

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 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, and Kevin Stanley. Bradley Greene was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council approved the agenda for the October 4, 2021 City Council Meeting.

DUANE SUDDERTH – VINEYARD RV PARK

Mr. Duane Sudderth, Vineyard RV Park, came before the Mayor and Council to request sewer services to an area outside the city limits on Highway 115 West. The proposed use of the property is an RV park.

Mr. Sudderth met with Mayor Turner and Tom O'Bryant about the proposal and what it will bring to the city.

Mr. Sudderth assured the Mayor and Council there would be no costs to the city by his development connecting to the city sewer system. Mr. Sudderth explained his engineer, Brian Rindt, will design the line and the lift stations. Mr. Sudderth explained the goal was to turn the taps over to the city and he will determine a per night fee for sewer disposal and will pay what is owed to the city monthly.

Mayor Turner stated the property is approximately a mile outside the city limits. Mr. Sudderth confirmed and stated they are willing to annex and want to be a part of the community. His development will have paved roads, concrete pads for RV's and a store. Mr. Sudderth stated the Chamber informed the city is looking to expand the city limits on Highway 115 West.

Kevin Stanley asked Brian Rindt if he has discussed the pretreatment system. Mr. Rindt answered no. Mr. Rindt informed the line is at least a mile long and there would have to be a 300-foot jack and bore under the bypass, a creek crossing, and they would probably hit rock. Mr. Rindt stated not simple but not impossible. Mr. Stanley would like an accurate figure on the installation costs. Mr. Sudderth feels the sewer line project will cost close to one-million dollars. Mr. Stanley questioned if the million included treatment and Mr. Sudderth answered yes.

Jennifer Sudderth informed the property behind their is approximately 60-acres and the owners are proposing a commercial development.

DUANE SUDDERTH – VINEYARD RV PARK - continued

Mr. Rindt explained RV waste is not the same as domestic waste. RV's dump waste with added chemicals and the waste is much stronger, but he did not feel it should be a problem. The waste could be treated before entering the plant or treated at the plant for an extra fee.

Mr. Rindt as the city does not have the water service in the area, the wastewater would be metered through a wastewater flow meter.

Mr. Stanley asked Mr. Rindt if there were any concerns on how it would affect the new plant and Mr. Rindt stated he had no concerns.

Ms. Rebecca Yardley, in a form of a motion, requested to table the consideration of the City Council, until the Council can receive additional information. Nan Bowen seconded the motion, in favor – Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to table the consideration of the sewer request of Mr. Duane Sudderth until the October 11, 2021 City Council Meeting.

CHIEF JEFFERY SHOEMAKER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Shoemaker, Police Department submitted the monthly statistics for August and September, 2021. He apologized for submitting August late due to a glitch in the reporting system and feels it has been corrected.

In August the department reported 1642 calls for service. 491- public assist; 481 premises check; 68- incident reports; 19 – accident reports; 51- investigative/supplemental; 240 – administrative duties; 103 – citations; 160 – warnings; 29 – warrants. The citation breakdown included 6 – misdemeanor/non-traffic; 3 – DUI, Alcohol & serious offenses; 24 – driver's license, registration & insurance; 44 – moving violations, traffic control; 26 – equipment, seatbelt, etc.

In September the department reported 2244 calls for service. Chief Shoemaker informed his officers to be more active in the public and the increase in service calls shows they are more of a presence. 469- public assist; 945 premises check; 18 – field interviews; 64- incident reports; 32 – accident reports; 85- investigative/supplemental; 325 – administrative duties; 122 – citations; 178 – warnings; 5 – warrants; 1 - Juvenile. The citation breakdown included 4 – misdemeanor/non-traffic; 5 – DUI, Alcohol & serious offenses; 30 – driver's license, registration & insurance; 46 – moving violations, traffic control; 37 – equipment, seatbelt, etc.

Chief Shoemaker commended his department on receiving Northeast Traffic Enforcement Network (NETEN) traffic agency of the year. The department has only been involved in the program for six-months. Chief Shoemaker thanked Ms. Stephanie Hill, White County News, for her article of the department receiving the award.

Ms. Yardley, along with the rest of the Mayor and Council, commended the department and Chief Shoemaker for an excellent job.

GRANT KEENE – CITY ATTORNEY

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

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Mr. O'Bryant presented an agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children's Services. The agreement is for the City to participate in the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).
 - a. The US Congress appropriated funding in both the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021 for a new emergency water and wastewater assistance program. The program is modeled after the current federal energy assistance program. The new program is to be initiated in Georgia on November 1, 2021. Currently the program is a one-time allotment from the federal government. The program is being managed by the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services.
 - b. LIHWAP funds go directly to public water suppliers to support those households that qualify for the program. The program will assist qualified households with: arrearages for disconnected households and households at risk of disconnection, reconnection and late fees, and reduction in rate charges for current bills.
 - c. Households will qualify through the regional Community Action Agency (CAA), which is the Ninth District Opportunity. The CAA will follow the established standards and guidelines for qualification of household. Qualified households will receive a rate reduction payment of \$300 or \$500 based on the household's income.
 - d. The City will receive the funding, via a paper check, for all qualified households and will apply the rate reduction payment and arrearages to each LIHWAP household account within 10 business days. The City must provide reporting data as outlined in the DHS-HWS agreement and resolve any issues or concerns of the CAA pertaining to the payment. The funds must go to arrearages first and then to payment reduction. Some payments could credit an account of a qualified household (if they are up to date).
 - e. By participating in the program, the City must provide reporting to the Georgia DHS-DFCS on the water and wastewater use of qualified households and the impact of the program benefit on each qualified household.
 - f. The City must sign the Agreement provided by the Department of Human Resources, DFCS to participate in the LIHWAP. The term of the agreement is from the effective date through September 30, 2022, with a renewal term option the following year.
 - g. Staff requests that the Mayor and Council approve participation in the LIHWAP and sign the agreement with Georgia DHS, DFCS.

