

**CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 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 Josh Turner at 6:30 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the agenda for the October 5, 2020 City Council Meeting.

NICOLE SMITH – VARIANCE REQUEST UNDER THE COUNTER GREASE TRAP

Ms. Nicole Smith came before the Mayor and City Council to request a variance to install an inline under-the-counter grease trap for a sandwich shop.

Ms. Smith plans to open a sandwich shop on the square at the building formally known as Aubrey's Barber Shop, 26 Courthouse Square. The business, Ready Deli, will serve grab-and-go sandwiches. There will be no in-house seating. Ms. Smith would like to make her own bread, so the only grease would be from the residue of preparing and baking bread. There will be no frying or grilling.

It was explained to the Mayor and Council the facility would be inspected and a schedule of having the grease trap emptied would be issued by city staff. The grease trap can be cleaned by a professional company or Ms. Smith can clean herself and log the days it is cleaned. *(note: Andrea Smith, Water/Wastewater Supervisor, recommends the under-the-counter grease trap is allowed due to an existing water line in which would not allow enough room for a traditional in ground grease trap).*

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to grant the variance request for an under the counter grease trap at 26 Courthouse Square for Ms. Nicole Smith for a sandwich shop business.

WHITE COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT SERVICES – Michelle Barrett Broadwell, Megan Runkle, Cynthia Behrens Vaughn, and Jane Grillo

Several members of the White County Schools Student Services came before the Mayor and City Council to inform of the programs offered to students with special needs or disabilities.

Michelle Broadwell, lead teacher at White County High School, began by informing October is Disability Month for Employability. Ms. Broadwell explained the school system not only offers education to students with disabilities, but also training in the workforce. Students have received workplace training at places like Nix Hardware, Ingle's, several local florist, as well as Smithgall Woods.

WHITE COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT SERVICES – Michelle Barrett Broadwell, Megan Runkle, Cynthia Behrens Vaughn, and Jane Grillo - continued

The mission and vision of the program is to give students real work experiences in our downtown businesses while training students in core job skills and soft skills for possible future employment.

Ms. Broadwell provided the following statistics for 2019: Workers with a disability were more like to be employed part time than those with no disability. Among workers with a disability, 32 percent usually worked part time in 2019 compared with 17 percent of those without a disability. These workers reported working part time hours because their hours were reduced or they could not find a full time job.

In 2019, workers with a disability were more concentrated in service occupations than those with no disability (20.7 percent compared to 17 percent).

Most White County High School students who participate in the Community Based Instruction program tend to stay in White County after graduation. Participants want and need work. The group would like to open a coffee/bakery shop on the square and have been in communication with Sweet Things on the Square.

Ms. Broadwell informed the White County School System exceeds the state's percentage in post school outcomes.

- Enrolled in post secondary schools – State Target 27.40% WC Schools 30.43%
- Enrolled in school or employed – State Target 54% WC Schools 65.22%
- Enrolled in school, employed or in daily program – State Target 80.10 WC Schools 95.65%

Ms. Broadwell stated a significant quote from Robert Hensel – “There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more”.

Ms. Megan Runkle, special education teacher for White County High School, expressed the importance of the program and that it works for students and is proven in the statistics. Typically, the students would participate in a community based vocational program but with Covid they have had to restructure and train students in-house. As a part of the restructuring, and the participation in Back-Pack Buddies, the teachers asked the program be moved to the school so that the students could continue to participate. In the past, the students worked two days a month with the Back Pack Buddies program, now that it is located at the school, the students work at least two days a week, equaling six-hours per student, filling the orders for Back Pack Buddies. Back Pack Buddies is a program to feed children in need. The backpacks are filled with food and supplies that a child may need. The students learn to unload trucks of product for the packs and filling the orders of the packs. The students take a lot of pride in the work.

Ms. Cynthia Vaughn, special education teacher for White County High School, informed her primary role is a life skills teacher. Ms. Vaughn provides education for skills needed after graduation. The program will also assist those that have graduation with resumes and additional training.

WHITE COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT SERVICES – Michelle Barrett Broadwell, Megan Runkle, Cynthia Behrens Vaughn, and Jane Grillo - continued

Ms. Vaughn added the students are taught to operate a business. An example is a coffee cart operated and managed by the students. The coffee cart was very successful and the idea came to possibly open a small coffee pastry shop on the square. The group has been speaking with Sweet Things on the Square to see if she would participate in the program.

Ms. Vaughn informed the program offers services to businesses such as shredding, filing, and light office work and is determined by the capabilities of the student. The work is at no charge to the business and is supervised by staff from the school system. The participation of local businesses shows that Cleveland is disability friendly.

Ms. Vaughn presented a slide show of some of the students performing job duties.

Nan Bowen asked about the gift wrapping program. Ms. Vaughn informed the students offer gift wrapping during the holidays. Most of the council asked “where and when”, liking the idea of having the convenience of someone being able to take care of gift wrapping. Ms. Bowen suggested the group may look into setting up a tent on the square to take in gifts to wrap. Bradley Greene offered an area in front of his store if the students were interested.

Bradley Greene, co-owner of Nix Hardware, expressed his appreciation of the students and the program offered by the school system. Mr. Greene has offered employment to students for the past fifteen years and stated he thoroughly enjoys the students and they always work hard.

Rebecca Yardley asked how many Backpack Buddy bags the students work on each week. Ms. Broadwell answered 200 bags each week.

Mayor Turner asked if the students were offered a certificate to present to a potential employer. Ms. Broadwell answered the students receive a job ready diploma.

