

**CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2020  
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 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 Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the November 9, 2020 agenda with the addition of a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the City of Cleveland and the White County Board of Commissioners to contract debris removal on city street right-of-way. Tom O'Bryant will present and discuss.

**NADINE WARDENGA – PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**

**BABYLAND GENERAL HOSPITAL REQUESTING A SIGN VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 300 NOK DRIVE – TAX MAP AND PARCEL 046C-006**

Nadine Wardenga, Planning and Zoning Board Chair, present the application of Babyland General Hospital requesting a sign variance for property located at 300 NOK Drive, tax map and parcel 046C-006.

The Planning and Zoning Board met October 22, 2020 to review the sign variance request of Babyland General Hospital.

Mr. Rick McEntyre and Mrs. Sally McEntyre, employees of Original Appalachian Artworks/Babyland, were in attendance to represent the application.

Nadine Wardenga turned the meeting over to Rick McEntyre to explain the details of the request.

Mr. McEntyre stated Babyland is applying for sign variance to have a ground sign with a special look. It would be a large structure; all white letters; the letters would stand independently; with the depth and width of each letter being three feet; the letters would roughly be six feet in height; 40 feet in total length; and, with a 24 foot and a 6 inch rock base. The look will be iconic, similar to the "Hollywood" sign. The plan is to have lights on the lettering and the light colors can change based on occasions or events. The structure is made up of concrete and steel. The sign will support any kind of weight, no car will be able to move it. There will be a 4 inch lift so it will be clean cut for weed eating. He is not sure how Xavier Roberts wants to finish the area around the sign Mr. Roberts may just grass around the sign area.

Mr. McEntyre further stated a company in Gainesville, Extreme Concrete Finishing has been contracted to perform the work. It will use a Styrofoam mold so it will have a slick finish. The Styrofoam will be removed and concrete will be added and painted white. In the future they will use white spray paint so it will always be bright and clean and easy to maintain.

**NADINE WARDENGA – PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**  
**BABYLAND GENERAL HOSPITAL REQUESTING A SIGN VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY**  
**LOCATED AT 300 NOK DRIVE – TAX MAP AND PARCEL 046C-006 - continued**

Sally McEntyre mentioned that they will be doing flower gardens. Babyland staff have decorated the ballroom and hope to draw in the public to have pictures made on the sled for Christmas pictures.

Jeff Groves ask how far the sign would be from the road? Mr. McEntyre stated they hope to get as close to the road as possible. The goal is for people to see the sign coming and going down the bypass.

Henrietta Sutton, ask if there was a sign currently at the road? Mr. McEntyre stated yes.

Rick, stated we feel the new Babyland sign will be like the Historic Courthouse, in which everyone will know where we are. It will have a strong presence.

Ms. Wardenga, ask if anyone had any more questions. There were no further questions.

Ms. Wardenga, mentioned how some of the road is in the city and some is in the county. Babyland is in the city, it's tricky of how it falls. It could fall under county or state, so when you go before the City Council, they will inform you of that. Mr. McEntyre stated they are not sure how far they can go to the road. If necessary, they will prepare to go further back. Ms. Wardenga stated you are asking us about the size, with a variance the regulations would fall under city and county codes.

On motion by Jeff Groves, seconded by Wilma Pittman, in favor – Linda Hobbs, Henrietta Sutton, Arthur Palmer, and Jessica Adams, and carried unanimously, the Planning and Zoning voted to recommend the sign variance request of Babyland General Hospital at tax map and parcel number 046C-006.

Nadine Wardenga informed Rick & Sally McEntyre they would need to attend the next meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 at 342 Campbell Street to answer any questions from the Council.

Mayor Turner asked if anyone present for the application of the sign variance request had contributed to the campaigns of the mayor and council. No one had contributed.

Mayor Turner asked Mr. McEntyre if he had any comments. Mr. McEntyre iterated the discussion held at the planning and zoning meeting.

Rebecca Yardley asked how close to the road will the sign be located. Mr. McEntyre answered as close as allowed by code.

Nan Bowen asked if the location of the signs would interfere with parking for events. Mr. McEntyre stated he feels the area can handle both the sign and parking.

**NADINE WARDENGA – PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**  
**BABYLAND GENERAL HOSPITAL REQUESTING A SIGN VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY**  
**LOCATED AT 300 NOK DRIVE – TAX MAP AND PARCEL 046C-006 - continued**

Mr. McEntyre informed the sign is meant to be bold and stand out. Tom O'Bryant stated the DOT right-of-way is 120 feet in the area of Babyland and they would be required to stay off the right-of-way and not block the line of sight at NOK Drive.

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 accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board and grant the sign variance request of Babyland General Hospital for property located at 300 NOK Drive, tax map and parcel 046C-006 to install column type individual letters to spell BABYLAND.

