**October 19, 2026 All Committees Meeting Minutes 6:00 PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, October 19, 2026 following the public hearing at the Gray/Jones Business Development Office located at 102 East Clinton Street.

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

Guests: Jacob Lee

**Finance/Tax Committee**:

- Financial update:
  - 99.64% of the 2025 property taxes have been collected.
- Franchise Tax
  - Mayor Barbee stated that the City Attorney John Newberry was supposed to have an update on the fiber optic companies paying a franchise fee, but Mr. Newberry was out of the office and unable to attend the meeting.
- Workers Comp – renewal
  - Councilman Fulford reviewed the workers comp renewal package with mayor and council.
  - The renewal quote submitted by Bitco was $48,302. A premium increase of $1,255.
  - This item will be added to the November 2, 2026 agenda.

**Water/Sewer Committee:**

- Well update:
  - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan gave an update on the progress on the development of the new wells.
  - Mr. Morgan expects the wells to be online by the end of 2026 or the beginning of 2027.
- Sludge Disposal
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he has received the intergovernmental agreement regarding sludge disposal from Laurens County Solid Waste Authority.
  - Depending on whether Laurens County finds the city's sludge acceptable for their system, the agreement will be added to the November 2, 2026 agenda.

**Main Street/DDA:**

- Downtown Fall Festival
  - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated the festival will be on Friday October 23, 2026.
  - The following attractions will be a part of the festival:
    - Food trucks
    - Petting zoo
    - Face painting
    - Pumkin painting
    - Various vendors
- Keep Jones Beautiful Clean-up
  - The clean-up event will be on Saturday October 24, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.

- Logos
    - Ms. Roberson reported ordering new logos for the city trucks and her Main Street vehicle.

**Plan Committee**:

- Comprehensive Planning meeting dates.
    - Mayor Barbee reviewed tentative dates set by the MGRC regarding the city/county Comprehensive Plan update.

- Networking Night
    - Vallant Bank will be hosting Networking Night on Tuesday October 20 at 5:30 pm.

**Personnel Committee**:

- Employee of the Month:
    - Mayor Pro Tem Collins named Jeffrey Robinson with the police department as the Employee of the Month. Mr. Robinson was recently hired as a school resource officer.
- Assistant City Superintendent:
    - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan said that he would like to recognize Greg Owens. Mr. Owens was promoted to Assistant City Superintendent.

**Streets/Sanitation Committee**:

- Sanitation contract/rates:
    - The Mayor and Council reviewed Ryland Environmental's proposed solid waste and disposal agreement.
    - The agreement would run from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2031, with an option for automatic renewal for up to five additional one-year terms.
    - The agreement will be added to the November 2, agenda.

**City Property**:

- No Report

**Public Safety Police/Fire**:

- Fire Chief Eisele stated the Fire Department open house will be October 31, 2026.

**Miscellaneous**:

- P&Z Item – ( Mayor Barbee)
    - Mayor Barbee opened discussion of the P&Z items tabled at the October council meeting.
    - Mayor Barbee outlined what he viewed as the following benefits of approving the rezoning request for townhomes at the corner of 18 and Natures Walk. Mentioning the following:
        - Increase in property tax revenue.
        - Increase in water/sewer revenue.
    - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he was concerned about the impact building townhomes would have on the property in the surrounding area.
    - Councilman Tufts spoke in favor of the townhomes.
    - Councilman Favors stated that he votes for what the people want.
    - Councilman Simmons spoke in favor of the townhomes.

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

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City Clerk