

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 12, 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 Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the agenda for the July 12, 2021 City Council Meeting.

2021-11 – PROCLAMATION TRUETT McCONNELL UNIVERSITY 75th ANNIVERSARY

Mayor Turner welcomed Dr. David Drake with Truett McConnell University to city council meeting and announce the city has for consideration a proclamation honoring TMU on it 75th anniversary. Mayor Turner read the proclamation:

TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
2021-11

WHEREAS, Truett McConnell University's statement of its mission emphasizes the school's faithful commitment to the founding fathers by providing students' academic excellence; integrate faith with all areas of knowledge; engage a diverse world; and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, Truett McConnell University values and teaches a Biblical model of family, community, personal transformation and relationships; and

WHEREAS, Truett McConnell University is a valued educational facility that has provided many White County citizens, and students from around the world, a solid education to move forward with life goals that include Christ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland has supported the development of new buildings and renovations by offering the City's Downtown Development Authority as a means to obtain bonds; and

WHEREAS, by these acts of the City of Cleveland, Truett McConnell University is able to enroll more students and provide the Christian and academic education as envisioned by Fernando McConnell and George W. Truett many years ago, and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of Truett McConnell University is seen by the employment of educators and staff, the student and visitor expenditures, and by the economic value and contribution of higher education in our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia that July 23, 2021, be proclaimed as

TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY

75TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

in the City of Cleveland in appreciation of the dedicated service and education provided to the community.

GIVEN UNDER HAND AND SEAL, by proclamation of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, this the 12th day of July 2021.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to adopt Resolution 2021-11.

Council member Nan Bowen stated she is very proud that TMU is in our community. Dr. David Drake representing TMU invited the city council and the public to Truett McConnell University on July 23, 2021 an event on campus front lawn to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the date that Truett McConnell became an educational institution. He also invited the council to attend the President's Chapel on August 17, 2021 at the Student Wellness Center to celebrate the anniversary with the students. He pointed out that the celebration will be extended throughout the academic year rather than just one date. He thanked the Mayor and Council and City for their support as the university has grown over the years.

FIRE CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt presented the fire department statistics for June 2021. The department responded to 95 calls, with 44 being within the city and 51 being outside the city limits. The White County fire department responded in the city 3 times during the month of June.

Rebecca Yardley asked Chief Pruitt regarding an update to a community assist situation from last month and if there was a solution to address it. Chief Pruitt reported that he had spoken to David Murphy and Bill Scandrett to get with the citizen's caseworker to help resolve the issue. He stated that they have not been called since that time, but if the calls for assist started again, he would get back with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Scandrett on the issue.

CHIEF JEFFERY SHOEMAKER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jeffery Shoemaker, Police Department, stated that the department was experiencing a software update glitch and the automatic accounting of data was temporarily lost. He stated that he would forward them the police department statistics as soon as the glitch was addressed and the data collected.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Engagement Letter and Audit Agreement – Walker, Pierce and Tuck

- a. The City of Cleveland is required by law to conduct an annual audit of its financial activities.
- b. The City has employed Walker, Pierce and Tuck CPAs, PC for several years to conduct the annual audit and provide financial reporting services to the State.
- c. The City and WPT most recently completed a three-year engagement agreement for audit services.
- d. WPT has sent the City an new three-year engagement letter for audit services for 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- e. Costs for each year are \$22,250 for 2021, \$22,750 for 2022 and \$23,250 for 2023. Any additional single audit would cost \$5,000 per major program.
- f. The three-year engagement letter and agreement allows the city to plan and budget for audit services.
- g. City council will need to approve the engagement letter and agreement and sign the document for audit services.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the engagement letter and agreement with auditor Walter, Pierce and Tuck for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, and to authorize the city administrator to sign the agreement.

