

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2018
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 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan Bowen, Annie Sutton, Kevin Stanley, and Bradley Greene.

Before the start of the meeting, Mayor Shan Ash recognized City Clerk Connie Tracas and thanked her for her work with the city. May 6 – 9 is Georgia Municipal Clerks Week.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the agenda for the May 7, 2018 City Council meeting.

KEEP CLEVELAND BEAUTIFUL – CALLIE ARMOUR

Mayor Ash introduced Ms. Callie Armour, White County 4-H Club. Ms. Armour has submitted a proposal to Keep Cleveland Beautiful by replacing planters and flowers on the square. Mayor Ash informed Ms. Armour is also a part of the Girl Scout Troop assisting with the improvements at the City Park.

Ms. Armour came before the council and read a statement detailing her proposal:

Hello, my name is Callie Armour, a member of the 4-H in White County, today, along with Nathan, I am here to propose the idea to Keep Cleveland Beautiful. The objective of this project is to update the current planters of Cleveland's square and make more inviting to visitors. My plan is to first remove the current planters. Then, get all the supplies, such as soil, planters, and plants organized at our local 4-H garden behind the Methodist Church. I will set up an assembly line, along with recruits from 4-H, to fill planters with soil and plants. Each pot will be a unique mixture of plants and flowers in order to create a beautiful variation. After we finish, the planters will be placed in their new home on the square and any additional and leftover flowers will be planted in the triangular section on the north side of the courthouse in front of Nora Mill. This packet includes plant and flower ideas, along with pictures. One example is the planter on Clarksville square. I have also included images where the new planters will replace the current ones. We have chosen plants that are optimal throughout the year. I am looking forward with working with Mrs. Nadine Wardenga, the 4-H Club, and the City of Cleveland. MS. Nadine had a beautiful planter until it got involved in a small accident. I hope to learn from Ms. Nadine. Thanks for listening to my presentation on how to Keep Cleveland Beautiful.

Bradley Greene commented Ms. Armour's presentation was very impressive.

Nathan Eason, Extension Office, informed Ms. Armour is the newly elected Northeast Georgia Vice President for 4-H. Mr. Eason added he is very proud of the work Ms. Armour and the other 4-H students are doing. The group, along with the Master Gardeners, have made a commitment to contribute time and labor to this project. Mayor Ash expressed his appreciation of Mr. Eason's support of the project.

Mr. Tom O'Bryant explained the planters have been ordered and will be ready for pick up soon. The planters are funded through the hotel/motel tax and engraved brick sales.

2018-10 RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT IN FRONT OF TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY

The Mayor and Council have been approached by Truett McConnell University faculty member John Yarborough to request support to reduce the speed limit on East Kytile Street / Highway 115 East. Mr. Yarborough informed he has spoken with Chief Foster, Sheriff Walden, and Senator Steve Gooch about the increase in activity at the school and the need to reduce the speed limit for the safety of students and visitors. Senator Gooch has promised to present the proposal to Georgia Department of Transportation Mayor Ash read Resolution 2018-10:

City of Cleveland, Georgia Resolution 2018-10

Support for the reduction of the speed limit on GA Highway 115 (East Kytile Street) in front of Truett McConnell University

Whereas, Truett McConnell University has experienced dramatic growth over the past 10 years with enrollment increasing from 465 in 2008 to an enrollment of 2575 in the fall of 2017.

Whereas, the University has expanded academic offerings to include 27 undergraduate programs and 5 graduate degree programs.

Whereas, the University has expanded intercollegiate athletic teams in numerous sports to a total of 15 teams. The number of teams and the schedule of events has produced a constant flow of buses, vans, and growing numbers of the public attending athletic events on campus.

Whereas, the University has expanded the physical campus to include education instruction and administrative facilities at properties located on the north and south side of GA Highway 115 (East Kytile Street), added additional residential housing, enlarged athletic facilities, increased dining facilities and constructed an expansive Student Wellness Center.

Whereas, the University's growth has increased traffic on GA Highway 115 (East Kytile Street) including students, faculty, staff, area residents attending events on campus, guests and pedestrian traffic accessing various facilities on the expanded campus. The University now has 8 points of vehicular access to Hwy 115, which increases vehicle and pedestrian traffic dramatically and increases the dangers posed by the present speed limit on GA Highway 115 (East Kytile Street) in front of the campus.

Therefore be it resolved the Cleveland, Georgia City Council supports the request of Truett McConnell University to establish the area on GA Highway 115 (East Kytile Street) from west of Henry Nix Road to East of Dixon Road as a school zone and reduce the speed limit from the present 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour in this zone. Currently, the 35 miles per hour speed limit begins west of Dixon Road on GA Highway 115.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve Resolution 2018-10 for Support to Reduce Speed in front of Truett McConnell University.

