

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2016  
MINUTES**

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**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 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Edward Young, and Nan Bowen.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the January 4, 2016 City Council Meeting with the addition of the purchase of new windows for city hall. Mayor Ash informed the city has received a grant to install a generator at city hall. The city's cost share is \$3789.00 of the \$25,257.00 project. Paul Norris and Ricky Hunt will coordinate the installation of the generator. Mayor Ash thanked Chief Foster for his hard work on the project and receiving the grant on behalf of the city.

**OPENING COMMENTS FROM MAYOR SHAN ASH**

Mayor Ash began the new year, and new mayoral term, by offering a few comments to the city council and to the public.

Mayor Ash stated he is excited about starting his new position as mayor and feels he has some big shoes to fill in following Mayor Donald Stanley.

Mayor Ash has been meeting with city department heads to get up to speed on city business. Mayor Ash stated he met with the city engineer about the city's infrastructure and feels the city has been progressive and has done a good job on meeting the city's needs. Mayor Ash acknowledged the city has several ongoing projects and encourages those involved to continue in their work.

Mayor Ash has read through years of minutes and reviewed budgets and audits to gain a narrative history of the city's actions throughout the years.

Mayor Ash has met with Mr. Tom O'Bryant, White County Economic Development and Planning, to enlist his assistance in creating and receiving designation as an opportunity zone within Cleveland.

Mayor Ash expressed his enthusiasm with working with the City Council, city departments, and board members. Mayor Ash thanked Nan Bowen for stepping up to fill the council seat of Ward 1. Mayor Ash stated he looks forward to this new term and starting the new year.

**PAT WHEELER HEART OF GOLD PILOTS CLUB – recognition of Mark Gunter, Cleveland Fire and Randall Townley, Cleveland Police, for the Cleveland Child Safety Seat Program**

Pat Wheeler, Heart of Gold Pilots Club, came before the Mayor and Council to recognize several city employees for their work with the Child Safety Seat Program.

The Pilots Club is an organization which provides humanitarian efforts through charitable, educational, and research programs in communities around the world. The club focuses on preventing brain injuries caused by improper car restraints.

**PAT WHEELER HEART OF GOLD PILOTS CLUB – recognition of Mark Gunter, Cleveland Fire and Randall Townley, Cleveland Police, for the Cleveland Child Safety Seat Program – continued**

Mrs. Wheeler submitted a progress report for 2015 Child Safety Seat Program which stated the following:

The collaboration of White County Health Department, City of Cleveland Police, City of Cleveland Fire, White County Sheriff's office, and Heart of Gold Pilot Club shows tremendous effort in reducing the injuries and fatalities of children between the age of 0 – 10 in automobile crashes.

First, the evidence has been shown by a total of 7 child restraints being replaced after being involved in serious crashes. Three of the 7 seats replaced were the result of a crash in the City of Cleveland. Commendations should be given to the following technicians:

- Pete Dorsey, Cleveland Police Department – course completed
- Mark Gunter, Cleveland Fire Department – course completed
- Jared Baker, White County Sheriff's Office
- Charles Brantley, White County Sheriff's Office
- Randall Townley, Cleveland Police Department – course completed

These results could not have been attained without the support and leadership of the following:

- Cindy King, White County Health Department
- Chief John Foster, Cleveland Police Department
- Chief Ricky Pruitt, Cleveland Fire Department
- Sheriff Neal Walden, White County Sheriff's Office

Seats are distributed at the City of Cleveland Fire Department to low income families. Seats are checked at the Cleveland Police Department and at Cleveland City Hall.

Most seats are provided through the grant of the White County Health Department and the Office Injury Prevention through the Georgia Department of Human Resources. In the months of June through December 2015, 31 car seats were checked for installation safety and 42 car seats were given to families in need. At each check or installation, the technician shows the parent or caregiver how to properly install the car seat and place the child to insure the upmost safety.

Mrs. Wheeler proceeded to award Chief Ricky Pruitt, Cleveland Fire Department, for his dedication of support to the program. Chief John Foster, Cleveland Police Department, was awarded for his dedication of leadership. Chief Foster expressed his gratitude to Randall Townley, Cleveland Police, as the guiding force of the program and deserves all the thanks. Mark Gunter, Cleveland Fire, was also recognized for his accomplishments and he and his wife are the newest members of the Pilots Club.

