

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Conference Room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terry Favors, and Terrell Fulford, 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, Assistant City Clerk Kayleigh Faircloth and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Ikea Simmons, Joceylyn Horton, Natalie Lurie, and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial Update
 - Council Member Fulford gave an update on the 2024 property taxes.
- SPLOST Agreement
 - City Attorney Newberry reviewed the city/county intergovernmental agreement regarding the 2027 SPLOST.
 - Attorney Newberry stated that funds in the amount of \$11,625,000 have been designated for county-wide projects.
 - The funds would be retained by the county and deposited in a separate account which would be controlled by the county.
 - Mr. Newberry stated that he feels that the wording in the agreement should be specific since the county would be controlling the funds.
- 2025 Millage Rate/2026 Proposed Budget
 - City Clerk Cindy Yancey presented mayor and council with the proposed 2025 millage rate and the proposed 2026 budget.
 - The proposed 2025 millage rate and the proposed 2026 budget will be officially presented to mayor and council at the September City Council meeting.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- GEFA Grant DWLSL2022132-Closeout
 - City Superintendent requested that authorization for Mayor Barbee to sign the closeout letter for the GEFA grant be added to the September City Council meeting agenda.
- Test Well - Update
 - Mr. Morgan said he is awaiting the hydrogeologist's report but results so far suggest drilling a well on the city's new property looks promising.
- Lift Station - Aerators
 - Mr. Morgan stated that he would like to purchase six or seven aerators to put at the lift stations. He said that the aerators would cut down on the chemical cost, maintenance costs, and the BOD treatment at the wastewater treatment plant.
 - Funding would come from water/sewer SPLOST.

Main Street/DDA:

- Fall Festival
 - Ms. Ashley Roberson stated that she is currently working on the Fall Festival, and the date has been set for October 17th, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Plan Committee:

- Temporary Businesses
 - Ms. Ashley Roberson stated that she has done research into other communities and most communities issue special event permits.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that issuing these permits would help keep everyone aware of what events are happening in the city.
 - This item will be added to the September All-Committee meeting.

- Community Branding
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins updated Mayor and Council on the progress of the branding process.

Personnel Committee:

- On-Call Compensation
 - City Superintendent presented an on-call compensation policy that he would like to implement.
 - This item will be added to the September City Council meeting.
- Employee of the Month
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he would like to implement an Employee of the Month program.

Streets/Sanitation

- GDOT – Letter requesting additional funding.
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan presented copies of a letter requesting additional funding for the maintenance of the city streets, which were formerly state routes.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he felt that the letter was good but would like to change the language in the last line to be more affirmative.
- Repurposing crosswalk system
 - Mr. Morgan asked if mayor and council had a preference regarding where the crosswalk system should be placed.
 - No decision was made at this time.
- 18-Wheeler Parking
 - Councilman Favors expressed his concern about 18-wheelers parking at a business located in the city.
 - Councilman Favors said the property's business license allows retail sales, not truck parking.
 - Mr. Favors feels that allowing the tractor trailers to park at this business is against the no truck ordinance that was recently implemented by the mayor and council.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins suggested that someone check with planning and zoning to see if truck parking is allowed at the property location.

City Property:

- No Report

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- Fire Chief Eisele stated that his department will do hydrant inspections during the week.

Miscellaneous:

- Jocelyn Horton asked the City Superintendent to clarify how the on-call pay for employees would work. Mr. Morgan stated that it would serve both as an incentive and provide structure on a rotating quarterly basis.
- Mayor Barbee reminded council about the following meetings:
 - MGRC Annual Meeting – Tuesday, September 30th, 2025
 - State of Community - Thursday, August 28th, 2025

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

City Clerk