

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 in the D.V. Childs Civic Center.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Council Members Terry Fulford, Benny Gray, Terry Favors and David Tufts, City Superintendent Frank Ross, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Fire Chief Keith Eisele, Police Chief Adam Lowe, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Jerry Bridges and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial update
 - 11.61% of 2020 Property Taxes have been collected. The unpaid balance is \$865,996.94.
- Butler Hall Security Lights
 - DDA has requested that the City pay for two security lights in the back lot of Butler Hall. It will be a monthly charge of \$120. Councilman Fulford would like to get more information before a decision is made.
- 2021 CDBG
 - Mayor Barbee received an email from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission regarding assistance with applying for the 2021 CDBG. The consensus of Council was to move forward with applying for the Housing and Water/Sewer Improvement portion.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Water/Sewer Budget
 - City Clerk Cindy Yancey presented the 2021 Water/Sewer Budget that Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan put together. This will be added to the December Council Meeting for approval.
- WWTP Account
 - City Clerk Cindy Yancey explained that each month she transfers \$17,500 to the GEFA account for payments on the belt press and the water tank. The belt press has been paid off and the tank will be paid off at the beginning of next year. Once they are both paid off, she would like to continue to transfer at least \$15,000 to the WWTP account so that we will have at least a year of payments aside when we begin paying for the WWTP expansion. Council was in agreement.
- Mr. Jerry Bridges offered for the City to purchase the cemetery he owns along with a well located on the property. He explained that his attorney spoke with City Attorney Newberry regarding this. Assistant City Superintendent Morgan stated that EPD requires the well to have a 100-foot setback and this well will not meet that requirement.

Plan Committee:

- DDA & DRC Appointments
 - DDA – Sherri Rollins & Rick Childs agreed to remain on the board and be reappointed for a new term.
 - DRC – Cecil Ethridge & Chap Nelson agreed to remain on the board unless there was someone who was interested in joining the board and taking their seat.
 - Reappointments will be on the December Council Meeting for approval.

Personnel Committee:

- Vacation Expiration
 - Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson reported that she has been working on updating the police department's vacation policy, as previously requested by Chief Lowe. It was decided to update their number of vacation hours that they receive each year to equal to their 12 hour shifts that they work. Also, Chief Lowe wants to allow officers to be paid out any remaining hours instead of losing them when they reach their next anniversary date.
 - Chief Lowe stated that he does not believe salary employees should lose their vacation time, it should just roll over.
 - Council was in agreement with these changes and it will be added to the December Council meeting for approval.

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- 2021 LMIG
 - Assistant City Superintendent Morgan suggested Bragg Street, Sandra Drive, Needlecrest and Carlton Mobley to be added to the list.

City Property:

- Cemetery maintenance
 - Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan reported that he had received one more quote of \$575 per visit. Councilman Favors asked Mr. Morgan to just hold onto the quotes for now.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- No report.

Miscellaneous:

- Proclamations
 - Mayor Barbee discussed Proclamation requests that he gets from different entities and organizations. Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson explained that typically when she gets calls she explains if they aren't in the City that they may want to contact the Jones County Board of Commissioners since they are in Jones County and not City of Gray. City Clerk Cindy Yancey stated that Proclamations used to be approved by Council before they were done, and the clerks are looking for guidance. Mrs. Roberson stated that she looked into how other cities do proclamations and most have several guidelines, such as must be a citizen of that City, must be endorsed by a member of City Council, etc. Mrs. Yancey stated that the Cities do not take a stance on religion or political views therefore, they do not do proclamations for churches or political parties. Mrs. Roberson mentioned that she did see where one City did a congratulatory letter if they did not meet the requirements for the proclamation.
 - Councilman Tufts suggested to research other City's rules and guidelines for proclamations and bring back to City Council for review.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Assistant City Clerk