

A Streets/Sanitation Committee Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 am in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members David Tufts and Terry Favors, City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, and Police Chief Adam Lowe, Public Works Manager Christopher Neal, Police Officer Brint Zimmerman, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Tyler Peek, District Engineer w/ GDOT, Danny Miller Area Manager w/ GDOT, Senator Rick Williams, County Commissioner John Wood and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

**Streets/Sanitation Committee:**

- Meeting with GDOT
  - Councilman Tufts stated that the city wanted to voice the City's concerns about the old state route roads that are now classified as City roads.
  - Mayor Barbee thanked the GDOT representatives and Senator Williams for attending the meeting and turned the meeting over to Chief Adam Lowe.
  - Chief Lowe noted that in the initial stages of the bypass project paperwork stating that the city was willing to take responsibility for roadways coming off the State Route System was signed by the Commissioner's Chairman and the Mayor. Mr. Lowe said that the paperwork was not brought before the City Council to be officially approved.
  - Mr. Lowe stated that the upkeep of the additional roads has been a financial burden to the City.
  - Mr. Lowe stated that the city has recently adopted a no-through truck route ordinance to keep the heavier vehicles off the city streets.
  - Mr. Lowe mentioned that he and Council members have received complaints about the ordinance.
  - Mr. Lowe feels like if the state added 18 and 44 back to the State Route System and designated it as a truck route it would alleviate the burden on the city.
  - Tyler Peek stated that he feels that it is important that he looks at the original agreement between GDOT and the city. Mr. Peek stated that no one can amend the original agreement without making another formal agreement.
  - Mr. Peek stated that the original agreement would be used as the guide for this situation because adding the roadway back into the State Route System would not be a simple task.
  - Mr. Peek said that GDOT as a department cannot restrict truck traffic on a state highway.
  - Mr. Peek also spoke about the downtown traffic signals and stated that he recalls that it was going to be a substantial cost to fully upgrade the signals. Mr. Peek agreed that signals at that location are difficult to maintain and operate.
  - Mr. Peek said that there is grant money available for non-state route traffic signals and that the GDOT would be willing to find out what is available on behalf of the city.
  - Mayor Barbee stated that the city would appreciate anything that the state could do to help the city.
  - Mr. Peek said that they can look at the signage coming into the city to see if additional signage is needed for the truck route.
  - Senator Rick Williams asked about putting truck route ahead signage up.
  - County Commissioner John Wood agrees with Chief Lowe on having a truck route coming through the city and feels that the city and state could work together to find a solution.

- Mr. Peek stated that with the bypass project the state added about seven or eight miles of four lane divided highway on their maintenance program and does not feel that the solution to the issue is for the state to add back more roadway to maintain.
- Mr. Peek stated that he would like to pull the files of correspondence that GDOT has had with the city concerning the old state routes and the traffic signals.
- Mr. Peek stated that he should be back in contact with the city by the end of June.

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

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City Clerk