

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 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: Rebecca Yardley, Kevin Stanley, and Bradley Greene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agenda of the October 12, 2020 City Council meeting.

MIKE FOOR – WINDSTREAM

Mike Foor, Windstream Representative, came before the Mayor and Council to discuss Windstream's improved infrastructure for cable. Residents and businesses, within an area of Cleveland and White County, will qualify for speeds up to 1 GIG once the program is launched. Kinetic by Windstream will serve more than 70,000 households in Northeast Georgia with approximately 14,000 in White County. Mr. Foor wants the city to partner with Kinetic by Windstream. (partnership not defined).

Kevin Stanley informed of the continued problems his parents have with Kinetic cable at their home. The couple has been without cable for two-months and when they finally received a connection, it went down several times during the day until they lost count of no connection. Mr. Foor countered the company is hearing complimentary reviews since the upgrade. Mr. Foor will contact Gary Smith who may possibly help with the situation. Mr. Foor advised not to contact the call center as they are busy handling numerous states. Mr. Stanley feels it has more to do with the lines and has had no problem with the technicians trying to help, they are just not able to find a solution.

Mayor Turner asked if the upgrade was high speed cable lines. Mr. Foor answered it is a combination of fiber optic and cable. The company has invested 20 million dollars in the upgrade. Mayor Turner commended Mr. Foor on the company trying to improve service. Mr. Foor informed Windstream is out of bankruptcy and is now looking to partner with EMC's across the area. The company plans to hold a "GIG" launch at Freedom Park on October 16 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Foor is working on a permit with Tom O'Bryant.

Rebecca Yardley asked what the new upgrade would cost a customer per month. Mr. Foor was not completely sure, but thought it would be an additional \$30 to \$50 per month.

Grant Keene expressed his concerns of emails his business is receiving informing of someone trying to log-in to his account. He initially knew it was spam due to misspelling but know the potential hackers have made the email look more professional with the company's logo. Mr. Foor stated the company wants to be aware of these situations and have already informed the PSC (Public Service Commission).

Mayor Turner thanked Mr. Foor for his presentation.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, did not have new business to report.

GRANT KEENE - CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Contract Agreement with Judge Garrison Baker to continue as Municipal Court Judge

- a. Judge Garrison Baker was appointed as Municipal Court Judge for the City in 1998 and has provided this service since that time while also serving as the White County Probate Court Judge.
- b. Upon his retirement from the County, it is desirous for Judge Baker to continue to serve as the Municipal Court Judge since he is very familiar with the city and state procedures and protocols required for the City of Cleveland Municipal Court.
- c. Staff has drafted a service agreement for municipal court judge services between the city and Garrison Baker. The amount of the agreement is \$14,545 and the service term is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
- d. City Council will need to approve and sign the agreement with Garrison Baker to continue to serve as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Cleveland.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agreement with Judge Garrison Baker to continue as Municipal Court Judge January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

2. Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant Audit

- a. The White County Water Authority has sent the FY2020 audit findings for the Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant.
- b. According to the “Wheelage Agreements” put in place, at the beginning of each fiscal year the water treatment plant adopts a projected wholesale price of water for the sale of water to the City of Cleveland and the White County Water Authority. At the end of the fiscal year an annual audit a finding is established. This audit determines any needed adjustments for the costs associated with the production water and wholesale purchase of water.
- c. The current FY2020 audit finding reflects a slight increase of the wholesale rate, as determined by the water authority board, due to increased operating expenses.
- d. The audit reflects an overpayment for the wholesale purchase of water, by the city, in the amount of \$14,608.
- e. Repayment of these funds, when received, will go into the water account.
- f. City council will need to vote accept the FY2020 audit for the Turner Creek Water Plant.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor Kevin Stanley –, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to accept the findings of the 2019-2020 Turner Creek Water Audit.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

Nan Bowen arrived at the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The City Clerk asked if the motion to approve the agreement with Judge Garrison Baker could be restated so that Ms. Bowen can have her vote recorded. Grant Keene answered the motion can be restated to include the vote of Ms. Bowen.

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 approve the agreement with Judge Garrison Baker to continue as Municipal Court Judge January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comments – Chief Foster informed city staff purchased a basketball goal to install at Oak Springs. Chief Foster feels it will encourage neighborhood children to come and play and interact with police officers. The area has outdoor cameras in the case there is a need to monitor activity.

Annie Sutton issued a complaint of the grass at Oak Springs not being cut to the property line to Travis Chapel property. She informed public works cuts short to the property line. Ms. Sutton would also like to see Dan Palmour, adjoining property owner, take care of his property. Mr. O'Bryant will get with public works but informed the department has been overwhelmed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of September 14, 2020 were signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 6:52 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 7:52 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 Bradley Greene, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the meeting of October 12, 2020 at 7:53 p.m.

Josh Turner
Josh Turner, Mayor

Kevin Stanley
Kevin Stanley, Council Member
Ward 3
Mayor Pro Tem

Nan Bowen
Nan Bowen, Council Member
Ward 1

Bradley Greene
Bradley Greene, Council Member
Ward 4

Rebecca Yardley
Rebecca Yardley, Council Member
Ward 2

Attest: Connie Tracas
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

