

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, June 21, 2021 in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Council Members Terry Favors, Terrell Fulford and David Tufts, City Attorney John Newberry, City Superintendent Frank Ross, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Police Chief Adam Lowe, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Haley Watson, and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Mayor Barbee called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial update
 - 99.01% of 2020 Property Taxes have been collected. The unpaid balance is \$9,684.62.
- Butler Hall – funding recurring monthly bills 12 months
 - Councilmen Fulford and Tufts explained that DDA has requested that the City assist with the recurring monthly bills such as power, pest control and water/sewer at Butler Hall as it gets off its feet. The consensus of Council is to fund the recurring bills until June 1, 2022. This will be added to the July Council Meeting for official approval.
- Request to annex J45 00 254 – Jones County BOE
 - City Attorney Newberry explained that this adjoining property to Gray Elementary School property was never annexed into the City. Jones County BOE owns the property, therefore it will not add to the tax digest however, he stated that it does need to be annexed. He will move forward with the annexation procedures.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Corrective Action Plan
 - Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan reviewed the Corrective Action Plan with Mayor and Council.
- Inflow & Infiltration Update
 - Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan reported that even with the rain over the weekend the sewer plant did not go over permit levels. He explained that a water line was replaced near First Baptist along with a large leak that Lynn Haven had for several months was repaired and both of these finds have assisted with the flows at the WWTP.
- Wommack – Spruce Lane
 - Mayor Barbee received an email from Mr. Wommack on Spruce Lane. There are drainage issues from the development in Piedmont Lakes that are affecting his property. City Attorney Newberry explained that he spoke with the Piedmont Lakes developer, and he was under the impression that they had fixed the problem.

Plan Committee:

- Senate Bill 236 – Alcohol to go
 - Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson reported that the new bill can allow for restaurants with distilled spirits to sell alcoholic drinks to go, as long as they were in a special sealed container that did not allow for a straw and the customer could take home as long as they placed it in glove compartment or trunk. She asked how Council wanted to proceed because the new bill may cause a need for adjustments in the City Ordinance.

- Police Chief Adam Lowe explained that he does not believe this law is designed for Gray, he feels this is for metropolitan areas and due to public safety concerns, he does not believe that it should be allowed. City Attorney Newberry will review the City Ordinances and the new Senate Bill.
- Senate Bill 145 – referendum for package sales
 - Mayor Barbee reported that Senate Bill 145 allows for local municipalities to adopt a resolution to call for a special election to allow for package stores. Councilman Tufts, Councilman Favors and Councilman Fulford agreed that they had no problem with allowing it to go on the ballot to let the voters decide whether they would like to allow for package stores in Gray. City Attorney Newberry will review the new bill and determine the procedures.

Personnel Committee:

- Juneteenth Federal Holiday
 - President Biden signed Bill S. 475 declaring June 19th Juneteenth National Independence Day which is now a Federal Holiday. City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson will add to the City's observed holiday list.

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- LMIG Bids – East Coast Paving who the City awarded the LMIG bid to decided that they could not do the project since the City decided to only pave two of the four LMIG streets. Councilman Tufts opened the bids for Sandra Drive and Needlecrest Drive. City Clerk Cindy Yancey explained that the City must spend a minimum of \$65,000 per the LMIG guidelines. Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan is going to contact the companies and confirm that the pricing includes raising manholes and striping the streets.
 - Benchmark Paving - \$62,390
 - Houston Asphalt - \$57,109
 - Reeves Construction - \$106,657
- Crosswalk Butler Hall
 - Main Street Gray/ Chamber of Commerce Director Haley Watson requested a crosswalk be added from Butler Hall across West Clinton Street. Police Chief Adam Lowe stated that he does not see that being a problem since West Clinton is now a City street. City Clerk Cindy Yancey suggested that Mrs. Watson contact Midstate Striping who did the City Hall parking lot and get a quote. She stated that it would likely fall below bid guidelines.

City Property:

- No report.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- No report.

Miscellaneous:

- Councilman Favors explained that there is a drainage issue in his neighborhood. He has had City Superintendent Frank Ross come look at it and he believes that a ditch may need to be put in.

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

Assistant City Clerk