2. 2021-15 Resolution to approve the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update

- a. The State of Georgia requires that every local government have a 10-year comprehensive plan to help guide community growth and address issues of concern. The comprehensive planning process is overseen by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and a 5-year update is required for all plans. The updated plan is utilized in the application of many state grants and loans. Besides being a requirement, the comprehensive plan lays out a map for the city's future and is developed through the involvement of community leaders, stakeholder and the public. The plan addresses community concerns and opportunities.
- b. The updating of the plan was coordinated by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. The City of Cleveland participated with White County and the City of Helen holding monthly committee meetings on the data and information required to complete the update. Public Hearings were held in May and the plan was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review and approval. Georgia DCA completed its review and notified GMRC that plan update has been approved.
- c. It is requested that City Council adopt the Comprehensive Plan update.
- d. Staff will forward a copy of the adoption resolution to GMRC and DCA to maintain compliance the state planning requirements and maintain its Qualified Local Government Status.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approve and adopt Resolution 2021-15 the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for the City of Cleveland, City of Helen and White County, Georgia.

NEW BUSINESS

- On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the draft minutes of June 7 and June 14, 2021 budget hearings, and the June 7 and June 14, 2021 city council meetings.
- Public comments – Judy Lovell was present to represent the White County Historical Society. She thanked Chief Pruitt for an interview for an article that she is writing about the fire department. Ms. Lovell also shared a bit of city history regarding Jack Howard, a former city clerk. His duties included: to haul trash, read water meters, to supervise the cut-in of the water and installation of new lines, to assist the chief of police in the maintenance of the water pumps, collect city taxes, issue business licenses, keep the fire engine in readiness and on-call at all times, to maintain an office where taxes and water bills could be paid, and where the mayor and council could meet, and to furnish his own truck to haul garbage and do other running around that agreed to be done. He did all this for \$175 a month. Rebecca Yardley expressed appreciation the history shared by Ms. Lovell and stated she would like to see this type of history shared at every city council meeting. Ms. Lovell said she might be able to find some “good dirt” from the past to share in the future meetings.

Beth Truelove with the White County Chamber of Commerce expressed thanks to Truett McConnell University for its contribution to the community in providing an educated and productive workforce for local businesses, and congratulated them on their 75th anniversary. She also announced that the chamber will be holding a job fair at the university for businesses needing part-time workers and are hoping to match students with available jobs.

OLD BUSINESS

- Turner Creek Treatment Plant Budget – Tom O’Bryant stated while working on the current treatment plant budget that the White County Water Authority adopted and sent to the city, the protocol did not follow the 2003 Modification to the Management Agreement that stated the city shall be provided the opportunity to review and approve the budget for the plant. He further stated that the modification also creates a water treatment plant committee, with three appointments by Cleveland (and three appointed by the water authority), that meet and recommend adjustments in plant operations and the terms of the parties agreement as may be necessary to efficient carry out the duties of operating the plant. The water authority has made their appointments from their board and Mr. O’Bryant recommended that the council appoint three members to the committee. He informed that Council Members Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley supervise Public Works, including the water department, would be the most appropriate to serve on this committee. Bradley Greene stated that since Mr. O’Bryant serves on the authority and helps managed the city’s water system he should serve as the third member of the committee for Cleveland.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council appointed Council Members Bradley Greene and Kevin Stanley, and City Administrator, Tom O’Bryant to serve on the Water Treatment Plant Management Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom O'Bryant made a request for the city council to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss matters of litigation.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to enter into executive session at 6:54 p.m. to discuss matters of litigations.

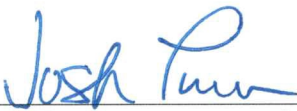
RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to adjourn from executive session at 7:52 p.m. and to return to the city council meeting. Bradley Greene checked the lobby and building perimeter to see if anyone was present to return to the meeting. No one was present.


No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT


On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of July 12, 2021 at 7:53 p.m.



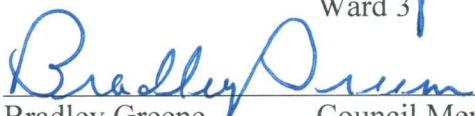
Josh Turner Mayor



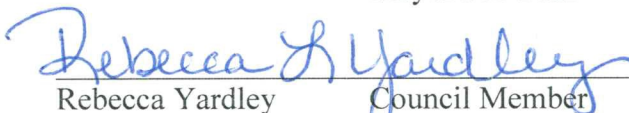
Kevin Stanley Council Member
Ward 3



Nan Bowen Council Member
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tem



Bradley Greene Council Member
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley Council Member
Ward 2

ATTEST: 

Tom O'Bryant City Administrator

