

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 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 Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agenda for the December 7, 2020 City Council Meeting.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, gave the department statistics for November 2020.

The department responded to 93 calls – 45 within the city limits and 48 in the county. 13 of the county calls were outside the automatic aid area. White County responded 2 times within the city.

Chief Pruitt informed the insurance investigator, which investigated the North Georgia Hardwood fire, has ruled the cause of the fire “undetermined”. Chief Pruitt is working with the engineer hired to rebuild North Georgia Hardwood on the requirements of a sprinkler system. Engineered plans will be submitted for review.

Rebecca Yardley asked about the calls on Hope Drive. Chief Pruitt informed the calls are at the new assisted living facility. Chief Pruitt feels as the residency grows, so will the call volume.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief John Foster, Police Department, presented an amendment to the departments Standard Operating Procedures to add new section 23-03 Retiring Officers Retain Firearm and Badge.

Chief Foster explained the policy is common for those retiring in law enforcement. The city’s policy states the retiree must have been employed, by the city, no less than twenty-years. Because of the nature of the policy, it should be approved by the Mayor and City Council.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to approve the amendment to the Cleveland Police Department Standard Operating Procedures to add new section 23-03 Retiring Officers Retain Firearm and Badge.

CHIEF JOHN FOSTER – POLICE DEPARTMENT - continued

Chief Foster informed the Mayor and Council of an issue with the alcohol ordinance. The issue is the removal of the requirement of meals for beer and wine sales. The requirement is written in the ordinance for distilled spirits, but was removed for beer and wine. Chief Foster informed this change was made through an ordinance amendment in 2018.

Chief Foster requested the Council consider a moratorium on issuing alcohol licenses to restaurants receiving an alcohol license until the ordinance is corrected. Chief Foster was asked if he meant current license holders or new applicants. Chief Foster clarified new applicants.

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 approve a moratorium on the issuance of a alcohol license to new applicants applying for such license. The moratorium will be in effect for ninety-days for a review and a decision.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator, was not present to discuss the White County Water Authority/Turner Creek Wheelage Agreement. Mayor Turner presented the proposal. A copy of Mr. O'Bryant's notes are made part of these minutes.

Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Contribution

- a. The City and the White County Water Authority have a wheelage agreement for the funding and operation of the Turner Creek Water Treatment Plant.
- b. According to the existing Agreements in place, a tiered mechanism is in place that places a monetary percentage on top of the set wholesale price of water to help fund the capital reserve account for the plant.
- c. The tiers vary from 10%, 20% and 30% based on the amount of funds held in the capital reserve account at the time of budgeting. Historically the tier has been held at 10%.
- d. At the request of the WCWA, the city voted to pay the 20% rate in early 2018 to help build the account through December 31, 2019, and last year City Council extended the 20% rate through December 31, 2020. The City absorbed the cost of the increased without passing it on to its customers. If not extended, the standard rate of 10% will return on January 1, 2021. The budgeted wholesale rate for the cost of water that the city pays is included in the city FY21 budget.
- e. The plant and the WCWA are experiencing some fairly large capital expenses with the development of a new well on site. They expect even larger capital expenses in the future to upgrade the plant filtering system.
- f. However, the WCWA has requested the City to continue funding the capital reserve account at the 20% tier rate to remain in place for an additional six months through June 30, 2021. The reason for just the six-month extension is to have the agreement consistent with the fiscal year and where it would expire at the same time as the same type of agreement the WCWA has with the City of Helen, and be consistent with the fiscal year budget that the agency follows.
- g. The WCWA states continuing the increased rate is contingent upon the acceptance of the City and would like for the Council to consider continuing to fund the capital reserve account at the 20% tiered rate for an additional six months – through June 30, 2021.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

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 extend the wheelage agreement with the Turner Creek Treatment Plant until June 30, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

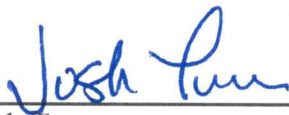
1. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the minutes of November 2 and November 9, 2020.
2. Public Comments – Beth Truelove thanked the Mayor, Council, police and fire departments for their participation and support of the Christmas in the Mountains lighted Parade. Chief Foster advised tractor trailers should not be allowed in the parade. It is too difficult for tractor trailers to make certain turns on the square and throughout town. Ms. Truelove informed the committee has made a decision to implement guidelines on lengths allowed in the parade. Mayor Turner thanked Ms. Truelove for keeping the event and that it is good for the community.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of October 21, 2020 were signed.

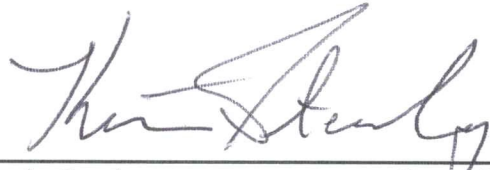
ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of December 7, 2020 at 6:47 p.m.



Josh Turner,

Mayor



Kevin Stanley,

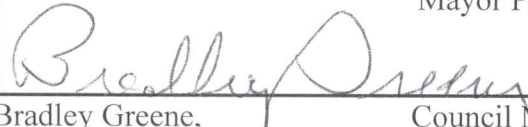
Council Member
Ward 3

Mayor Pro Tem



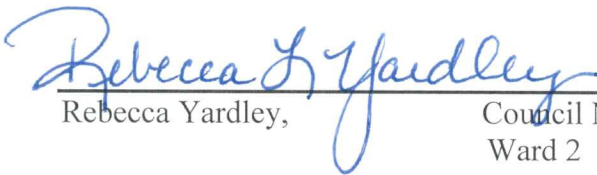
Nan Bowen,

Council Member
Ward 1



Bradley Greene,

Council Member
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley,

Council Member
Ward 2

Attest: 

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

