

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 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 Shan Ash at 7:01 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Sutton, Bradley Greene, Edward Young, and Nan Bowen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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 approve the agenda of the May 2, 2016 City Council Meeting.

MIKE COULTAS - TO ISSUE COMPLAINT OF THE CITY'S BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Mike Coultas came before the council to make a complaint of the city's backflow prevention program. Edward Young began by telling Mr. Coultas there is nothing wrong with the city's backflow testing program and wasn't sure what Mr. Coultas angle was by coming to the council.

Mr. Coultas explained he was a state certified back flow tester and a master plumber. He stated he presented his credentials, as a tester, and was told the backflow test failed because of his credentials. Mr. Coultas feels the city's water supervisor was not clear with his client and also felt the city employee was rude to his client. Mr. Coultas told the council the city is not requiring the test to be conducted correctly.

Mayor Ash asked if Mr. Coultas was here to talk about a communication issue or the testing process. Mr. Coultas answered both, but informed the city did not know about proper testing. Mayor Ash responded it was a simple test – either the backflow leaks or it does not leak. Mayor Ash stated Mr. Coultas is wasting the council's time, the test is simple, and Tom Guy knows his job. Edward Young reiterated Mayor Ash's point about the good job Tom Guy is doing for the city.

Mr. Coultas tried to leave the testing paperwork for the City of Gainesville, but Bradley Greene informed the city is satisfied with our testing program and was not interested in Gainesville's testing.

Mayor Ash asked Annie Sutton if she had anything to say about Mr. Coultas. Ms. Sutton stated the council could have been nicer and more diplomatic about the issue.

2016-05 STANDARD DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS – 3RD CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS REGULATING EXTERIOR MATERIALS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The Mayor and Council reviewed the amendment to the Standard Development Specifications regulating exterior materials for commercial buildings.

The council has been informed the cost increase to build a brick building compared to a metal "butler" building is 3% to 5%. A typical 20,000 square foot building would average a 3% increase – a 50,000 square foot building would average 5%.

2016-05 STANDARD DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS – 3RD CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS REGULATING EXTERIOR MATERIALS FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS - continued

Nan Bowen stated the property in front of her home will more than likely go commercial and she does not want to look at the back of a metal building.

Annie Sutton informed Bradley Greene stated he was concerned over the costs of construction. Edward Young stated his concerning of loading docks. Bradley Greene stated requiring a brick exterior for loading docks is counter-productive.

Mayor Ash reminded the group of the city's effort to acquire the opportunity zone designation and there is a variance process for the applicant. The point is to try and give Cleveland a different look. Mayor Ash added the variance process can go through the council and not the Planning and Zoning Board.

Grant Keene, City Attorney, began a lengthy discussion of if the amendment allowed for metal doors and metal roll-up doors. After much discussion, the council would like to see the allowance of steel, glass and other materials for doors and roll-up doors. Annie Sutton stated the city needed to make sure the doors were covered. Edward Young added storefronts were typically glass.

Bradley Greene stated the city is running businesses off by this amendment. Nan Bowen countered that the City of Helen has strict guidelines and a unique look and Cleveland should develop a look. Annie Sutton added she thinks of those that have purchased properties that will now face the back of a metal building. She is sure that is not what the owners thought the view would be at their home.

Grant Keene asked if the council intent is to have accessory uses hid from any public road. Bradley Greene and Annie Sutton answered yes. Mr. Keene suggested the language in the amendment is changed to view from public streets.

The council did not vote on the third consideration, but would like to see a draft with the discussed changes at the next council meeting.

SANITATION RATE INCREASE - DISCUSSION

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the proposed sanitation rate increase. The proposal is a 25% increase in sanitation rates.

The proposed rates have been posted at city hall, but the city staff has not received comments.

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 schedule the sanitation rate increase for the June meetings.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, did not have statistics to report but will have at a later date.

Chief Pruitt asked permission to remove a shower from the Talon building to the upstairs bathroom at city hall. There are times when the fire department needs to wash down after a call and have been using county fire department showers. The Mayor and Council approved moving the shower from Talon to city hall.

Debbie Gilbert informed the county approved increasing ambulance service within the county.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, informed the Mayor and Council of vandalism at the Woodman City Park over the weekend.

Someone clogged all the toilets, broke the door, tore off the toilet paper holders, and rolled the area with toilet paper. The area had been checked by the on duty officer at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday and the area was clear. The officer checked the area at 4:30 a.m. and the park had been trashed.

The city has been diligently working to get security cameras installed at the park, but is having issues with getting a power source for the relay equipment.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

Grant Keene, City Attorney, did not have any new business to report.

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 approved GMA's District 2 Officers for 2016-2017 and authorized Mayor Ash to sign the approval.
The officers are:
President: Danny Dunagan, Mayor, Gainesville
1st Vice President: James Grogan, Mayor, Dawsonville
2nd Vice President: Michael Clemons, Dahlonga
3rd Vice President: Buddy Moore, Council Member, Blairsville
2. On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the minutes of April 4 and April 11, 2016.
3. 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 class request for Andrea Smith for EPD training.

NEW BUSINESS - CONTINUED

4. Public comments: Cindy Bailey, White County Chamber of Commerce, informed the Mayor and Council of several events taking place:
May 10 – Leadership Day at Truett McConnell College
May 16 – Candidates forum 6:00 p.m.
May 19 – Business Expo at Babyland – 2 – 7 p.m.
September 17 -Food, Wine & Art Festival

The Chamber has a commercial for White County Adventures that is airing on Georgia Public Broadcasting during the Ken Burns National Parks series.

Chief Foster invited the Mayor and Council to participate in the Relay for Life Public Safety Cake Auction, Friday, May 6.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Annie Sutton inquired if Woodlands Camp had the water line issues resolved. Ms. Sutton was informed the camp has started construction on the line.
2. Ms. Sutton asked about striping on city streets. Requests for proposals have been sent and hopefully most streets will be re-striped.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition, at 8:03 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 of May 2, 2016 at 8:31 p.m. No further business was discussed.

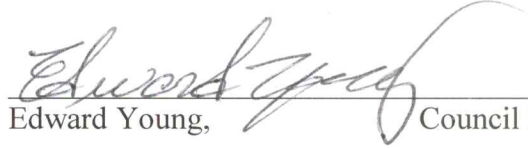
ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Edward Young, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of May 2, 2016 at 8:32 p.m.

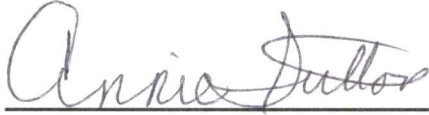
Signatures next page



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

