

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021
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 Nan Bowen, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agenda of the January 11, 2021 City Council Meeting with the addition of the announcement of the top three finalist for the position of Police Chief under new business.

RESOLUTION 2021-02 – CALL FOR ELECTION; 2021 ELECTION COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 3 AND WARD 4; TO SET QUALIFYING DATES, FEES, AND DATE OF ELECTION

Mayor Turner presented Resolution 2021-02 to formally make the call for election for Council Members Ward 3 and Ward 4.

The qualifying period for the election set by Section 1 of this Resolution to qualify for the positions described in Section 2 of this Resolution shall be open on Monday, August 16, 2021 and will continue day-to-day through Friday, August 20, 2021. The hours of qualifying each day shall be during the regular business hours of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for Monday August 16, 2021 the qualifying time will begin at 8:30 am as set by law and Friday, August 20, 2021 the qualifying time will end at 4:30 p.m. as set by law. The place of qualifying shall be the office of the City Clerk of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, being the office of the Election Superintendent, and being located at City Hall, 85 South Main Street, Cleveland, Georgia.

The qualifying fee for the Council Member positions, which are open for election as provided by Section 2 of the Resolution, shall be \$121.50.

The City of Cleveland, Georgia will conduct a general election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the place of said election being in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located at 25 Church Street, Cleveland, Georgia for the positions as indicated in Section 2 of this Resolution.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to approve Resolution 2021-02 Call for Election as presented to set qualifying dates, fees, and the date of the election.

WAYNE TUCK – WALKER, PIERCE & TUCK, CPA's, P.C. – AUDITOR 2019/2020 AUDIT

Wayne Tuck, Walker, Piece & Tuck, CPA's, P.C., presented the 2019/2020 Audit for the City of Cleveland. Mr. Tuck thanked the council for the opportunity to conduct the audit for the city. The city and his firm has a long-term relationship in working together through the years.

Mr. Tuck began by thanking city staff for their assistance in the audit process. The audit requirements are more detailed and city staff provided everything needed to complete the audit.

Mr. Tuck informed the City Council his firm is able to issue an unqualified opinion of the City's financial condition. An unqualified opinion means the financial statements, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in the financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Mr. Tuck cautioned the Council to not assume an unqualified opinion each year. The opinion requires staff following policies and procedures and updating such procedures as provided by law.

Mr. Tuck directed the Council to review the General Fund revenues and expenditures. The previous year was challenging and due to the economy and compared to the previous year, the city revenues were down approximately \$35000. The city showed an over-expenditure of \$17000 in the general fund. There were substantial expenditures in SPLOST, but that is to be expected as the fund is used for projects approved by the voters of White County.

The water/sewer fund audit shows an over expenditure of \$395,188. This amount includes depreciation in the amount of \$482,354. Since depreciation is not an actual paid out costs until equipment needs to be replaced, the fund is approximately \$100,000 in the positive.

Mr. Tuck explained a lot of the changes in revenue is due to the shut-down of the economy during the pandemic.

Mr. Tuck encouraged the council to read and review the entire audit report. The report is useful when developing procedures on expenditures.

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 2019/2020 Cleveland Fiscal Audit.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ricky Pruitt, Fire Department, presented the department statistics for December 2020.

The department responded to 107 calls, 58 inside the city and 49 outside the city with 16 of the calls being outside the automatic aid area in the county. The White County Fire Services responded three times within the city.

Chief Pruitt submitted the stats for the year of 2020. The department responded to 1093 calls, 531 inside the city, 562 outside the city. The department received 1574 hours of in-house and outside training.

MAJOR AARON WEILAND – INTERIM POLICE CHIEF – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Interim Police Chief Aaron Weiland presented the department statistics for December 2020. Interim Chief Weiland explained the department continues to work with the developer of the program to improve the activity reporting.

Community oriented and proactive – 1596 activities – includes public assist, premises checks and field interviews.

Reporting – 608 activities – includes incident reports, accident reports, investigative/supplemental reports, and administrative duties

Actions taken – 294 activities – includes citations, warnings, warrants, and juvenile cases

Interim Chief Weiland asked the council to let him know if they are interested in seeing additional data.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. GDOT Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application (LMIG) 2021

- a. The Georgia Department of Transportation annually assists local governments with transportation improvements through LMIG funding. The City has taken advantage of this program to help fund street improvements such as a culvert replacement, and sidewalk improvements. Most recently LMIG funds were utilized to widen the curve section of Old Blairsville Road, making it wide enough for school buses to take the curve without driving within the shoulder of the road. Planned are improvements that will resurface Wanda Drive, Bertha Court, and White Street. COVID-19 delayed the implementation of these projects last spring and summer.
- b. This year the city is eligible for funding in the amount of \$49,867.81. This amount is based on a DOT formula for city population and road miles of city streets. The city must provide matching funds in the amount of 30% of a project to be eligible to receive the funds.
- c. Staff has discussed needed transportation improvements within the city and determined that, including the connector need improvements that include leveling, patching and resurfacing for Cardinal Court, West Underwood Street to McDonald Street, and McDonald Street.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR – continued

- d. Estimate show that these proposed improvements will cost around \$143,782. LMIG dollars will fund approximately 35% of the project. City SPLOST IV funds will help cover the remaining costs. The project is planned to be let in FY21.
- e. City Council will need to approve the application for the LMIG funding and for the Mayor to sign the application.

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 LMIG street repairs and authorized Mayor Turner to sign the application and the submittal letter.

Mayor Turner asked how many miles the city will repair. Mr. O'Bryant the total miles is listed on the project sheet (.48 miles). This is in addition to the miles listed for the projects not completed for 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Turner read the following statement in regards to the position of Police Chief:

The City of Cleveland received 21 applications for Chief of Police. The City Council and staff have reviewed the applications. The City Council conducted interviews of the candidates.

The City of Cleveland announces the following as finalist for the position of Police Chief.:

Courtney S. Gale – Lieutenant, University of Georgia Police Department, Athens, Georgia, residing in Oconee County, Georgia

Jeffery S. Shoemaker – Captain, Hall County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville, Georgia, residing in White County, Georgia

Aaron A. Weiland – Major, City of Cleveland Police Department, Cleveland, Georgia, residing in White County Georgia

The City Council will continue moving forward through the selection process to select a finalist for the position.

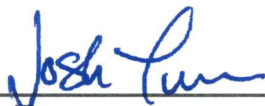
2. Public Comments – there were no public comments

OLD BUSINESS

1. The minutes of December 2020 were signed.

ADJOURNMENT

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 adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 11, 2021 at 6:51 p.m.



Josh Turner,

Mayor



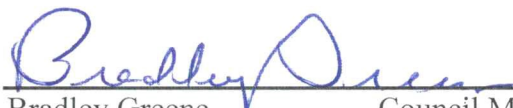
Kevin Stanley,

Council Member
Ward 3



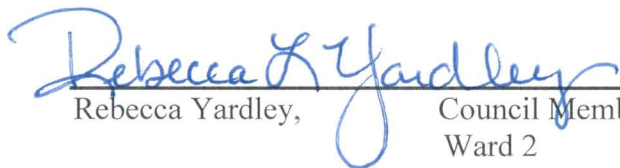
Nan Bowen,

Council Member
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tem




Bradley Greene,

Council Member
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley,

Council Member
Ward 2

Attest: 

Connie Tracas,

City Clerk

