

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Stanley at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan Bowen, Kevin Stanley, Mayor Pro Tem, and Bradley Greene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro tem and City Council approved the agenda for the February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting.

CHEYENNE THORNTON – WHITE COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Ms. Cheyenne Thornton, White County Family Connections, came before the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council to discuss the programs and services offered by White County Family Connections.

The City supports Family Connections financially and is represented by Council Member Nan Bowen on the board.

Ms. Thornton informed Family Connections exists in all 189 counties in Georgia, but each county details the programs to the need of their respective county. The mission is to improve the well-being and health conditions of families through a collaborative system of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual support.

Ms. Thornton provided information into her background. She has worked with the Lumpkin County Sheriff's office as the Victim Services Coordinator and the Executive Director of the South Enotah Child Advocacy Center. She is also a licensed foster parent and is currently fostering a child. Ms. Thornton's partner in Family Connections is Ms. Annette Boswell. Ms. Boswell is known as "Ms. White County" as she knows everyone and everyone knows her. Ms. Boswell knows the needs of the community and how to find the resources to fill those needs. She is involved with several organizations that provides resources and services to those in need.

Family Connections is funded partly through P.S.S.F. – Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. The group can provide emergency assistance, as well as holiday assistance, which is funded through private donations. Family Connections is beginning a "Positive Social Norm" campaign that is funded through the Georgia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities.

The Family Advocacy Program began in October 1, 2019. Services include: initial and post service assessments; case management; life skills; parent education; support groups; educational advocacy; enrichment activities; and emergency aid. The program is currently servicing 8 families but have received referrals for over 20 families.

CHEYENNE THORNTON – WHITE COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTIONS - continued

Emergency assistance is offered to families. Typically, assistance is reviewed and provided due to the requests of a school system employee, but can be requested by a resident of the community. The program can provide medical assistance which includes providing eye glasses to children. VSP Vision Insurance provides \$500 a year for eye exams. Dr. Don Robbins, local eye doctor, is a VSP provider.

Holiday Assistance is provided during Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays. The Thanksgiving program is new and provided a Thanksgiving meal to 50 families in 2019. Family Connections White Christmas provided for 783 children in 2019. The community gets involved by “adopting” a child to provide Christmas. This program is based on donations and volunteer time. The most popular part of the program is “Shop with a Cop”. Ms. Thornton stated all law agencies in White County participate and that all the children love shopping with Chief Foster. The children receive \$200. The first \$100 must be spent on clothes for themselves, and the other \$100 can be spent on anything they would like. It is humbling to know that most kids do not use the \$100 to buy for themselves, but for someone else, like a family member. At times, children will go over the \$200, and the overage is covered through the program or officers have used their own money to make up the difference.

The Positive Norm Campaign is new to the program. The goal is to use positive social norms intervention to increase student social skills, coping abilities, and self-concept in order to reduce alcohol and tobacco use. The campaign will focus on social skills addressing bullying, depression, and suicide. The campaign is on several social media sites as #imenoughwc.

Family Connections provides a monthly newsletter and meets the third Friday of every month. Data reports of services and the use of each services is provided for public review. Anyone can sign up through the listserv to receive information on the available programs.

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council thanked Ms. Thornton for her presentation.

NADINE WARDENGA - PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD – The Bridge Church requesting a zoning change from R-I Single Family residential (which allows for churches) to B-II Highway Commercial Business for approximately 3.5 acres of property, Tax Map and Parcels 047D, 077, 078, 079, and 080 located at 976 Kytile Street

Ms. Nadine Wardenga, Planning and Zoning Board presented the application of the Bridge Church requesting a zoning change from R-I Single Family residential (which allows for churches) to B-II Highway Commercial Business for approximately 3.5 acres of property, Tax Map and Parcels 047D, 077, 078, 079, and 080 located at 976 Kytile Street.

Ms. Wardenga read the Planning and Zoning Minutes of January 30, 2020.

