

**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2021**  
**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 6:31 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the agenda for the February 8, 2021 City Council Meeting.

**Municipal Court Judge Garrison Baker to administer the oath of office to newly appointed Cleveland Police Chief Jeffery Shoemaker**

Mayor Turner thanked the many guest in attendance tonight's meeting and stated the City is very proud of this occasion to have the oath of office administered to the new appointed Chief of Police, Jeffery Shoemaker. Municipal Court Judge Garrison Baker stated it was a privilege for a judge to administer the oath of office to a public official in law enforcement. Judge Baker administered the oath of office to new Chief of Police Jeffery Shoemaker. Chief Shoemaker expressed thanks to his family, friends and the officials with the City of Cleveland. He looks forward to serving the with the members of the police department, and serving the citizens of the community, and the city council.

**Treadwell Syfan, Stewart, Melvin and Frost; Municipal Bond Financing for the proposed City of Cleveland Municipal Complex; Creation of the City of Cleveland Building Authority**

The Mayor welcomed and called on Mr. Tread Syfan to discuss bond financing for the proposed municipal complex and creation of a building authority. Mr. Syfan provided a general overview of all is involved with the issuance of bond debt and one action that would initially need to take place is the creation of a city building authority which would require a local act carried through the state legislature. Senator Steve Gooch has offered to introduce such a bill on behalf of the city. The building authority would have the power to issue revenue bonds to finance public projects. The city would enter an intergovernmental contract with the authority to create an obligation of the city to repay the bonds through an installment sale agreement on the bonds for the proposed project. Through an installment sales agreement the city can use sales tax revenue, among other revenue sources, to repay the bond obligation. SPLOST funds may be dedicated to the bond debt as well. By approving a resolution tonight to create a building authority is the first step towards financing the project. However, by doing so at this time, the creation of the building authority the city is not committing to issuing the debt, they are committing to creating the authority as a tool of the city if the council ever decides to issue debt through that body.

If the city utilizes the authority for issuing bonds for the construction of a project then the process would involve hiring professionals that assist in issuing the debt, which would include bond counsel for local

**continued - Treadwell Syfan, Stewart, Melvin and Frost; Municipal Bond Financing for the proposed City of Cleveland Municipal Complex; Creation of the City of Cleveland Building Authority**

government, an underwriter that would underwrite and assist with the issuance of the bonds into the City public market. Mr. Syfan then identified a number of steps that involves the sale of tax-exempt bonds in the public marketplace at the current market rate of interest. The tax exemption allows for the lowest interest rate available. The revenue from the sale of the bonds would go into a construction account to finance the construction of the city project. Currently bond interest rates are at historic lows, but are always subject to market fluctuation. Right now, on today's market, 30-year tax exempt bonds are at a rate of 1.8 to 1.9 percent. He explained that the bond funds could also include capitalized interest which is the interest paid on the bond debt while the project is under construction.

The Building Authority act includes the creation of the building authority and provides for the city council to appoint five members to the authority including two members to be from the Mayor and Council, one member of the Planning Commission appointed by the Council and two at-large members also appointed by the Council. The authority would be a governmental body and an instrumentality of the City of Cleveland. The next step is not deciding whether the city council is going to issue debt, but only an action to approve the creation of the authority and ask Senator Gooch to go forward with the introduction of the local act creating of the authority.

Mayor Turner asked if the council had any questions for Mr. Syfan. There were none.