**BRIAN RINDT – CITY ENGINEER**

1. The wastewater plant design is 70 to 75% complete. The city originally requested 1.5 million gallons per day, but EPD would only approve 1.15 million gallons per day. The advantage of the type of plant being designed will allow for expansion in the future in the case capacity is increased.

Mr. Rindt submitted an Anti-Degradation report. If there is an increase of discharge to streams, this report is required of the city to prove there are no other options to meet all Federal requirements than to construct a new wastewater facility.

2. DOT continues with the utility replacement and upgrade for phase III of the bypass. The contractor has disinfected the line and tied on NOK this past Sunday. The sewer line replacement has been tested and online for over a week.
3. The twelve-inch water line from Hulsey Road to the Warrior Tank is nearing completion. The line has been chlorinated and city staff is awaiting results.

Bradley Greene asked for assurance that none of the fire hydrants on Hulsey Road are below grade. He reminded the council of DOT contractor's actions of putting fire hydrants below grade on phase II of the bypass. The hydrants were set in deep manholes and could not be used for fire.

Mr. Rindt informed two hydrants were below grade and DOT was going to build a concrete wall around it but was told the hydrants had to be operational and at grade level. Chief Pruitt, Fire Department, expressed his concerns of DOT's disregard of the importance of the hydrants. DOT will install risers for hydrants to be at grade level.

**CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Turner thanked Chief Pruitt and his department for working and assisting public works during the last storm.

Chief Pruitt submitted the department statistics for October 2020.

**CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT - continued**

The department responded to 108 calls – 51 within the city; 57 outside the city – with 12 of the calls being outside the automatic aid area. The county assisted with 3 calls within the city – North Georgia Hardwood fire, Fashion Connections fire, and a medical call.

Bradley Greene and the rest of the council thanked Chief Pruitt for his department's work. Ms. Bowen added she appreciates the response time of the fire department.

**CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John Foster was not present. Major Aaron Weiland was present to report for the department.

Major Weiland submitted a training request for all officers to be re-certified for taser use. The class will be held December 1 thru December 3, 2020 at a cost of \$1,100.00.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the class for taser re-certification for Cleveland police officers.

Major Weiland submitted personnel evaluations.

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

1. Mr. O'Bryant presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the White County Board of Commissioners.

The County has a contract with Southern Disaster Recovery to serve at the stand-by debris management contractor for the removal and disposal of storm debris. County staff offered to help assist the city with debris removal which would include city right of way clean up in their contract with SDR. City staff determined that approximately 1,225 cubic yards of storm debris exist along the city right of way. (White County has over 4,200 cubic yards on county right of way.) Based on the cubic yard estimates, the county has provided a total preliminary cost of over \$46,000 and based on cubic yards it appears that the city portions would be over \$10,200.

The county has offered through the attached MOU to provide the service of storm debris removal and disposal and would invoice the city for the portion of removal along city right of way.

Normally debris clean up is an item that the detainee detail would address. The City has budgeted \$49,000 for the detail, but has not spent any of those funds this fiscal year due to their unavailability resulting from COVID-19. According to the Department of Corrections, the details will not be made available until sometime in 2021. Some city funds originally budgeted for the detainee detail can be shifted to cover the cost of the debris clean up.

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

Bradley Greene agreed to the proposal but questioned if the city would be reimbursed for the costs. Mr. O'Bryant answered if the governor declares a state of emergency for our area, there is a chance for reimbursement.

Kevin Stanley stated his concern of residents and business owners piling up the right-of-way with debris. Mr. O'Bryant explained photos have been taken of the areas, so it would be known if debris was added. All areas have been identified and will be logged in a GPS system.

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 a Memorandum of Understanding with the White County Board of Commissioners for debris clean-up on the city's street right-of-way.

2. City Hall will be closed November 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day.
3. Street clean-up day is November 13, 2020. Everyone planning to participate should meet at City Hall at 8:30 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Farm-City Week Proclamation – Mr. O'Bryant explained with the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, November has been designated as a month to recognize farmers and the crops and materials they produce. It is an opportunity to thank and recognize those that provide to your table.

Mayor Turner read the proclamation:

Georgia farmers and ranchers play a key role in providing food, clothing, shelter and fuel to our state, nation and the world by producing a bounty of agricultural products. To do this, they rely on essential partnerships with urban and suburban communities to supply, sell and deliver finished products rural and urban communities working together have made the most of our state's rich agricultural resources as they contribute to the health and well-being of our state, our country and to the strength of our economy.

During Farm-City Week in Georgia, we recognize the importance of this cooperative network. Agriculture contributes more than \$76 billion annually to Georgia's \$1.7 trillion economic output. The total Farm Gate Value for the state was more than \$13.76 billion. White County alone has an economic output of \$96 million. One in seven Georgians work in agriculture, forestry or an agriculture-related field.