NADINE WARDENGA - PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD – continued

The Planning and Zoning Meeting was called to order by Nadine Wardenga, Planning and Zoning Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Nadine Wardenga, Henrietta Sutton , Linda Hobbs, Wilma Pittman, Sam Pelletier, Arthur Palmer, and Jeff Groves. Jessica Adams was absent.

Jeff Groves recused himself from the proceedings due to having a personal and financial interest in the zoning application.

City Staff Present: Tom O'Bryant and Tonya Abernathy

Ms. Wardenga presented the rezoning application of The Bridge Church.

The Bridge Church requesting a zoning change from R-I – Single Family Residential (which allows for churches) to B-II Highway Commercial Business for approximately 3.5 acres of property, Tax Map and Parcels 047D, 077, 078, 079, and 080 located at the 976 East Kytile Street. Mr. Patrick Ballington and Mr. Jeff Groves were present to represent the application for the church.

Mr. Ballington explained members of the church were approached by the State of Georgia about a need for a new location to house the 9th District Family and Children Services. (*note: the application states public building/offices and a gymnasium will locate in building*). Mr. O'Bryant informed this is a great opportunity for both the city and the Department of Family and Children Services.

Ms. Wardenga asked the board members for a motion to accept the zoning request. On motion by Linda Hobbs, seconded Henrietta Sutton, in favor –Wilma Pittman, Arthur Palmer, Sam Pelletier, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Zoning Board approved to recommend the rezoning request of the Bridge Church requesting a zoning change from R-I – Single Family Residential (which allows for churches) to B-II Highway Commercial Business for approximately 3.5 acres of property, Tax Map and Parcels 047D, 077, 078, 079, and 080 located at the 976 East Kytile Street.

Ms. Wardenga informed the representatives of the Bridge Church they would need to attend meeting of the City Council, February 10, 2020 for review and final approval.

On motion by Sam Pelletier, , seconded by Wilma Pittman, in favor –Linda Hobbs, Arthur Palmer, Henrietta Sutton, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Zoning Board voted to adjourn the Planning and Zoning Meeting of January 30, 2020 at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Stanley asked if anyone present for the rezoning application had contributed to the campaigns of the sitting council. All in attendance answered no.

Mayor Pro Tem Stanley asked if anyone had comment on the rezoning application. No one had comment. Mr. Patrick Ballington and Mr. Jeff Groves were present to represent the application but did not have comment.

NADINE WARDENGA – PLANNING AND ZONING - continued

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board and approved the rezoning request of the Bridge Church requesting a zoning change from R-I Single Family residential (which allows for churches) to B-II Highway Commercial Business for approximately 3.5 acres of property, Tax Map and Parcels 047D, 077, 078, 079, and 080 located at 976 Kytile Street.

2020-06 – AMENDMENT TO GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM – 2ND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

GMEBS sent a restated plan to comply with new IRS standards to ensure continued tax-favored treatment for members on the plan. The changes is an amendment to the original ordinance and will require two public hearings.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve 2020-06 Amendment to Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

2020-07 ENFORCEMENT OF SPEED LIMITS IN SCHOOL ZONES ORDINANCE – 2ND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

An ordinance must be in place in order for the city to contract for automated traffic safety devices. The ordinance does not specifically state a company to contract with, but rather gives the city the authority to have the devices installed and use as a speed deterrent and to apply penalties to those that are found to be in violation of the speed zones.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Stanley and the City Council voted to approve and adopt 2020-07 Enforcement of Speed Limits in School Zones Ordinance.

2020-08 TREE CITY PROCLAMATION

As a requirement of being a Tree City USA city, a Tree City Proclamation must be approved by the council.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Stanley and the City Council voted to approve 2020-08 Tree City Proclamation.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, presented a request to purchase equipment for the department. The amount for the equipment is \$5,104.00 and will be paid out of confiscated funds.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to approve the purchase and authorized Mayor Pro Tem Stanley to sign the purchase order.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT - continued

Chief Foster informed of call statistics provided by White County Emergency Services. In 2017 the department responded to 28,374 calls, 2018 40,961 calls, and in 2019 50,916 calls.

