

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2016
MINUTES**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Annie Sutton at 7:02 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Edward Young, and Nan Bowen. Mayor Shan Ash was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council approved the agenda of March 14, 2016 with the addition of class requests for Chief Foster and Lieutenant Addis.

BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER

1. Brian Rindt, City Engineer, informed the Mayor and Council of the status of the 129 North Gravity Sewer project. The city needs to obtain easements from Ingle's, North Georgia Hardwood, and the Allison family.
Dan Hicks, Ingle's Real Estate, is reviewing the easement documents, and will forward for corporate review.
North Georgia Hardwood President, Jim Howard, has realized he will not be able to build a new office in the area of the proposed sewer line and does not have issue with the easement. Mr. Rindt, Mr. Howard, and Brian Payne, White County Tax Assessor, met at the property and made a determination the site could not be built on. Mr. Payne will reassess the property at a lower value. Mr. Howard asked Mr. Payne to consider a rollback of taxes for the past three years (Georgia law allows this process). The county denied the request. The general consensus is to add the piece to the existing lot of North Georgia Hardwood. This piece is zoned residential and the city will assist Mr. Howard in the rezoning process to make the tract one lot of record with a zoning classification of industrial.
The Allison Family has several stipulations to the easement and Mr. Rindt is reviewing each one. The property line is shown to the center of Pardue Circle but there is no record of DOT abandoning the road and the city has been maintaining for numerous years. Benny Blanton has confirmed the sewer line will be within the setbacks which cannot be built on. Grant Keene asked the width of the street and Mr. Rindt answered twenty-five feet on each side of the road.
2. The City has received the archeological survey for the property of the south water tank. The study was required by the State Historical Society. The firm did not find any significant historical issues with the property.
The USDA has issued four comments to address on the application, two of which concerns the fees of the engineer and administration. Mr. Rindt has agreed to reduce his fees for the project and Ms. Steedley will submit a report justifying her fees.

GRANT KEENE, CITY ATTORNEY

Grant Keene, City Attorney, did not have any new business to report, but will have two items for executive session concerning possible litigation.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER –POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Foster submitted the statistics for the department. Chief Foster is trying a new format for reporting which will show additional activities from month to month. Chief Foster is in the process of getting his staff to learn the new system.

Chief Foster submitted a class request for himself and Lieutenant Addis to attend the Gatlinburg Law Enforcement Conference. The conference will address the influx of heroin use and trafficking. It is possible if a bad dose of heroin, which causes a death, can be tracked back to the supplier, that supplier can be charged with murder. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council approved the class request.

Annie Sutton mentioned the shooting on Hood Street. Someone was just randomly shooting a gun in the neighborhood and frightened several neighbors. Gun fire is not allowed within the city limits. A resident asked if the city could post signs stating gunfire is prohibited within the city limits.

NEW BUSINESS

1. In the past, the city has discussed participating in GA. Power's LED program for street lights.

Jerry Cook, GA. Power, called and he stated the city would not lose any of the franchise fees that are due to the city during the six month disconnection notification. This is to inform the lights will be out until the light head is switched to LED lights. The city will not save in the power billing, but it is a cleaner lighting system.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council approved the city to participate in the Georgia Power LED light program.

2. The city would like to participate in the DOT LMIG program for safety equipment. The city would purchase street sign poles, street signs, stops signs, pedestrian crosswalk, and install rumble strips in congested traffic areas.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the LMIG list and report to DOT.

3. Public comments – Terry Goodger informed the county will be moving the military monuments to Freedom Park along with the engraved bricks. The move is to be completed by Memorial Day. The county will then install a handicap ramp on the north end of the courthouse and add new landscaping.

Michelle Waters came before the council to complain about standing water in her yard which she believes is caused by the city having a sewer line installed two years ago. She has informed the council in writing and does not feel this is something she should have to deal with the situation. Ms. Waters claim she cannot utilize her storage building when it rains.

Grant Keene and the council informed Ms. Waters they will discuss to provide a solution.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of February 2016 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss possible litigation at 7:41 p.m.

RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor –Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting of March 14, 2016 at 8:25 p.m.

The city has made three attempts to satisfy Ms. Waters with her claims of standing water. The city has had the area and berms regraded and added gravel. There are several contractors that have told the city they will not go back on the property. The city feels there is nothing to satisfy Ms. Waters and is willing to offer \$1000 with a signed settlement to allow Ms. Waters to find her own contractor to fix her alleged problem with standing water.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Edward Young, in favor – Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to offer a settlement agreement to Michelle and Douglas Waters to have the area in question repaired to the satisfaction of the owners.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Edward Young, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of March 14, 2016 at 8:27 p.m.

(ABSENT)

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

Mayor

Edward Young,

Council Member

Annie Sutton

Annie Sutton,

Council Member

Nan Bowen

Nan Bowen,

Council Member

Bradley Greene

Bradley Greene,

Council Member

Attest:

Connie Tracas

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