OAK SPRINGS SCHOOL AND PROPERTY – approval to enter into an intergovernmental agreement and acceptance of the Oak Springs School and Property from the White County Board of Commissioners

The White County Board of Commissioners voted to deed the Oak Springs School and property to the City of Cleveland. The city has been requesting the dedication of the property for some time to make a part of the Talon/Oak Springs Municipal Complex.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the White County Board of Commissioners for the Oak Springs School and property

OAK SPRINGS SCHOOL AND PROPERTY – approval to enter into an intergovernmental agreement and acceptance of the Oak Springs School and Property from the White County Board of Commissioners - **continued**

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to accept the dedication of the Oak Springs School and property from the White County Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Ash thanked Commissioner Goodger, who was present, for the dedication of the historic building. The city plans to renovate the building for community use. Mr. Goodger stated the county could not come up with a use for the historic building and feels the city will create a use beneficial to the city and county.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, presented the department's monthly statistics for April 2018. The department responded to 92 calls – 54 within the city, 28 in the automatic aid area within the county and 10 calls outside the automatic aid area in the county. White County Fire Department assisted the city with three calls within the city limits.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Jail Agreement

- a. At its April 2, 2018 meeting, the Council adopted an Jail Agreement with the County Sheriff's Office with amendments that clarify the city's position in the agreement.
- b. The Sheriff has contact staff and will not accept the agreement adopted by City Council and has requested that the city adopt the exact copy he sent to the City.
- c. The Sheriff's Office then made some basic amendments to the agreement and is asking the council to adopt the new agreement.
- d. City Council will need to vote to rescind the April 2, 2018 agreement and adopt the new amended agreement. The amendment is changing City of Helen to City of Cleveland.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to rescind the agreement approved April 2, 2018.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the amended agreement with the White County Sheriff for jail services. Mayor Ash was given authorization to sign.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

2. Update on Franchise Agreement with Atlanta Gas Light

- a. City Council adopted a proposed franchise agreement with Atlanta Gas Light on March 5, 2018
- b. Atlanta Gas Light has reviewed the proposed agreement and amended the agreement.
- c. At issue is with locations AGL can place their utility infrastructure. The City removed “parks” as a location for such infrastructure. AGL placed the term back in the agreement. The City has contacted and spoken with AGL legal staff regarding the City’s position. AGL is evaluating the request.

3. Status Update

- a. The audit for cable and TV with Windstream has been complete. The City administrator met with Windstream’s Vice President of Tax and with the President of Windstream Georgia on April 17, 2018. They assured the City that they would be cooperating with the audit request and the City’s consultant, Local Government Services. The audit revealed some missing accounts and fee payments in the amount \$2,749. In the future the City should receive additional amount of franchise fees in the sum of \$900 annually. The City has made the request for the missing fee payment and Windstream has assured the City it will be quickly paid.
- b. The Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for Hulsey Road water improvements was submitted on April 13, 2018. The application was prepared and delivered by Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. The application is currently under review. We anticipate a response from the application in early June.
- c. Negotiations with White County for the percentage portions of the proposed 2020 SPLOST continue. An agreement must be reached by early July to be able to get the item on the November election ballot.
- d. Oak Springs School. Discussed earlier in the meeting - The County voted in favor of the agreement that the City sent to them regarding the transfer of ownership of the Oak Springs School. Pending final acceptance of the agreement by City Council and signatures the City will own take ownership of the school.

4. Strategic Housing Plan

- a. City staff has met with Mr. Mark DuMas and officers of the Paces Foundation regarding additional senior and affordable housing within the City of Cleveland. Paces is the owner and operation of Whitehall Manor and Whitehall Commons off of Bryant Street.
- b. In order to help the city and organization like Paces better qualify for funding assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs a Strategic Housing Plan needs to be developed and adopted by City Council.
- c. In addition to this need, the White County Chamber of Commerce has been working with its Vision 2030 committee and has identified the need to develop a housing strategy for the community. City staff will be working with the Chamber, White County and stakeholders like Paces to develop a housing strategy for the City and will bring it before City Council for adoption.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

5. 2018-2019 Budget

- a. Staff is preparing the budget for FY 18-19. I will be getting with each council member reviewing anticipated revenue and expenditures.
- b. The FY 18-19 Budget will include costs associated with the design and development of a plan for a municipal complex at the Talon Building and property. With the acceptance of the Oak Springs School, this is now the Talon/Oak Springs Project.

