

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2020
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the agenda for the June 1, 2020 City Council Meeting.

BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER

1. Wastewater treatment plant upgrade – the design and plans are in the process of being developed in accordance with the requirements of EPD and the funding agency GEFA. The city must conduct a public hearing to discuss the project. The city will advertise the public hearing will be held on July 6, 2020 at the regularly scheduled council meeting. The city must provide a “Notice of No Significant Impact” in and around the area the project is to take place. The city is familiar with the requirements of EPD and GEFA and will follow all guidelines.
2. Utility relocation (bypass) – The contractor for DOT and the city have completed the plans for the vaults and meters that will need to be moved for the construction of the bypass. The contractor has had several mishaps, but Mr. Rindt feels the project is back in line and ready to proceed.
3. DOT has issued a permit for the city to drill a test well on the property on Jess Hunt Road.
4. The plans for the twelve-inch water line upgrade is ready for bid. The line will run from the Warrior tank down Hulsey Road. The project will be bid in two phases – the first phase will begin at the Warrior tank and end at the intersection of Highway 129 North and Hulsey Road. Phase two will start at the intersection of Highway 129 North and Hulsey Road and end at the intersection of Hulsey Road and Helen Highway. Documents are currently being reviewed for the grant funding the city received for the project.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, reported the department’s statistics for May 2020.

The department reported 81 calls for May 2020, with 38 within the city, 43 in the county with 9 of those calls being outside the automatic aid area. The White County Fire Department assisted the city with 3 calls.

Chief Pruitt informed the fire crews have completed testing all the fire hoses. Several sections had to be removed due to poor condition. The department has about 30% of the hydrant maintenance within the city’s water service area.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, did not have new business to report, but thanked the City Council for completing the renovation of Oak Springs for his department to occupy and operate. Chief Foster stated he and his staff are enjoying the new building.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. The Old Blairsville Road water line replacement is near completion. The project came in under the estimated cost and city staff would like to continue with the line replacement on White Street. The White Street line is of the same old material which is causing leaks and water pressure issues. Mr. O'Bryant is requesting the council amend the contract with Reggie Nelson to include the water line replacement on White Street.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the amendment to the contract with Reggie Nelson to replace the water line on White Street. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley was given authorization to sign the amendment. Project Cost - \$40,720.00

2. At the March 17, 2020 Called Council Meeting, City staff requested the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council consider waving the penalties for the utility bills due March 15, 2020. This is in reaction to the current Corona Virus crisis and the limitations utility users may have in paying utility bills. City staff is requesting the utility penalties and the occupational tax license fees penalties be waived for April, May, and June 2020. The City Clerk informed that the majority of utility customers continue to pay the utility bills and staff contacts delinquent accounts to make arrangements for payment

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and City Council voted to waive the penalties for the utility bills and occupational tax license fees for the months of April, May, and June, 2020.

3. The city is in the process of acquiring funding for the wastewater treatment improvements. The application process requires participation and documentation from the city auditor. Wayne Tuck, Walker, Pierce, & Tuck, has submitted an engagement letter to perform the work required by GEFA.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to accept the engagement letter of Walker, Pierce, & Tuck, to perform the audit requirements of GEFA for the wastewater treatment loan. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley was given authorization to sign the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to approve the minutes of May 4 and May 11, 2020.
2. Public comments – As it being the first council meeting in the new building, Mayor Pro Tem Stanley took a moment to recognize all those involved in the completion of the Oak Springs Building. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley thanked city staff including, Charlie LaVelle, Tom O'Bryant, Chief Foster, Major Weiland, Ricky Hunt, Frankie Hampton, James Thomas, and many others. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley especially wanted to thank Nan Bowen and Annie Sutton for their time and commitment with design meetings. Ms. Sutton was a part of the design team while she was a council member. Ms. Sutton had to step down when she resigned her seat to run for mayor.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Mayor Pro Tem Stanley continued by saying the public does not see all that goes on behind the scenes for projects to be completed and successful. The actions of those that participated go unsung and unnoticed. Mayor Pro Tem Stanley admitted he was probably the biggest skeptic during the process, but stands corrected and is impressed with the building.

Annie Sutton agreed and thanked the council for going through with the project. Ms. Sutton welcomed the Cleveland Police Department to the neighborhood. Ms. Rebecca Yardley, resident, agreed with Ms. Sutton.

Ms. Sutton relayed the positive comments she has been receiving about the building. Many thought the city tore the old school building down to rebuild. Ms. Sutton informed the very room the council is meeting in is the room she sat and cried all day so that the teacher would not take her away from her sister. Ms. Sutton expressed how fitting it is the Chief of Police office was once the Principal's office.

Dean Dyer added he has had several visitors to the radio station from other counties and out of state visitors that have commented on how good the building looks.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, the Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to enter into executive session to discuss real estate at 6:54 p.m.

RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 7:13 p.m. Tom O'Bryant 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 Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, and carried unanimously, Mayor Pro Tem and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of June 1, 2020 at 7:14 p.m.

VACANT

Office Vacant/open Seat

Mayor

Nan Bowen

Nan Bowen,

Council Member
Ward No. 1

VACANT

Office Vacant/open Seat

Council Member
Ward No. 2

ATTEST:

Connie Tracas

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

Kevin Stanley

Kevin Stanley,

Council Member
Ward No. 3
Mayor Pro Tem

Bradley Greene

Bradley Greene,

Council Member
Ward No. 4