The White County Chapter of the Heart of Gold Pilot Club will hold a chili cook-off fundraiser, January 30.

Mayor Ash expressed his appreciation of the work of the city's employees on the program.



### **CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, submitted the department's statistics for December 2015. The department reported 68 calls – 32 City, 36 County. To the calls responded within the county, eight were outside the automatic aid area. December 2015 showed decrease of 9% from December 2014.

The annual statistics showed an overall increase of 7% from 2014. City calls were up 3% and county calls increased by 12.5%. Throughout the year, the department responded to 136 calls outside of the agreed automatic aid area.

### **CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John Foster, Police Department, did not have any new business to report.

### **GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY**

In an effort to resolve a transfer of property between the city and the White County Board of Education, Grant Keene informed the deed has been signed by the previous mayor and council, will be recorded, and when signed by the White County Board of Education, the documents will return to the city for acceptance. This will transfer the old access to Jess Hunt Road to the White County Board of Education and transfer a new right of way to the city.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the draft minutes of December 7 and December 14, 2015.
2. The mayor and council discussed the 2016 appointments for city staff and various boards. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Council voted to appoint Mayor Shan Ash to the White County Water Authority Board and the White County Health Department Board. Nan Bowen agreed to serve on the Family Connections Board. The mayor and council discussed the need to fill the vacancies for the Planning and Zoning Board, Tree City USA Board, Alcohol Review Board (alternate), and the Downtown Development Authority.  
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Edward Young and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the appointments to the boards and city staff. The appointed members and staff are a made part of these minutes, which include Planning and Zoning, Tree City USA, Library Board, Health Department, Housing Authority, Downtown Development Authority, Alcohol License Review Board, Public Works Director – Donald Hunt, Asst. Public Works Director – Ricky Hunt, Finance Officer – Beth Rohmeyer, Police Chief – John Foster, Fire Chief – Ricky Pruitt, and City Clerk – Connie Tracas. Annie Sutton is the appointed Mayor Pro Tempore for 2016.
3. Several windows at City Hall need to be replaced due to aging. On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to purchase the replacement windows at \$1525.00.
4. Public Comments – Cindy Bailey, White County Chamber of Commerce, informed the mayor and council of an upcoming meeting to discuss the “branding” of White County which would include the cities of Cleveland and Helen. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2016, 10:30 a.m. at the White County Board of Commissioners offices. Ms. Bailey is also trying to arrange White County Day at the Capital for February.

### **NEW BUSINESS – continued**

#### **Public comments continued**

Judy Lovell, White County Historical Society, updated the mayor and council of the completion of the replacement windows at the historic courthouse. Ms. Lovell also invited the council to attend the next Historical Society meeting which will be held Thursday, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, February 4, the society will hold a public meeting to inform on the results of the historic survey.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The mayor and council discussed the existing sign moratorium. Mayor Ash informed the city was advised by counsel to enact the moratorium due to a supreme court case Reed v. Gilbert AZ. Grant Keene is requesting permission to work with the city clerk to produce a draft for the council to review. David Syfan has offered to draft a new ordinance but it will take up to 45 days to complete. This will push the adoption of a new ordinance outside of the 120 day moratorium. One issue is the timing of the adoption. The city's current ordinance needs very little changes and a revised draft can be sent to the council for review by the next council meeting. The draft will then be sent to Mr. Syfan to confirm the ordinance complies with all laws. A public hearing will be set for the Planning and Zoning Board to review before going to the mayor and council for final adoption.  
Bradley Greene and Annie Sutton expressed their desire to "clean-up" the existing ordinance. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Edward Young and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to instruct Grant Keene to work with City Clerk Connie Tracas to produce a draft ordinance to show compliance with Reed v. Gilbert AZ. Mr. Keene is to communicate with Mr. Syfan of the council's instructions. The city clerk will contact the Planning and Zoning board to schedule a meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Bradley Greene and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:45 p.m.

### **RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING**

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 8:15 p.m. No further business was discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 4, 2016 at 8:15 p.m.

Signatures next page



Shan Ash a/k/a Roy Ash, III, Mayor



Edward Young, Council Member



Annie Sutton, Council Member



Nan Bowen, Council Member



Bradley Greene, Council Member

Attest: 

Connie Tracas, City Clerk

