

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 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: Bradley Greene, Edward Young, and Nan Bowen. Annie Sutton was absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the January 11, 2016 City Council Meeting.

**WAYNE TUCK, WALKER, PIERCE & TUCK – 2014/2015 AUDIT**

Wayne Tuck, Walker, Pierce, and Tuck, CPA, came before the Mayor and Council to present the 2014/2015 Audit.

Mr. Tuck began by stating in the opinion of Walker, Pierce, and Tuck, CPA; the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, funds, and governmental activities in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Mr. Tuck stated this is a reflection of the hard work and organization of Beth Rohmeyer, Finance Officer, and Connie Tracas, City Clerk. Mr. Tuck added Beth Rohmeyer, Finance Officer, and Connie Tracas, City Clerk has internal controls in place which makes for conducting a smooth audit.

Mr. Tuck discussed the balance sheet for the general funds. Pages three and four reflects government wide financial statements if government was a for-profit business. An increase is shown in sales tax revenue. SPLOST shows an increase which is in line with the sales tax increase. The general fund is up by approximately \$166,359. The audit looks for financial trends from year to year.

The water and sewer fund is doing well and is shows an increase in assets. The water and sewer revenue is up, as well as the assets due to the completion of water and sewer projects. The department is self-supporting without the need of funding from other city funds. Mr. Tuck cautioned the Council to stay on top of water and sewer rates, so that the fund sustains the water and sewer departments and activities.

GASB 68 accounting practices requires the audit to include a report on the city's pension fund. The auditing includes liabilities the city may have for those that may retire. Mr. Tuck encouraged the Mayor and Council to read the narrative in the audit. Mr. Tuck also issued a big thanks to Beth Rohmeyer, Finance Officer, and Connie Tracas, City Clerk for their diligence and hard work.

**BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER**

Brian Rindt, City Engineer, discussed the progress of the 129 North sewer line project. All but three easements have been signed. The city is waiting to hear from North Georgia Hardwood, Ingle's Markets, and the Allison family. Mr. Rindt will meet with the president of North Georgia Hardwoods to go over the easement request. There is a concern of the existing storm water pond and if it could be expanded.

**BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER - continued**

The Allison family is requesting the five-year limit to connect to the sewer system is taken out of the agreement. Mr. Rindt explained the reason it is in the agreement so that a future sitting council will know what is going on with the property and the system. Edward Young stated that if the Allison's get that option, then all that has signed should receive the same. Mr. Rindt informed that would require new documents, signatures, and everyone had negotiating power when approached with the easement.

Grant Keene agreed the agreements needed a time limit included as a rule of perpetuity. Mr. Rindt will speak with the Allison family again about the conditions of the easement.

**CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John Foster, Police Department, submitted the department statistics for December 2015. The department reported 3745 activities with a decrease in accident reports.

Chief Foster also presented the department annual statistics for 2015. The department reported 42,361, which includes 2918 investigations, 308 warrants, and 10460 public assist.

**GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY**

Grant Keene, City Attorney, submitted a draft sign ordinance for the Mayor and Council to review. Mr. Keene used a compliant Hall County sign ordinance to correct areas in the city's ordinance.

Mr. Keene suggested the council use the Hall County standards for a billboard as the standards are extensive to digital billboards.

The changes made to the city's ordinance include removing wording that may be considered regulating content. Other changes included clarification in building official roles and the allowance of a larger area for window signs, permanent or temporary, and a larger changeable copy area for signs.

The council discussed allowing neon rope lighting within the sign districts of two and three. The lights can be no more than 3 candle foot in illumination.

The council would like to incorporate the specifications from Hall County for those properties that are below grade and the additional allowance for the height of the sign.

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to submit a draft ordinance to the planning and zoning board and to David Syfan for compliance with the above changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Class requests were approved for Judge Garrison Baker, Charlie LaVelle, and Sheena Wright.
2. Public Comments – Chief John Foster invited the council to attend a training in Duluth that involves a IVR machine which is a circular screen that rotates around the participant. The screen emits various emergency scenarios for an officer to respond to which may involve the use of a weapon. Chief Foster will set up the date and time.



**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

3. Debbie Gilbert, White County News, asked Chief Foster how someone accidentally can shoot someone while cleaning their weapon. This question was in reference to the accidental shooting in Forsyth County. Chief Foster explained, as he would to a child, there are incidences where a person may forget to check the chamber for ammunition. It should be a common practice to have your ammunition in another room while cleaning your weapon. Always check the chamber before cleaning and treat your weapon, at all times, as if it is loaded.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. The minutes of December 2015 were signed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into executive session to discuss possible litigation at 7:50 p.m.

**RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING**

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 8:25 p.m. No further business was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 11, 2016 at 8:26 p.m.



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



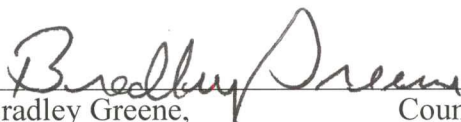
Edward Young,      Council Member

**(ABSENT)**

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Annie Sutton,      Council Member

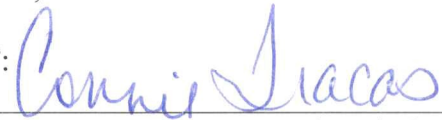


Nan Bowen,      Council Member



Bradley Greene,      Council Member

ATTEST:



Connie Tracas,      City Clerk

