

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the D.V. Childs Civic Center 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, Main Street/Chamber Assistant Mallory Lunsford, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Fire Chief Keith Eisele, Fire Deputy Chief Karl Zimmer, Fire Captain Heather Johnson, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Members of the City's Fire Department, Sherri Rollins, Ikea Simmons, Jocelyn Horton, Don Johnson, and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Fire Department:

- Retirement Presentation
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked that the retirement presentation be moved to the first item on the agenda.
 - Fire Chief Eisele stated that Deputy Chief Karl Zimmer started with the City of Gray Fire Department in May of 1997 and has been a trusted reliable part of the Fire Department.
 - Chief Eisele recapped Mr. Zimmer's time and many positions with the department.
 - Mr. Eisele thanked Mr. Zimmer's family for attending the presentation and for sharing Mr. Zimmer throughout his years of service.
 - Chief Eisele presented Deputy Chief Zimmer with a plaque and congratulated him on his retirement.

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial Update
 - Council Member Fulford gave an update on the 2024 property taxes.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- On Call Pay
 - Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he would like to implement on call pay as an incentive for the employees who are called back after work hours, weekends, and holidays.
 - Mr. Morgan will work on the guidelines of the incentive pay policy and bring them back to the mayor and council.
 - This item will be added to the July committee meeting for further discussion.

Main Street/DDA:

- Second Saturday
 - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated that the June Second Saturday was held on June 14th, 2025 and she feels that it was successful.
 - Ms. Roberson stated the Second Saturday Event creates more foot traffic for the downtown businesses during the slower summer season.
- Keep Jones Beautiful, Main Street/Chamber Assistant.
 - Ms. Roberson introduced Mallory Lunsford.
 - Ms. Lunsford will be running Keep Jones Beautiful while also assisting Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Ms. Lunsford stated that she is excited about her new position.

Plan Committee:

- Sign Ordinance Amendment
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins reviewed the amendments that were presented by Tim Pitrowski at the previous meeting.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that the amendments would cut down on the need for many of the variance requests.
 - It was the consensus of the mayor and council to start the process to amend the current sign ordinance.
 - This item will be added to the July council meeting agenda.
- Temporary Businesses
 - City Attorney Newberry asked for feedback from the mayor and council on the regulations regarding temporary businesses in the city.
 - Mayor and Council discussed regulations for temporary businesses, including fees and licensing.
 - Council Member Favors stated that the regulations would not affect special events.
 - This item will be added to the July committee agenda for further discussion.
- Executive Session – Real Estate
 - Moved to the end of the meeting.
- Redistricting Meeting w/ MGRC
 - The City Clerk stated that she had received an email from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission asking for dates and times that the mayor and council would be available.
 - The Mayor and Council stated to set up the meeting, allowing them a couple of days' notice and they would attend.
- GMA Fall Meeting
 - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated that the mayor had asked her to reach out to GMA about the city hosting their fall meeting.
 - Ms. Roberson said she had spoken with someone with GMA, and they would get back in touch with her when they started making plans for the meeting.

Personnel Committee:

- No Report

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- Truck Ordinance
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that the text amendment on the weight limit for trucks will be ready for the first reading at the July council meeting. The amendment will raise the weight limit from 8,000 pounds to 18,000 pounds.

City Property:

- Main Street Station
 - Ashley Roberson stated she will be moving to the new office located at 102 E Clinton in the next month.
 - Ms. Roberson asked the Mayor and Council what their thoughts were about having a business located in the Main Street building that she is currently in.
 - The mayor and council agreed to have a business in the building.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated he would need to draw up an agreement with DDA.
 - This item will be added to the July council agenda.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- Patrol Vehicle Lease
 - Police Chief Lowe stated that he had been researching leasing police vehicles instead of purchasing.
 - After speaking with someone about the lease program Mr. Lowe stated that he feels that purchasing the vehicles is still the best option for the city.

Miscellaneous:

- Bill Conn & Steven Beaty w/ New York Life
 - Did not attend the meeting.
- Don Johnson
 - Mr. Johnson asked if there has been any oversight of the drainage that is being installed at the additional construction in Piedmont Lakes.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that Tim Pitrowski would do the inspection of the drainage, but he could send someone out to make sure they were following the erosion control plans that were submitted.
 - Mr. Johnson asked if anything new has been submitted regarding the Cedar Creek Apartments.
 - Council Member Favors stated that nothing has been submitted.

Executive Session – Real Estate

Council Member Tufts made a motion, seconded by Council Member Favors to close the All-Committees meeting and go into executive session.

The open meeting resumed.

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

City Clerk