Chief Foster asked about a juvenile case of the damage caused to the city's water line and if the council wanted to pursue restitution. The amount of damage is \$2506.00. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley felt the matter should be discussed in executive session.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, gave an update on the preliminary design of the new wastewater facility. The group met on January 27, 2020.

1. Discussion of Public-Private partnership for septage receiving. There are many considerations with this aspect, not limited to access, cost, management, etc. Rindt has extensive experience with this and will discuss with City further. He will also introduce the private partner to the City so that the discussions can continue. This would not affect the WWTP design as it would be separate.
Mr. O'Bryant informed the city should not compete with local receiving companies and there is an issue with the Head Start school being close to the facility. There may be issues when school is in session.
2. Construction road/access road to site – no other way into the facility so school would be notified of upcoming work when construction is close to starting.
3. Discussion of sampler being intermittent – these are available and will be incorporated into the design.
4. Question about the range of depth for the influent pump station. Will be completed during final design but most likely be a range between 3-6ft.
5. Discussion of I&I. Not an issue at the WWTP because of the pond, though it does affect the BOD (lower numbers due to high I&I make treatment process a little more challenging).
6. Existing chemical/alum building – depending on size, may or may not need another structure for chemicals. Can convert this building to a workshop area since there is need for such an area, and have a new Alum silo and small chemical building where the skid can be mounted.
7. Make sure VFD's on the project can operate on "hand" mode.
8. City request to put disk filters in concrete in the ground. This would depend on the hydraulics of the facility. Will be finalized as we continue with the design – may be partially in the ground, and partially outside, but will be concrete and not package steel. City will design a cover for the filters as it is not economical to have it provided by the manufacturer.
9. Etowah has a company that accepts their Class B sludge and turns it into Class A sludge and sells it. They accept the sludge at no cost. City is interested in such an arrangement.
10. Discussion of the existing retaining wall – it was constructed by Palmer and there was some question about the structural suitability of putting a building in that area without re-doing the retaining wall again. At the moment, we are showing it as being re-done, but if found to be

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

Wastewater Treatment Facility notes - continued

structurally suitable then we shall leave it in place.

11. Discussion of expansion of existing Control Building – whether to go off porch or extend out to the side. Either one is fine – depending on structural constraints we shall make that determination.
12. Agreed that the plant drain system can drain into the pond.
13. No re-use water use – potable water will be used.
14. A new potable waterline will have to be installed and a fire hydrant provided at the control building so that it is up to code.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comments – Annie Sutton informed she has been by the newly renovated Oak Springs School and expressed how wonderful the facility looked. She expressed her appreciation of the great undertaking of the city to transform the facility. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley expressed his appreciation to Annie Sutton and Nan Bowen and city staff for preserving the building and for the future use of the community. Nan Bowen added the public will be proud of the accomplishment. Bradley Greene agreed and expressed his appreciation. Ms. Sutton informed city staff have discovered archived photos of the original schoolhouse.

Nadine Wardenga informed they will be working on the planters on the square soon. The plan is to replace all the soil this year before planting.

2. On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro tem and Council voted to approve the class request for Andrea Smith for wastewater carousel training. This is a free workshop.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of January 2020 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel/possible litigation at 7:17 p.m.

RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to return to the city council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tom O' Bryant and Chief Foster checked the perimeter of the building to see if there was any one, from the public, that needed or wanted to return to the city council meeting. No one was present. No further business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem Stanley and the City Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of February 18, 2020 at 7:31 p.m.

VACANT

Office Vacant/open Seat

Mayor

Kevin Stanley,

Council Member
Ward No. 3
Mayor Pro Tem

Nan Bowen,

Council Member
Ward No. 1

Bradley Greene,

Council Member
Ward No. 4

VACANT

Office Vacant/open Seat

Council Member
Ward No. 2

ATTEST:

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

