

## NEW BUSINESS

- 18.** Request for purchase of add on equipment; additional camera on driver side, two tone cab paint, and six position wireless setom for the ladder truck from Williams Fire Apparatus – FUNDING SOURCE: SPLOST V

Chief Pruitt addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He requested the purchase of additional items for the new ladder truck for \$36,495.23. He said the purchase could wait until a month prior to receiving the new truck.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to postpone the request for this purchase until the first scheduled meeting in April.

- 19.** Request for the purchase of a vehicle for the City Administrator

Mr. Harris discussed the purchase request and options through state contracts for an Explorer or an Expedition.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the City Administrator not to exceed \$50,000 from the SPLOST V fund.

**20. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- March 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the March 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**21. Approval of Executive Session Minutes**

- March 4, 2024, Executive Session regarding personnel
- March 4, 2024 Executive Session regarding real estate and pending litigation

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the March 4, 2024, Executive Session Minutes for both sessions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris did not have any items to report.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcement.

**22. Upcoming Calendar items**

- City of Cleveland offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2024, in observance of the Good Friday Holiday

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

**23. Discussion regarding Real Estate, and Pending Litigation**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow citizens to return to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of March 11, 2024, at 8:08 p.m.

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

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