

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the City Hall conference room located at 109 James Street.

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

Guests: David Midgordon, Heather Johnson, Matthew & JoAnne Sims

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial Update
 - \$1,301,801.25 2024 taxes collected as of 05/19/2025; 99.75% paid leaving \$7,404.35 unpaid
 - Assistant City Clerk Kayliegh Faircloth asked that Mayor and Council approve abatement of the following tax bills. The businesses associated with the bills are closed.
 - Laura Baxter/ p1 15197/ \$53.94
 - Gray Stables/ p1 18954/ \$118.53
 - Express Imaging, LLC/ p1 15829/ \$191.63
 - This item will be placed on the June agenda.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan and WWTP operator Jason Farmer attended the GRWA conference.
- Preconstruction meeting May 22nd, 2025, 1:30 pm in City Hall's Conference Room for the Glover Lane permanent generator project.
- Folds drive update: Mr. Morgan stated that he met with the contractor before he left for the conference and they were almost complete with the clearing part of it.
- Everyone is invited to Carter and Sloope's Customer appreciation dinner in Savannah at the GMA annual conference. R.S.V.P.'s in by June 12th 2025. It will be held at the Westin.
- PFAS
 - Attorney John Newberry was contacted by law firm regarding the city's interest in a PFAS class action lawsuit.
 - The firm will do independent pre-treated testing at the city well sites to determine if the city qualifies to join the class action lawsuit.
 - The city will be required to enter into an agreement with the firm if they would like to move forward.
 - Attorney Newberry will gather more information to present to the mayor and council.

Main Street/DDA:

- Annual assessment for 2024
 - Ms. Roberson provided the mayor and council with a copy of Main Street's 2024 annual assessment.
 - The assessment breaks down everything that is submitted during the year for Main Street.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the result from the submission of the assessment is that Main Street received accreditation from Main Street America and Georgia Main Street.
 - Ms. Roberson also presented the total community impact report for downtown for 2024.
- DDA Update
 - 102 E Clinton – Suite 5 and Suite 6 have been rented.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the renovations at 102 E Clinton are about 50% complete.

- Ms. Roberson stated that Mayor Barbee asked her to reach out to GMA regarding the City hosting a District 6 fall meeting.
- Ms. Roberson stated that Georgia Academy Economic Development training is on August 12th, 2025.

Plan Committee:

- Fireworks Stand
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins introduced David Midgordon with TNT Fireworks.
 - Mr. Midgordon stated that they would like to set up a fireworks stand in Gray in the Ingles parking lot.
 - Mr. Midgordon stated that the state license has been approved, and insurance has been set up and wanted to reach out to the Mayor and Council to discuss any concerns that they may have.
 - The stand is currently scheduled to be set up June 20, 2025 – July 4, 2025.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that the stand may not be within the city's design guidelines and suggested that he meet with the Design Review Committee.
 - Ashley Roberson stated that Mr. Midgordon would need to go through planning and zoning to meet with the committee.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that if planning and zoning feels that Mr. Midgordon needs to set up a meeting with the Design Review Committee, the meeting could be scheduled quickly.

Personnel Committee:

- No Report

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- Sidewalks
 - Councilman Tufts stated that he attended the Jones County Board of Commissioners meeting at which Greg Boike with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission discussed the sidewalk proposal.
 - Mr. Tufts said that the county was in favor of a joint effort on the sidewalk project, but no official decision was made.
- Street Name
 - Councilman Tufts proposed changing Jefferson Lane to Benny Gray Jr. Dr. in honor of the late councilman Gray.
 - This item will be added to the June agenda.
- Traffic Signals
 - Mayor Barbee stated that he spoke with the district 6 GDOT engineer Tyler Peake and they are supposed to have the new traffic signals located at Bill Conn and 129 working by Thursday, May 22, 2025.
- Truck Ordinance
 - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated that when reviewing the truck ordinance that was passed by mayor and council, he overlooked the weight limit for what used to be the old state routes.
 - Chief Lowe stated the city streets have a weight limit of 8,000 pounds, but the old state routes should have a weight limit of 18,000 pounds.
 - Chief Lowe stated that he spoke with the senator about the truck route ordinance and about the burden that was placed on the city to maintain what he considers the old state routes after the completion of the bypass.

City Property:

- No Report

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- Chief Lowe introduced the newly hired officer, Michael Holloway.
- Chief Lowe stated that the Pines neighborhood has been having problems with 4-wheelers, motorcycles, and golf carts. Mr. Lowe stated that the offenders were contacted by the police department and advised that they will be given a ticket if it continues.
- Chief Lowe questioned mayor and council about the fine amounts for violating the truck route ordinance. Mr. Lowe proposed the following:
 - \$250 – first violation
 - \$500 – second violation
 - \$1,000 – third violation
 - \$1,000 – for continuous violationsThe mayor and council agreed with the fine amounts.
- Firework guidelines: not a permanent structure, also not a pop-up tent. Are they allowed to make a temporary structure for that length of time?
- Chief Lowe stated that he is purchasing police vehicles and a truck for the fire department with SPLOST funds. Main Street will receive one of the police cars that is being taken out of service.
- Captain Heather Johnson with the Gray Fire Department stated that Deputy Chief Karl Zimmer is retiring next month. Fire Chief Eisele is working on a date to present Deputy Chief Zimmer with a retirement gift.

Miscellaneous:

- No Report

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

City Clerk