

**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JULY 1, 2019**  
**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 1, 2019 City Council Meeting.

**2019-06 RESOLUTION CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION**

Mayor Ash informed the city council has held the required hearings to approve a question to the voters of Cleveland of whether or not the governing authority of the City shall be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The State of Georgia considers ballot questions a special election and a call for a special election must be made.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved Resolution 2019-06 for a Call for a Special Election to approve a question to the voters of Cleveland of whether or not the governing authority of the City shall be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The special election will be held in conjunction with the general election November 5, 2019.

**CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, will submit the department's statistics later this month.

Chief Pruitt informed of a kitchen fire at Whitehall Commons. Cleveland Fire responded within three-minutes of the call and the Cleveland ladder truck arrived within four-minutes. The first responding firefighter, Cody Gunter, was able to extinguish the fire with a dry chemical fire extinguisher causing very little damage.

The Mayor and City Council thanked Chief Pruitt and his department for their hard work.

**CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John Foster, Police Department, was absent.

Mayor Ash presented the agreement between the White County Sheriff's office and the Cleveland Police Department. The agreement is to accept and board those arrested by Cleveland Police at the White County Detention Center. The fee has increased to \$35.00 per inmate, per day. Sheriff Walden noted in his memo, the detention center has not increased its pricing since 1991.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to accept the agreement submitted by Sheriff Neal Walden for inmate boarding at a fee of \$35 per inmate per day.

**GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY**

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

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**1. Re-naming of Sinking Fund to Capital Resource Fund**

- a. The Sinking Fund was created in the early 1950's to pay for various water and sewer construction loans and continued during the construction of the sewer plant (1992) to ensure that the city had a funding mechanism to repay the loan for the plant. Payment of the loan was completed in 2013.
- b. The city has continued to contribute monthly to the Sinking Fund to build funds up for future or emergency projects related to water and wastewater activities. Currently the Sinking Fund has accumulated an amount of \$591,882.
- c. It has been recommended by the city's auditor that this fund be better defined as a set aside for capital related projects and should be more appropriately titled as a Capital Resource Fund.
- d. The Capital Resource Fund would work in concert with the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and would be identified as a resource for funding for future capital projects.
- e. City Council will need to approve to change the title of the Sinking Fund to the Capital Resource Fund.

On motion by Annie Sutton, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the name change of the Sinking Fund to the Capital Resource Fund. Mr. O'Bryant will inform Beth Allen, Finance Officer, to make the necessary changes with the bank and with the auditor.

**2. Storm water Infiltration into the City Sanitary Sewer System**

- a. On June 25, 2019, city employees conducted an inspection of the grease trap facility at El Campesino Restaurant. The grease trap system met the requirements for filtering grease before entering the city sewer system.

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

- b. However, city staff also observed an open drain at the back of the building and it was determined that the drain was connected into the city's sewer system. The drain was design to catch wash out water and storm water from the roof of the building.
- c. Upon further inspection, city staff also discovered an open clean out pipe and one of the buildings gutters channeled directly into the city's sanitary sewer system.
- d. The City has sent a certified letter to the restaurant owner and requested an immediate remedy of the situation. The correction must be made within 14 days.
- e. Storm water infiltration is not allowed within the city's sewer system. However, the city has seen large amounts of storm water infiltration when large rain events occur. This infiltration negatively impacts the city's treatment facility and the allowed limit of wastewater treatment in the city's permit from Georgia EPD.
- f. Upon this discovery, city staff will be conducting inspections of restaurant and other commercial facilities looking for open storm water drains and gutters that may be illegally tied into the city's sanitary sewer system and reduce the amount of infiltration into the system.

Bradley Greene asked if there was evidence of grease being disposed in the drain outside of the grease trap. Mr. O'Bryant answered yes; it appears grease is being disposed outside of the grease trap. City staff will continue to investigate the drain and the discharge area.

Nan Bowen asked how to remedy the open drains. Mr. O'Bryant answered the owner can cap off (cover) the drain or change the route for storm water to run into the storm water system, but under no circumstances should grease enter the sewer system without being filter through the grease trap and grease should never enter the storm water system. Ms. Bowen asked if the drain was installed during construction and Mr. O'Bryant informed it looks as if the drain was installed after construction.

