

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Gray/Jones Business Development Office located at 102 East Clinton Street.

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

Guests: Mike Beatty, Wesley Casteel, Missy Tanner, Jamaal Price and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

#### **Finance/Tax Committee:**

- Financial Update
  - Councilman Fulford stated that 11.83% of the 2025 property taxes have been collected.
- Cadence Bank Merger
  - Wesley Casteel w/ Cadence Bank stated that Cadence Bank will be merging with Huntington Bank.
  - Mr. Casteel said that the merger will become legal in February 2026 with the conversion taking place in June 2026.
  - Mr. Casteel stated that he wanted to be transparent and make sure that mayor and council were aware of the merger.
  - Mr. Casteel stated that he would be attending meetings in the future as more information becomes available.

#### **Water/Sewer Committee:**

- Test Well #119
  - City Superintendent Morgan reported that he spoke with the driller and drilling of the test well is scheduled for the second weekend of December.

#### **Main Street/DDA:**

- Hometown Christmas Market
  - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated that she is preparing for the Hometown Christmas Market that will be November 29, 2025 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.
  - Ms. Roberson currently has ninety-eight vendors and nine food trucks signed up for the event.
  - Ms. Roberson stated that for the first time she is having a synthetic ice-skating rink set up in Butler Hall. Ms. Roberson mentioned that many businesses are willing to contribute to the skating rink's expenses, so she has secured daily sponsors.
  - Christmas tree lighting will be at 6:00 pm.
  - Santa will be set up at the Terrace On Madison from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.
- Ava Kate's Confections
  - Ms. Roberson stated that the bakery that is in the previous Main Street office building will be opening on Saturday from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

#### **Plan Committee:**

- Carrollton – Heart and Soul
  - Mayor Pro Tem Collins reported that he along with Ashley Roberson and Councilman Tufts toured Carrollton as part of their Heart and Soul event.
  - Mr. Collins noted that Carrollton's amphitheater is a reasonable size for a larger city and suggested a similar one could work in Gray.
  - Councilman Tufts stated that he was impressed with the City of Carrollton's concepts and ideas.

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins noted the city/county's community branding efforts and found it interesting to see the results in a place where such a project has been completed.

**Personnel Committee:**

- Jason Briley – Insurance Renewal
  - Mr. Briley did not attend the meeting.
- Employee of the Month
  - Mayor Pro Tem Collins announced that Ardarious Gray with the Water/Sewer/Public Works Department is the November employee of the month.
- Holiday Schedule
  - Mayor and Council discussed the upcoming holiday schedule, no decision was made and it will be discussed a little closer to the holidays.

**Streets/Sanitation**

- Bonding procedures timber harvesters accessing city streets.
  - Councilman Tufts requested that the timber harvesting and bonding procedures ordinance that City attorney Newberry provided as result of the discussion at the prior months meeting be added to the December council agenda.
- 2026 LMIG
  - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan asked if Mayor and Council wanted to allocate the 2026 LMIG funds towards East and West Clinton or other city streets in need of resurfacing.
  - It was the consensus of council for Mr. Morgan to rate the streets that are need of resurfacing.

**City Property:**

- Signs
  - Councilman Favors discussed signs that are placed the right of ways throughout the city.
  - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated that his department has been taking down the signs and asked Councilman Favors to let him know if sees any that were missed.

**Public Safety Police/Fire:**

- No Report

**Miscellaneous:**

- Mike Beatty – Smith Douglas Homes
  - Mr. Beatty delivered a presentation regarding a Department of Community Affairs initiative focused on attainable workforce housing.

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

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City Clerk