

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Called 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.

Before the meeting began, Mayor Josh Turner asked all in attendance to stand for a moment of silence for Ms. Beth Allen. Ms. Allen was employed as the city's finance officer and passed away August 28, 2021.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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 approve the agenda for the September 9, 2021 Called City Council Meeting.

DANIEL RATIGAN – TROOP 140 – EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE

Mayor Josh Turner introduced Mr. Daniel Ratigan, Troop 140, to explain his proposal for a Little Free Library. This is a part of his BSA Eagle Project.

Mr. Daniel Ratigan informed the Mayor and City Council of his proposal to install Little Free Libraries in several places within the county. The library project would include Woodman of the World City Park. The goal is to reach and inspire new readers and to provide resources to those that like to read.

Mr. Ratigan provided the following points:

- Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization designed to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries.
- The Little Free Library functions as a book exchange. Take a book for free and leave a book if you have extra.
- The Little Library will be built by Troop 140.
- The Little Library will be mounted on a post (ground treated) and the library itself will be stained and coated with a waterproof seal to protect it from the weather
- Funds for building the Little Library have already been donated by Hilary Randall in memory of her husband, Michael Randall.
- The Little Library will be registered on the littlefreelibrary.org website, so that anyone with internet access can search for a local location and find it.
- The exact location on the Park's property would be determined by the property manager under their supervision.
- White County has chosen the tin roof for the Freedom Park location to match the amphitheater stage roof, but it can be built without that at your discretion.

DANIEL RATIGAN – TROOP 140 – EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE - continued

- The Little Library will be stocked with donated books and maintained by Mr. Ratigan for the first year. Hilary Randall has agreed to become steward of the Little Library after that point. Mr. Ratigan further explained, the city can make a decision of what type of roof the little building will have.

Nan Bowen commented on how beautiful of the design of the building.

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 approve the Little Free Library Project as proposed by Mr. Daniel Ratigan and to locate the Little Free Library at Cleveland, Woodman of the World, City Park.

Mayor Turner congratulated Mr. Ratigan for his hard work and his academic and Eagle Scout achievements.

2021-19 PROCLAMATION – WHITE COUNTY HISTORY MONTH

Mayor Josh Turner read proclamation 2021-19 to recognize the White County Historical Society White County History Month.

Whereas, historic preservation is an effective tool for fostering local pride and celebrating historically significant events, and historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and particularly for citizens of Cleveland who preserve and support the White County Historical Society;

Whereas, it is important to recognize and remember the role of history in our lives and contributions made by dedicated individuals such as the members of the White County Historical Society in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a community and documenting the memories of days gone by;

Whereas, by realizing that preservation begins at home, the members of the White County Historical Society and citizens of White County continue to document and preserve the history of White County, GA;

Now, therefore, the Mayor and City Council of Cleveland, GA, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2021 as *WHITE COUNTY GEORGIA HISTORY DAY* and encourage all citizens to learn the history and heritage of our city and county.

Given under hand and seal, by proclamation of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cleveland, Georgia, this 9th Day of September, 2021.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve Proclamation 2021-19 White County History month.

Mark Johnson thanked the Mayor and City Council for the city's support.

2021-20 AMENDMENT TO BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS (2021-01)

Mayor Turner explained the need to amend the board member appointments to include the new Cleveland Building Authority and the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission appointment.

Mayor Turner asked the council to consider the following for the Cleveland Building Authority:

Joshua Turner – City Mayor
through elected office term

Kevin Stanley, City Council Member
through elected office term

Linda Hobbs, Planning & Zoning Board
Four-Year Term

Annie Sutton, At Large Appointee – Four-Year Term

Kris Yardley, At Large Appointee - Four-Year
Term

And to also approve the appointment of Ms. Carly Adam to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, as appointed by the White Board of Commissioners on July 13, 2021.

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 approve 2021-20 Amendment to Board Member Appointments by appointing:

Joshua Turner – City Mayor
through elected office term

Kevin Stanley, City Council Member
through elected office term

Linda Hobbs, Planning & Zoning Board
Four-Year Term

Annie Sutton, At Large Appointee – Four-Year Term

Kris Yardley, At Large Appointee - Four-Year
Term

And the appointment if Ms. Carly Adam to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

CHIEF RICKY PRUITT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Ricky Pruitt presented the department statistics for July and August 2021.

July 2021, the department responded to 83 calls, 38 within the city and 45 calls outside the city limits.

August 2021, the department responded to 108 calls, 50 within the city and 58 calls outside the city limits.