The agricultural industry provides us with food, clothing and shelter as well as fuel for our energy needs. As we welcome new opportunities for trade, the hard work and successful cooperation between farmers and city workers will continue to play a vital role in our state and nation's future.

Farm-City collaborations help maintain and improve our food and fiber supply and contribute to a better quality of life for our citizens. We commend the many Americans whose hard work and ingenuity reflect the true spirit of America and help to ensure a prosperous future for all.

**NEW BUSINESS - continued**

As we gather with family and friends around the Thanksgiving table, it is fitting that we count among our blessings the vital farm-city partnerships that have done so much to improve the quality of our lives.

Therefore, we do here proclaim November 18-25, 2020 as Farm-City Week in Cleveland, GA. We call upon citizens in rural and urban areas to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of all those who, working together, produce and supply our community and nation with an abundance of agricultural products.

Given under hand and seal, by proclamation of the City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the proclamation for Farm-City Week in Cleveland GA.

Mr. Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Association, and Ms. Nadine Wardenga, in which have sat on many committees with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, were present to receive the proclamation.

Mr. Giles expressed his appreciation of the city's recognition of those that continued to provide the meat, produce, and materials needed for day-to-day living during the pandemic. It gave the public a new understanding of the importance of agriculture.

2. On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, the Mayor and Council approved the proclamations for Ms. Annie Sutton and Chief John Foster. The proclamation for Ms. Sutton will be presented at the December 7, 2020 City Council Meeting. The proclamation for Chief Foster will be presented December 17, 2020 at the retirement party given in his honor.
3. Christmas in the Mountains will be held December 5, 2020. The chamber is requesting additional city services – police, fire, and sanitation. Ms. Truelove explained the event activities have been scaled down to comply with the self-imposed social distancing. She has been working with Chief Foster and Major Weiland on the details. Mayor Turner thanked Ms. Truelove for continuing with the event as it helps with the mental health of our citizens to see events go on as normal.

Bradley Greene asked if candy would be thrown from the floats. Ms. Truelove assured the council that all participants have been notified candy cannot be given away, thrown, or handed out at this event. Ms. Yardley asked if there were any comments from the police department. Major Weiland agreed with the “no-candy” policy, as it would prevent social distancing.

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 approve the 2020 Christmas in the Mountains special events permit and provide police, fire and sanitation services.

**NEW BUSINESS – continued**

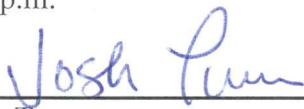
4. Public comments – Nadine Wardenga informed herself and husband Tom, will begin cleaning out the flower pots on the square so the city can start placing the Christmas trees for the holiday decorations.  
Bradley Greene informed there were street lights out on the square and he will forward the pole numbers to city staff to report.  
Beth Truelove, through the Chamber, is applying for grants to assist the community. The next available grant is due December 18 and will require a letter of support from the city. The grant is to finance a workforce development program. The program assists disadvantage young adults, currently in the Mountain Education Program, in finding employment in the area.
5. On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the minutes of October 21, 2020 with the following correction:  
Mayor Turner, Council Member Rebecca Yardley, and Council Member Kevin Stanley suggested a few minor changes:
6. Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, informed his department is conducting pre-fire plans for each business in Cleveland. If the business is existing, the department is making calls to make sure there have not been changes to the facilities. This will eliminate the need to enter the building. If the business is new, the department is scheduling a time to physically inspect the facility.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. The minutes of October 5 and 13, 2020 were signed.

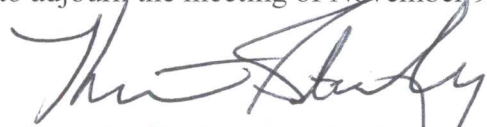
**ADJOURNMENT**

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 November 9, 2020 at 7:18 p.m.



Josh Turner,

Mayor



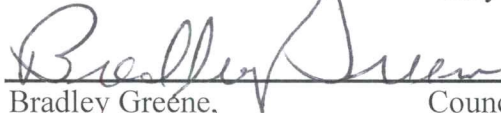
Kevin Stanley,

Council Member  
Ward 3  
Mayor Pro Tem



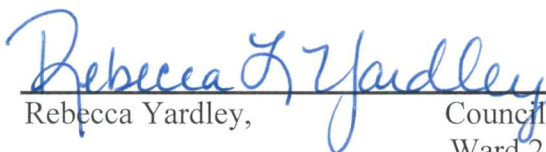
Nan Bowen,

Council Member  
Ward 1



Bradley Greene,

Council Member  
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley,

Council Member  
Ward 2



Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