**Resolution 2021-07 – RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE NEED FOR A BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND, GEORGIA; TO REQUEST THAT SENATOR STEVE GOOCH SPONSOR A LOCAL ACT, Pursuant to Article III, Section V, Paragraph IX of the Constitution of the State of Georgia 1983, to create the City of CLEVELAND Building Authority, as a public body of corporate and politic; TO CONSENT TO SUCH LOCAL ACT; TO AUTHORIZE ALL ACTIONS OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND NECESSARY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF SUCH LOCAL ACT**

Mayor Turner read the resolution title and asked for a motion to pass the resolution. He also stated that it was his understanding that a Notice of Intent on the local legislative act and a public input meeting would be held to receive public input on the proposed intention of the City - to submit the legislation and create the City of Cleveland Building Authority - would be published in the White County News. He asked the Council to set a date for the public input meeting. After some discussion, Bradley Greene made a motion to approve and adopt the resolution and for the City to hold a public input meeting on the Act on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m., seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to approve Resolution 2021-07 and host a public input meeting set February 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Turner thanked Mr. Syfan for his detailed information and guidance through the process of bond financing.



**2021-06 – RESOLUTION ALCOHOL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DISCUSSION, 2<sup>ND</sup> CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION**

Mayor Turner asked Tom O'Bryant to provide an update on the information and questions that were discussed during the first consideration of the proposed amendments. Mr. O'Bryant stated that City Attorney Grant Keene has provided a letter addressing the question concerning the definition of a restaurant, including the number of days of week a restaurant must be open in order to hold an alcohol license issued by the City and State. Mr. Keene discussed his findings. He reviewed the entire state alcohol codes and did not find any requirement that a restaurant must be open six days a week; however, they must be open when they are serving alcohol for food service; so, the City could allow for a lesser period of time or days of the week for restaurants to be open than what is currently in place.

Mr. O'Bryant researched the question how other local governments approach and manage changes and updates to their alcohol code requirements. He found that many local governments review their alcohol codes annually and make updates as needed related to amendments in state legislation or state code requirements or they address code amendments as their local government grows and changes locally. He stated the City of Cleveland can take the same approach with conducting an annual review of the ordinance and recommend amendments as they are needed. Mr. Keene suggested that any future amendments include more defined roles in the administration of the ordinance. Kevin Stanley suggested that with this new information and the hiring of a new police chief to gain more input on these changes - or any others- and postpone the consideration of amendments for a longer period of time. Mr. O'Bryant identified the options for the council to act under the moratorium of the issuance of new alcohol licenses, not existing renewals. Mayor Turner asked Chief Shoemaker if he had any objections to possibly postponing the matter until further review and to provide him an opportunity for examining the ordinance and proposed amendments. Chief Shoemaker said he did not have any objections and would work with staff to address any proposed amendments.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to postpone the second consideration and possible adoption, and to extend the moratorium deadline to May 3, 2021 for further review of the ordinance, issue research and additional recommended amendments are brought to City Council for consideration and adoption.

**Chief Ricky Pruitt – Fire Department**

Chief Pruitt presented the January statistics of the Fire Department activity. The Department responded to 82 calls. Thirty-two of those called were inside the city limits and 50 were outside the city in the county. Nine of the 50 calls were outside the automatic aid area. White County Fire Services responded into the city two times, with the city responding into the county 50 times. Mayor Turner thanked Chief Pruitt and his staff for their service.

**Major Aaron Weiland – Police Department**

Major Aaron Weiland passed out a report of police department statistics for the month of January, and reviewed the activities for the month.

Mayor Turner expressed thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works for their work and tireless efforts during the snow event this past weekend.

Major Weiland introduced the awarding of a Letter of Commendation for three officers and one firefighter – Officer Vaughan, Corporal Wood, Sergeant Landress, and firefighter Payton Cagle. Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker read and awarded the Letter of Commendation for responding to an unresponsive subject and taking action to revive the subject and save her life.

On Tuesday February 2, 2021, Officers were dispatched to an overdose at an apartment complex. Dispatch advised that a subject was unresponsive and not breathing.