Mr. O'Bryant added 9th District will handle the application with each utility customer. Seniors in need, have a chance of scoring higher for getting accepted into the program. Mr. O'Bryant informed city staff already has a program in place to work with those with delinquent accounts or those in need of a payment plan.

Ms. Yardley asked approximately how many customers per month does the city work with. Connie Tracas, City Clerk, answered about 200 per month.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

Ms. Yardley asked if the city can put a link on the city's website. Mr. O'Bryant answered yes. The city can also put a mailer in each utility bill with instructions on how to apply.

Mayor Turner asked if the city will need to open a separate account for reporting. The City Clerk answered no, the system, used by the city, can isolate the payments to each qualified applicant. Mr. O'Bryant explained the program may be extended but it did not mean that if one qualified this year they would qualify again the following year. Mr. Stanley concurred and stated the USDA will verify family and financial status.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to sign the agreement with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children's Services and participate in the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

2. Mr. O'Bryant presented the addendum to the agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission. The addendum extends the amount of time to complete the ARC Grant through December 31, 2021.

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the addendum to the agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to extend the contract through December 31, 2021.

3. Mr. O'Bryant presented two acceptance of conveyance documents from TM Cleveland SR CGP, LLC for right-of-way and a water line easement.

The group will be developing the property at the corner of Quillian Street and South Main Street. Due to the need of a decel lane, the water line will need to be relocated and the city will need an easement for access to the main line. The new water line will be upgraded and a new hydrant added to the area. The right-of-way dedication is for the future street improvements to the area. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to accept the conveyance of the street right-of-way and the water line easement from TM Cleveland SR CGP, LLC as presented in the documents submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the draft minutes of September 9, 2021.
2. Public comments – Nadine Wardenga invited the Mayor and Council to attend an informative get together at the White County Library and discuss the needs of the library for the community. Ms. Wardenga informed the library is too small by state standards for our growing community. The library needs to add at least 10,000 square feet. A new library needs to be designed to take the community into 2050. Ms. Wardenga stated hundreds of people use the library every day, not just for reading, but for those that do not have computer access. The new program just approved by the city may require applicants to apply online and the library equipment would be available.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Public comments – Ms. Wardenga expressed the library is not obsolete and the library board have the stats to prove it. The library staff, board members, and Friends of the White County Library would like to raise between \$100, 000 to \$200, 000 from the community to contribute to a new library. The State will match the costs of a building and the county will hopefully participate in funding.

Mr. Stanley stated he has seen people at the library, after hours, using the public Wi-Fi because of the need of internet service for homework or research. Ms. Wardenga stated the library needs to stay in the city and not be moved out to the county.

The event will be held October 28, 2021 6:00 p.m. at the White County Library.

Ms. Judy Lovell thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation for White County Historical Society Month.

Ms. Lovell's history note – 1955 – an editorial was written addressing the candidates for Wards 1 and 2. The editorial stated to only vote for candidates that support a traffic signal between the then Mary's Gift Shop and Pure Oil Station (now Regions Bank and Rustic Rooster).

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and City Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7:13 p.m.

RETURN TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 7:36 p.m. Mr. O'Bryant informed all those that stayed they may return to the City Council Meeting.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to allocate CARES funds and provide a payment to each full-time employee in the amount of \$1000 and to each part-time employee in the amount of \$500 for work performed during the 2020 COVID pandemic. Mr. Stanley added the bonus is in addition to the annual bonus.

Mayor Turner advised the position for City Clerk will be posted this week.


Mayor Turner informed the City Council Meeting scheduled for October 11, 2021 will begin at 6:15 to present a resolution to the family of Beth Allen.

ADJOURNMENT


On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor –Kevin Stanley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of October 4, 2021 at 7:39 p.m.



Josh Turner Mayor

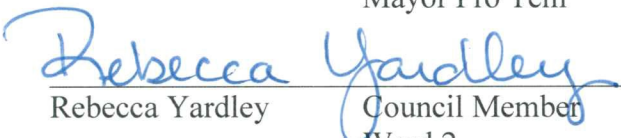


Kevin Stanley Council Member
Ward 3

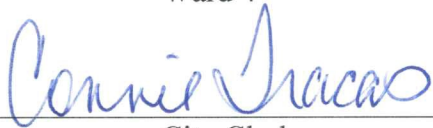


Nan Bowen Council Member
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tem

ABSENT
Bradley Greene Council Member
Ward 4



Rebecca Yardley Council Member
Ward 2

ATTEST: 

Connie Tracas City Clerk

