

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, April 21, 2025, in the Conference Room inside City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terry Favors, Terrell Fulford and David Tufts, City Attorney John Newberry, Police Chief Adam Lowe, City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Public Works Manager Chris Neal, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, and Assistant City Clerk Kayleigh Faircloth.

Guests: Sherrie Rollins, Darrell Bridges, Ikea Simmons and Debbie Lurie-Smtih, *The Jones County News*.

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

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial update
 - \$1,289,035.11 collected as of 4/18/2025: 98.46% paid and \$20,170.49 unpaid.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Folds Dr. Drainage Project:
 - Sherri Rollins presented an updated quote in the amount of \$136,000 for the work that will need to be done for the drainage project.
 - Darrell Bridges w/ Appling Brothers Company stated that the revised proposal extends the original proposal around eighty feet. This should keep most of the storm run-off on the RAC property.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that it would be \$15,000 to purchase the easement that will need to be in place to get the work started.
 - Attorney Newberry requested that City Superintendent Morgan contact a surveyor.
 - This item will be added to the May 5, 2025 agenda.
- Madison Ave - Curbing
 - Ms. Rollins stated that there has been extensive remodeling done on the former Chevy's building.
 - Ms. Rollins asked for permission from Mayor and Council to add curbing down the side of Madison Ave. at no cost to the city to avoid water coming straight down to the building. This would also prevent parking on that side of the building and give the property a finished look.
 - It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to allow curbing.
- GEFA PFA Pilot Study Grant Application:
 - City Superintendent Morgan stated that the EPA needs the grant application signed and returned as soon as possible.
 - The GEFA PFA Pilot Study Grant is \$400,000.
 - Pilot Study Grant is to eliminate PFAS using different treatment techniques.
 - City Superintendent Morgan stated that six months of testing began in previous year. The city will now be required to develop a long-term goal which starts with the application for the grant.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that right now PFAS is unregulated but feels that it will be in the future.

Main Street/DDA:

- Hometown Spring Festival:
 - Friday- Party on Main Street
(Closing West Clinton St. at 12 noon) to set up stage for concert.
 - Saturday- 10am-4pm vendors, food trucks, bounce houses, face painting
(closing HWY 11 and West Clinton St. for Festival on Saturday)

- Text MyGov: Ashley Roberson
 - A way to send out text for adverts, a way to get out information in general.
 - A more efficient way to communicate with the public and can be utilized by all departments.
 - \$5,900 for the first year, each year after that it is \$4,400 (\$366.00 a month)
 - People can sign up and we can pull phone numbers from QS1 system.
 - Mr. Newberry suggested that Ashley asks around other Cities who use Text MyGov and gather input from others.
- Sidewalk Art- Mayor Barbee:
 - Mayor Barbee stated that he has where other small towns have been painting a portion of the sidewalk, geometric shapes with bright colors.
 - Mayor Collins stated that he is not a fan of this and feels that it should be referred to the Design Review Commission.

Plan Committee:

- Spring Festival
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins encouraged everyone to come out for the spring festival.
- 102 E Clinton property
 - The building for Main Street looks good with the improvements that are currently being made.

Personnel Committee:

- No report.

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- Crosswalk System Quote/TAPCO:
 - Councilman Tufts stated that he asked Mr. Morgan to investigate a better crosswalk system for downtown.
 - Mr. Morgan had examples to show the council, and he agreed that it was more of what they had in mind as well.
 - Complete set up \$8,415.00
 - Mr. Morgan stated that the old system could be repurposed on another street.
- Sidewalks:
 - Mr. Tufts would like to get some more information on grants and funding so that the city can proceed with getting the sidewalks completed on city streets.
 - The deadline for grants on this is in June.
- Connector traffic signals
 - Chief Lowe stated that the hold up on the traffic signals at the connector is contractor related.
 - Chief Lowe stated that he has contacted GDOT but has not heard back from them.

City Property:

- Street Signs
 - Councilman Favors would like public works to address straightening and leveling the street signs in the city.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- GOHS Grant
 - The Police Department received a grant from the Highway Safety Department, \$40,000, starting in October. It pays for portions of salaries and equipment.
- Masonic Lodge – Public Safety Awareness Event
 - Lions Club Saturday 04/26/25 from 1:00pm-5:00pm.
- City Fire Department
 - Chief Keith Eisele stated that the fire department has five new firefighters.

Miscellaneous:

- Blight Property – Madison Ave
 - Councilman Fulford stated that he spoke with City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan about property on Madison Ave.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that the police department is the code enforcement for that ordinance.
 - Chief Lowe stated that the nuisance ordinance requires a written complaint.
 - City Attorney Newberry suggested that the police department try contacting the property owner before any formal action is taken.
- Food Trucks
 - Chief Lowe stated that he is beginning to see a lot of food trucks coming into the city and setting up.
 - Mr. Lowe suggested that the city start requiring food trucks to be permitted.
 - Ashley Roberson stated that the current fee for a peddler's license is \$100.
 - Councilman Favors suggested that the fee for food trucks be set at \$250.
- National Day of Prayer
 - Friday May 2nd is National Day of Prayer. There will be groups of people going around from place to place holding a short prayer vigil. City Hall around noon, library, government center (public buildings).
- District Six Officers – Mayor Barbee
 - President Joyce Denson, Mayor Toombsboro
 - Edward Armijo, Council Member, Centerville
 - Denese Shinholster, Council Member, Milledgeville
 - Michael Chilester, Mayor, Byron

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

City Clerk