Mayor Turner and the City Council thanked the representatives of the White County Schools Student Services program for the presentation and noted how inspiring the program is in encouraging growth in the workplace.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, submitted the monthly statistics for September 2020. The department responded to 100 calls – 45 inside the city and 55 outside the city with 11 being outside the automatic aid area. The county responded to 3 calls in the city.

Chief Pruitt informed Ms. Yardley he corrected the dating problem in the last report and feels it should be correct on future reports.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. Chief Foster submitted a school request for Major Weiland and Officer Daniel Spivey to attend POST Patrol Rifle weapons recertification. There is no fee for the class and will be held in Cornelia. On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the class request.
2. Chief Foster submitted the monthly statistics for September 2020. SSI met with PD staff to go over some of the items that needed to be seen on the report. SSI continues to work on the report options, but most have been collected.
The department responded to 5 felony arrest and 13 misdemeanor arrest; 80 citations and 125 warnings were issued; 78 incident, 12 accident, and 5 private property reports; 8 domestic violence; 34 assists, 26 alarms, and 217 calls for service. The officers reported 966 officer activities. One of the “fixes” on the report was to record all officers activities.
3. Chief Foster addressed the issue of the unpermitted event held by Chick-Fil-A. Chief Foster stated the situation was egregious enough to issue a citation for being in violation of the city’s special events ordinance. Chief Foster stated there is an ordinance in place that provides for due process. The citation will be addressed in municipal court and if appealed will go to superior court.
Chief Foster stated staff at Chick-Fil-A has a lot of friends and he knows they have been calling members of the mayor and council. He cautioned the mayor and council of what they say that could be construed as unethical or an obstruction of justice. Chief Foster stated that is all he is saying on the subject.
4. Chief Foster submitted his letter of resignation/retirement to the Mayor and Council. Chief Foster’s last day will be December 28, 2020. Chief Foster feels he is actually paying the city to work and sees the need to move on. Chief Foster expressed his pleasure of working for the city all of these years.
Rebecca Yardley thanked Chief Foster for allowing her to ride along with Officer Dorsey. Ms. Yardley expressed a new perspective of the duties of an officer. Chief Foster responded the department because of the officer’s dedication. They are the ambassadors of the city. Mayor Turner also thanked Chief Foster for the ride along with Officer Dorsey.
Each council member thanked Chief Foster for the job performed throughout the years.
On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council reluctantly accepted the resignation/retirement of Chief John Foster, Cleveland Police Department, effective December 28, 2020.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

Grant Keene, City Attorney, did not have new business to report but wanted to express his appreciation to the Cleveland Police Department in how they handled the traffic for the Chick-Fil-A event.

Bradley Greene asked if any of the DOT proposed safety plan would have eliminated some of the issues caused by Chick-Fil-A traffic. Chief Foster answered there are portions of the plan that would benefit the area, especially since restaurants are not opening for dining and not providing adequate parking or service for drive thru or pickup.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY - continued

Mr. O'Bryant informed the DOT would like to see comments on the plan and then would move forward to proceed. Mr. Greene would like to move forward and petition the state to begin the implementation of the safety plan.

The City Council will provide comments to DOT concerning the safety plan.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, reported the FNOK/Hulsey Road water line to the Warrior Tank has started and is going very well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the draft minutes of September 14, 2020. Mayor Turner reminded everyone the city did not hold a meeting on September 7, 2020 due to the observance of Labor Day.
2. Public Comments – Beth Truelove thanked the city departments in assisting with Agri-Fest September 26. Ms. Truelove informed the event had double the attendance than the previous year. Bradley Greene informed business was good on the square.

Bradley Greene expressed his concern of the lack of the inmate detail to assist with street maintenance. Mr. Greene suggested, in an effort to show public works support and support for the community, to have a scheduled clean-up day of the city's right-of-ways. Mr. Greene set the date of Friday, November 13, 2020. Mr. Greene requested City hall to close so that all staff can participate in the clean-up.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to close City Hall Friday, November 13, 2020 for a city wide clean-up day of the city right-of ways.

Mayor Turner informed the city park needs attention. Mr. Greene informed staff has been working on getting maintenance, repairs, and replace wood chips in the area.

Dean Dyer, WRWH Radio, asked if the council had comments on the resignation of Chief Foster. No one had an official comment due to just being informed of the resignation. Mr. Dyer asked the process of hiring a new chief. Mayor Turner answered the council will discuss and will get back with him.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of August 2020 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, 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 and personnel issues at 7:40 p.m.

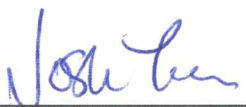

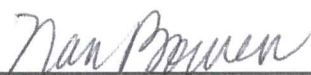
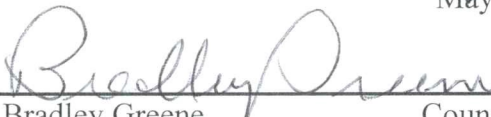
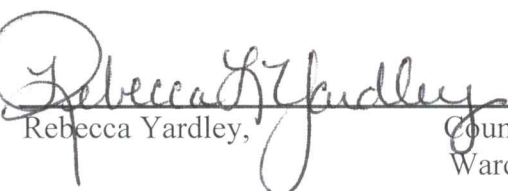

RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

No further business was discussed. Mr. O'Bryant checked the lobby and outdoors to see if the public was present to return to the meeting. There was no one present.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the meeting of October 5, 2020 at 8:12 p.m.

 _____ Josh Turner, Mayor	 _____ Kevin Stanley, Council Member Ward 3 Mayor Pro Tem
 _____ Nan Bowen, Council Member Ward 1	 _____ Bradley Greene, Council Member Ward 4
 _____ Rebecca Yardley, Council Member Ward 2	Attest:  _____ Connie Tracas, City Clerk