6. Water Department Truck

- a. The Water Department has had troubles with operation of one of the trucks (engine blew up). It was determined that a new truck is needed for operation.
- b. The City budgeted, in the current FY 18 budget, capital outlay funds for equipment and vehicles. These funds are also SPLOST IV funds. The City purchased 2018 Dodge Ram 1500, 4x4. The cost of the truck is \$25,000. The foresight of the council to include equipment and vehicles in SPLOST helps in keeping user rates down for water/sewer/sanitation fees. Another reason to appeal to the commissioners for the city's fair share of SPLOST. Chief Foster assisted in acquiring the vehicle from Jacky Jones.

NEW BUSINESS

1. GMA has submitted a ballot for the nominations of the 2018-2019 District 2 Officers. The nominations are as follows:
President – Buddy Moore, Council Member, Blairsville
First Vice President – Brandon Johnson, Mayor, Hartwell
Second Vice President – Annie Sutton, Council Member, Cleveland
Third Vice President – Liz Ordiales, Mayor, Hiawasse
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the list of nominations for the 2018-2019 GMA District 2 Officers.
2. On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class request for Connie Tracas.
3. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the minutes of April 2 and 9, 2018.
4. Public comments –
 - John Erble, member of the White County Historical Society, informed the historic courthouse and its facilities will be opened to the public for the May 26th event on the square. The next historical society program will be a tour of the Martin House and Nora Mill. The gift shop is now accepting credit cards. Mr. Erble thanked the mayor and council for their continued support.
 - Judy Lovell informed the historical society has the original plaque for the Oak Springs School. The society will consider dedicating to the city once the renovations to the school are complete.
 - Annie Sutton stated the society gave a very informative program on the Hardman Farm and Trail.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Public comments - continued

- Annie Sutton thanked the council for the city support of the Methodist Church Day in the Park. Ms. Sutton also thanked Dean Dyer, WRWH Radio, for his support and coverage of the event.
- Nadine Wardenga informed of the May 26 event on the square. The Downtown Cleveland Merchants Alliance will hold events, throughout the day, on the square to include a hula hoop contest and encourage the council to participate. The event will have food, music, and tent sales.
- Ms. Wardenga is excited to work with Ms. Callie Armour on replacing the planters on the square. Ms. Wardenga thanked the council for their support.
- Nathan Eason, Extension Office, informed the Farmer's Market will begin selling produce on May 19th. The official start date is June 16. The Master Gardeners group is leading the Farmer's Market. Mayor Ash thanked Mr. Eason for his hard work in the community.
- Carol Veal came before the council to complain about vehicles revving motors up and down Campbell Street of all hours during the day and night. Ms. Veal stated she can see a difference in this activity when it is known the police are patrolling the area. Ms. Veal believes there are three areas operating car lots in the residential area. Ms. Veal would like the city to look into installing more street lights and to fix the speed bumps in the area. Ms. Veal feels her neighborhood is dangerous. Mayor Ash informed the city is looking into solutions to her complaints. Annie Sutton stated she hears the noise from cars from the bypass, Hwy 129 and Hwy 115, but has learned to live with it. Ms. Sutton expressed how fortunate she feels to live in Cleveland compared to living in an area like Washington DC. Ms. Veal complained about not knowing her neighbors and there is no respect within the neighborhood. Ms. Sutton advised Ms. Veal to make an effort to meet her neighbors. Ms. Veal complained about missing street and speed limits signs. Mayor Ash informed the city is in the process of conducting a street sign inventory to begin replacing signs. Ms. Veal was informed the signs have been stolen and it would help if people would call the police department when they see someone stealing signs. The signs are difficult to remove and a passerby would notice it.
- Judy Lovell reminded the council of the Memorial Day service at Freedom park beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Annie Sutton recognized the candidates of the White County Board of Education – Charlie Bryson and Linda Erble.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL AND REAL ESTATE


On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss real estate at 7:25 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING


On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the council meeting at 8:27 p.m. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

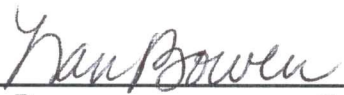
On motion by Nan Bowen seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Annie Sutton and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of May 7, 2018 at 8:28 p.m.




Shan Ash, Mayor



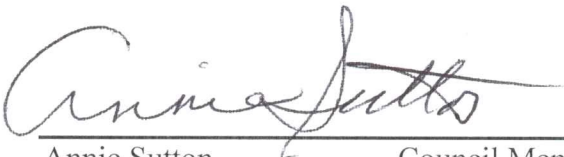
Kevin Stanley, Council Member



Nan Bowen, Council Member



Bradley Greene, Council Member



Annie Sutton, Council Member

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas, City Clerk

