

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 2, 2018  
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 6:30 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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 approve the agenda for the July 2, 2018 City Council Meeting.

**CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, was unable to attend.

**GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY**

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

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**1. 2020 SPLOST Inter-Governmental Agreement**

- a. White County Board of Commissioners called meeting to establish a SPLOST V beginning November of 2020.
- b. The City Council review and studied future capital improvements for city facilities and infrastructure and determined approximately \$5.4 million of improvements to be listed in the SPLOST program.
- c. The City(ies) and County negotiated percentage distribution of the proposed SPLOST funds. The City of Cleveland will receive twenty percent (20%) of the total estimated proceeds which is projects to be \$5.6 million.
- d. An Inter-Governmental Agreement has been negotiated and adopted by the County Commission.
- e. **White County is requesting that the City of Cleveland adopt the negotiated Inter-Governmental Agreement.**
- f. The County shall provide the County Election Official the language necessary for the call and notice of referendum.
- g. A referendum for the 2020 SPLOST V shall be held in November with the general election.

Helen and Cleveland officials submitted amendments to insure the distribution of the SPLOST would continue to each city. White County Board of Commissioners agreed with the changes and readopted the agreement. The City of Helen has approved and adopted the agreement. 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 approve the 2020 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement between the White County Board of Commissioners and the City of Helen. Mayor Ash was given authorization to sign the agreement.

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued**

**2. Millage rate hearings**

- a. City Council has adopted the FY 19.
- b. City has received the digest from the Tax Assessor and Tax Commissioner.
- c. State law requires the city to advertise the assessed taxable value of all property within the city and the proposed millage rate for the current year and preceding five calendar years.
- d. The City must also announce the intent to increase the property tax and hold hearings on such increase.
- e. The rate increase for 2018 is to support the increase in expenses for public safety.
- f. Three hearings are required to be held and are scheduled and advertised for July 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on July 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- g. The 2018 millage rate will be voted on immediately following the 9:00 a.m. hearing of July 26, 2018.

Bradley Greene has received comments concerning the millage increase. Patrons of Mr. Greene's store have expressed a dislike to property taxes but agrees to the need for public safety and improvements. The general public understands the need for a well-staffed police and fire department. Nan Bowen concurred with the opinions of the public. Ms. Bowen also sees a need for the city to finance the police and fire departments. Mr. O'Bryant informed the salaries may have increased but Chief Foster has reduced some operating costs. Mr. O'Bryant stated Chief Foster tries to hold a tight line with the budget.

**CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class requests of Sheena Wright and Chief John Foster.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Turner Creek Treatment Facility has submitted the 2018/2019 budget for review and approval. The budget reflects a 20% increase to the cost of water for the water Cleveland purchases. The city has agreed to contribute an additional 20% for capital improvements until the end of 2019. 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 approve the Turner Creek Treatment Facility 2018/2019 budget.
2. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the minutes of June 4 (2), June 11 (2), and June 18, 2018.
3. Public comments – Annie Sutton informed she and Tom O'Bryant attended the dedication of the Helen Veteran's Park. Ms. Sutton stated it is a very nice park and several visitors attended. Mr. O'Bryant informed Helen officials were pleased to see representatives of the city in attendance. Ms. Sutton also mentioned the veterans wall in Savannah. The wall listed the name of Sgt. Jason Harkins (Cleveland Post office is named after Sgt. Harkins).

**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

**Public comments – continued**

Nan Bowen stated how proud she is of Ms. Sutton receiving the Certificate of Dedication. Ms. Sutton received the certificate as a result of completing numerous hours of classes and training through the Carl Vinson Institute and Georgia Municipal Association. Mayor Ash expressed his appreciation of Ms. Sutton and her willingness to serve as second vice president for the GMA District 2 Board.

Debbie Gilbert, White County News, asked for an update of the improvements at the city park. It was explained the city is waiting for the summer lunch program to end so not to interfere with children coming to the park for lunch.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL AND REAL ESTATE**

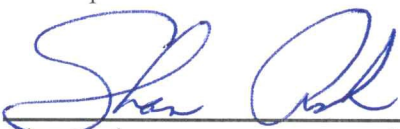
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss real estate at 6:50 p.m.

**RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING**

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 return to the council meeting at 7:33 p.m. No further business was discussed.

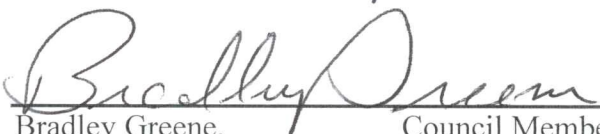
**ADJOURNMENT**

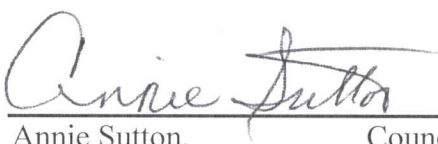
On motion by Annie Sutton seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of July 2, 2018 at 7:34 p.m.

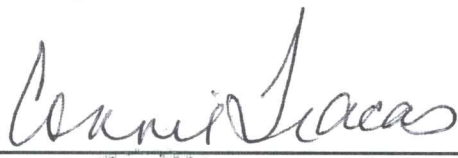
  
Shan Ash, Mayor

  
Kevin Stanley, Council Member

  
Nan Bowen, Council Member

  
Bradley Greene, Council Member

  
Annie Sutton, Council Member

ATTEST:   
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

