

A Special Called Council Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Council Members David Tufts, Terrell Fulford, Benny Gray and Terry Favors, City Attorney John Newberry, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Will Miller with Norfolk Southern, Sherri Rollins, Glenda Wood, John Wood, Terrie Denson, Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.


Mayor Barbee was not present; therefore, Councilman Gray made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fulford to appoint Councilman Tufts to preside over the meeting.

Councilman Tufts called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

1. DDA/Norfolk Southern

- Will Miller with Norfolk Southern requested that the City agree to close the Gordon Street crossover. He stated that they ask for City Council's support to close this crossover, as it is the only passive crossing, meaning it has no safety features.
- The State of Georgia only gives funding for a certain number of railroad crossings to add safety features each year and they are done according to priority. The crossing in question is very low on the priority list.
- Mr. Miller stated that this crossover was more of a convenience/ cut-through, not a necessary means to get from point A to point B. He said that it is more important to look at safety over convenience and he worries that without the safety features, that someone will get hurt or killed. Mr. Miller said he didn't want this decision to wait and be made after something like that occurs.
- Norfolk Southern is willing to give the City an incentive of \$17,500.00 to close the crossover. Georgia Department of Transportation does a match on this incentive and will give an additional \$7,500.00. Norfolk's portion can be used however the city would like, however GDOT's portion must be used for safety, such as police, fire, signage, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.
- Once the Resolution is signed and sent to Norfolk Southern, the City will receive the incentive check within 45 days, once the City receives the incentive check, Norfolk Southern will close the crossover. Mr. Miller stated that the closing would take about 5 hours and they would make it look like it was never there.
- Mr. Miller asked that City Council vote to sign the Resolution to close the crossover.
- Councilman Tufts suggested that they further discuss at the All Committees Meeting on October 15th.

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



Assistant City Clerk