**3. City Participation with the GRACE Commission**

- a. At the annual meeting for the Georgia Municipal Association, a session was held on combatting human trafficking in Georgia Cities.
- b. Child trafficking has been reported in 134 of the counties in Georgia. To address the issue Governor Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp helped to establish the Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion, and Education Commission (GRACE) to combat the threat of human trafficking in the State of Georgia. The GRACE Commission is comprised of public officials, law enforcement, for-profit and non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, and subject matter experts to tackle human trafficking, seek justice for victims, hold bad actors accountable, and end human trafficking.
- c. Local governments are on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. GMA will be assisting the GRACE Commission and StreetGrace.org in the training of local government employees through a program called Demand an End. This program is specifically designed for municipalities who want to protect children from exploitation and trafficking. It is the desire of city staff to participate in the program to help protect the children and citizens in Cleveland and White County from human trafficking activity.



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

- d. To participate in the program the City will need to formally make a request and then schedule training for city employees.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the city's participation in the GRACE Commission program and to make a formal request with the State of Georgia.

Ms. Sutton commented on the tireless efforts of Rusty Stanley, wife of former mayor Don Stanley, to bring awareness of human trafficking. Mrs. Stanley made sure notices were posted in every motel room in the city to inform those in distress of a way to get help. Mr. O'Bryant informed the state has included a way to shut down hotel/motels that do not comply in reporting suspicious activity.

**4. Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant 2019/2020 Budget**

- a. Per the management agreement, the City is required to review and approve the budget for the Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant. The budget reflects an approximate 10% increase from the previous year.
- b. The budget shows a proposed increase in the city purchasing water from Turner Creek. The wholesale costs of water will go from \$2.24 to \$2.44 per thousand gallons. This increase affects the City's costs of operations, which in turn, will affect city water rates. This is more the reason to continue to locate an additional well site.
- c. The White County Water Authority Board has already approved the budget.

Before the vote, Mayor Ash informed the increase included the capital improvement expense in the costs of water.

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 approve the 2019-2020 Turner Creek Treatment Plant Budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Chief Foster submitted class requests for Officers Brandon Wood, Brandon Landress, and Major Aaron Weiland to attend intox training. There is not charge for the class. A class request was submitted for Major Aaron Weiland for lethal impact instructor. The costs of the class is \$275. On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class requests.
2. City Staff has been working with Creative Business Events to designs various t-shirts to sell to raise funds for upcoming projects. Staff would like to sell t-shirts at agri-fest and online and needs a means to take credit/debit payment and is requesting the council approve opening a PayPal account. T-shirt sales will benefit the future nature trail at Talon and the 150<sup>th</sup> event in August of next year.  
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 request to open a PayPal account for t-shirt sales to benefit projects for the city.
3. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor Annie Sutton and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the minutes of July 3, 2019, budget hearing and regular meeting, and July 10, 2019, budget hearing and regular meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS - continued**


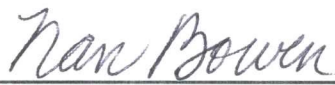
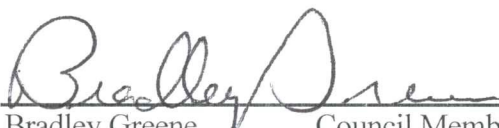
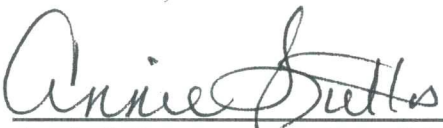

4. Public comments – Dean Dyer, WRWH Radio, thanked Cleveland Public Works for leveling the concaved road on Hood Street.

Annie Sutton thanked the Mayor and other Council Members for their support as she was sworn in as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for District Two for Georgia Municipal Association. Ms. Sutton expressed her appreciation for their confidence in her representing the city and our district. All thanked her for her willingness to represent Cleveland.

Tom O'Bryant suggested to the council not to meet next Monday, July 8, 2019. The city will hold three hearings on the millage within the month and if an item(s) is needed for discussion or a decision, we can have a called meeting at the same time of the hearings. The Mayor and Council agreed and will not hold a meeting Monday, July 8, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Annie Sutton, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council adjourned the meeting of July 1, 2019 at 6:57 p.m.

<u>Not present to sign</u>		
Shan Ash,	Mayor	Kevin Stanley, Council Member
		
Nan Bowen,	Council Member	Bradley Greene, Council Member
		Attest: 
Annie Sutton,	Council Member	Connie Tracas, City Clerk

Approved by City Council August 5, 2019