Ms. Yardley asked for clarification of a note on the report “other Aid Given.” Chief Pruitt explained Cleveland Fire responded into the county with no assistance from White County Fire Services.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Mr. O'Bryant presented a lease agreement between the city and Hogan Brothers, LLC for use of storage building to store the city's fire equipment.
After the demolition of the Talon building, the city needed a building to store the ladder fire truck and other fire equipment. The lease is for \$1000.00 per month. City Attorney, Grant Keene, reviewed and submitted his comments and were incorporated within the lease agreement. Ms. Yardley asked if the lease of the building was in the budget. Mr. O'Bryant answered yes as the need for storage was anticipated due to the demolition of Talon.
On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the lease agreement between the City of Cleveland and Hogan Brothers, LLC for the use of a storage building at the rate of \$1000.00 per month.
Mr. Kevin Stanley asked if the landlord can terminate the lease, for instance, if the property sold. Mr. O'Bryant stated there is a safeguard in the lease which requires the landlord to give a sixty-day notice in the event the lease needs to be terminated.
2. Mr. O'Bryant presented an extension of the contract between the City of Cleveland and the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission for the mapping of the City's water and sewer lines. The project was delayed in 2020 due to staff shortages caused by COVID. The GA. Mountain Regional Commission is requesting the contract be extended for another quarter.
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 extension of the contract for mapping services from the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission.
3. Mr. O'Bryant presented the bid for the LMIG road improvements and striping projects. Four companies requested a bid package but only one company, Garrett Paving Company, submitted a bid for consideration.
The original estimate was proposed at \$326,834. The bid came in at \$286,503 with a request to include 500 square yards of additional material and labor for patching at approximately \$27,500. \$146,885 will be paid from LMIG funds from 2020 and 2021. The balance will be paid from SPLOST 4. A total of six streets will be resurfaced and ten streets will be striped.
Nan Bowen asked if the city has used this company before and Mr. O'Bryant answered no.
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 award the bid to Garrett Paving Company in the amount of \$286,503 with a request to include 500 square yards of additional material and labor for patching at approximately \$27,500, totaling \$314,003.00.
Mayor Turner was given authorization to sign the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 approve and sign the minutes of August 2, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

2. Public comments – Mayor Josh Turner informed he met with the staff of Cleveland Public Works to address the rumors of the city privatizing sanitation and public works services. Mayor Turner wanted to publicly state what he expressed to city employees. Mayor Turner publicly stated he is opposed to any form of privatization of the city services provided by Cleveland. Mayor Turner is not aware of how this misinformation was started but wanted to be on record that he is opposed to the city privatizing sanitation and public works services.

Henrietta Sutton asked of the location of the storage building for the fire truck. Mr. O'Bryant answered Blalock Mill Road.

Terry Goodger, White County Commissioner, informed he attended the Downtown Development Authority Training and felt it was very good and informative. Mr. Goodger is encouraged to move forward with the development of the city.

Mayor Turner asked Ms. Judy Lovell if she had history to give. Ms. Lovell informed after the city election of 1944, a large group of citizens came to the first meeting demanding changes and requested the council to plan for progress and development. The group informed they would not stand idly by and declared the sidewalks were a disgrace and wanted a decent place to walk.

Ms. Annie Sutton asked the city to fix the pothole at the corner of 129 South and Hood Street. Ms. Sutton also stated the city needs to do something about the backup of traffic going into Dunkin Donuts. At times, she has to go around traffic in the turn lane. She feels she could receive a ticket for driving in the turn lane but has no choice when traffic is backed up. Ms. Sutton informed it is a hazard for those making emergency calls or senior drivers. Lt. Donna Sims stated Ms. Sutton would not receive a ticket due to the circumstances of the traffic situation.

Ms. Henrietta Sutton would like to see more of police presence at the square. She has witnessed numerous people speeding through the square causing a dangerous situation when trying to pull-out onto traffic.

Ms. Yardley stated this is not the first request for the pothole to be filled at Hood Street. Mr. O'Bryant informed the area is on DOT right-of-way and the city crew actually filled in the area. Ms. Annie Sutton informed this is a different area that has eroded. Mr. O'Bryant stated he would look at the area.

Mayor Turner asked if there were extra funds to include in the paving contract to have these areas fixed. Mr. O'Bryant stated there are SPLOST 4 funds. Ms. Bowen also mention striping Donald E Thurmond Parkway.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Public comments - continued

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor Rebecca Yardley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, to amend the contract with Garrett Paving to include the repair of Hood Street at 129 South and the striping of Donald E Thurmond Parkway. Funding will come from SPLOST 4.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Rebecca Yardley and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:05 p.m.

RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the Called City Council Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Mr. Tom O'Bryant checked the lobby and the parameter of the building to see if anyone wanted to return to the meeting. There was no one present to return to the meeting.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor –Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted the position of Finance Officer will fall under the City Administrator.

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 appoint Connie Tracas as interim Finance Officer. The position of City Clerk will be posted for employment. Due to the requirements of the upcoming election, Ms. Tracas will remain City Clerk until the end of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

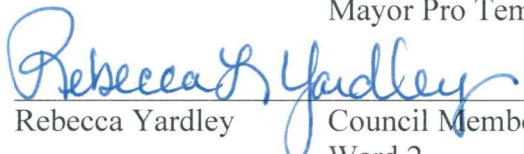
On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the Called City Council Meeting of September 9, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.



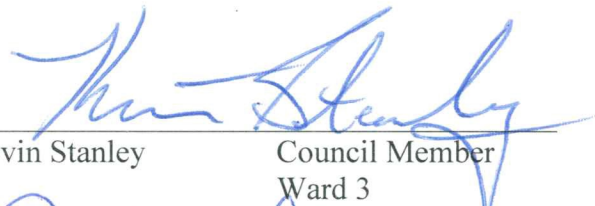
Josh Turner Mayor



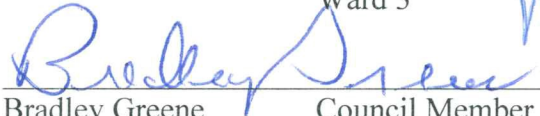
Nan Bowen Council Member
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tem



Rebecca Yardley Council Member
Ward 2



Kevin Stanley Council Member
Ward 3



Bradley Greene Council Member
Ward 4

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas City Clerk