Officer Denton Vaughan arrived first and observed a mother, in the parking area, attempting to give CPR to her adult daughter. The daughter's face and neck had turned blue, and her fingers and toes were bluish purple. The mother estimated that her daughter may have been down for about thirty minutes, in the near freezing temperature. Officer Vaughan felt for a pulse, but could not locate one, and immediately took over CPR. Corporal Brandon Wood arrived and assisted, while Sergeant Brandon Landress administered NARCAN. Officers continued CPR until Cleveland Firefighter, Payton Cagle, took over and then they assisted him with still no pulse detected for several more minutes. They noticed her hand move, and checked again, finally finding a pulse. The daughter then sat up and began to speak. The quick, decisive actions, and determination of these Officers and this Firefighter, not only saved this young woman's life, but saved her mother and her children from an insufferable loss. Their actions reflect highly upon themselves, their profession, this department, and the City of Cleveland.

Major Weiland mentioned that this is the second life that Corporal Wood has saved. He also stated how proud he is of these officers and how impressed he is by what they do every day. He thanked them for their service. Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt mentioned that recent CPR training class recently conducted for the police staff contributed to the actions of these officers. Mayor Turner and Council thanked the officers for saving this individual's life and expressed an appreciation for all that they do serving the citizens of Cleveland.

Mayor Turner also expressed thanks to Major Weiland for his service as Interim Police Chief for the past few months and for his service to the City.

**TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**1. Fire Department Grant Applications**

- a. The Fire Department has made a request to apply for two grants that assists fire departments with costs for equipment. The two grants are the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC) Fireworks Tax Grants. Both grants are due in the month of February 2021.

The Fire Department would like to apply to the AFG for funding assistance for the purchase of turnout gear. The quoted cost of the turnout gear obtained by Ricky Pruitt,



**Fire Department Grant Applications - continued**

- b. Fire Chief, is 7,255. The AFG requires the city to provide at least a five percent (5%) match or \$362.25 towards the purchase of the gear. The department will use funds from supplies for the match. The application is submitted online through the Grants.gov website and is due February 12, 2021
- c. The Fire Department would like to apply to the GFSTC for funding assistance for the purchase of generator that can supply multiple power generation while on rescue calls that need extrication and/or separation. The quotes of the equipment obtained by Ricky Pruitt, Fire Chief, is \$8,810. The fireworks tax grant requires at least a 15% match, or \$1,321.50, toward the cost of the equipment. The department will use capital outlay funds to match this grant. This application is also submitted online and is due February 15, 2021.
- d. The Fire Department and Administration request that City Council approve the grant applications and authorize the Fire Chief, City Administrator and Mayor to sign the applications where required online.

Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt added that the generator pump is an item that the department has needed for a while and felt this is a good time to apply for funding assistance to purchase this piece of equipment.

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 authorize the Fire Department to submit both grant application and for the Fire Chief, City Administrator and Mayor to sign the applications where required.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Public comments: Mayor Turner opened the floor for public comments.

Local restaurant owner, Ward Gann with Clyde's Table and Tavern, expressed thanks to the City Council for the extension on the alcohol ordinance moratorium so that will provide time for additional review and input into the proposed amendments.

**OLD BUSINESS**

City Council signed the minutes of the January 2021 meetings.


**ADJOURNMENT**


On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of February 8, 2021 at 7:46 p.m.

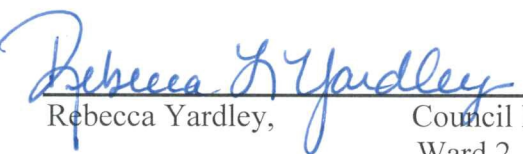
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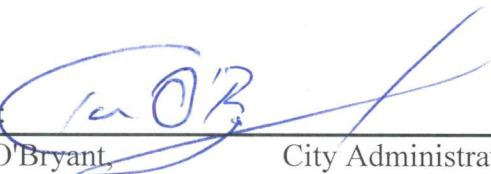
  
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Josh Turner, Mayor

  
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Kevin Stanley, Council Member  
Ward 3

  
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Nan Bowen, Council Member  
Ward 1  
Mayor Pro Tem

  
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Bradley Greene, Council Member  
Ward 4

  
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Rebecca Yardley, Council Member  
Ward 2

Attest:   
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Tom O'Bryant, City Administrator

In absence of City Clerk, minutes drafted by City Administrator

