

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00pm in the D.V. Childs Civic Center.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terry Favors, David Tufts, and Terrell Fulford, City Attorney John Newberry, City Superintendent Frank Ross, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Haley Watson, Sherri Rollins, Tim Pitrowski, TJ Heath, Dylan Heath, Justin Kelly, Sara & Vernon Tidwell, Paul Butts, Danny Mundy, John Daugherty, Donnie Melton, Mike Gray, and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

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

David Tufts gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve the February 7, 2022 agenda.

**APPROVED 4-0**

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to approve the January minutes.

**APPROVED 4-0**

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to approve the January accounts payable.

**APPROVED 4-0**

#### **Main Street Gray – Haley Watson:**

- Main Street Gray Director Haley Watson reported that Turkey Fest will be Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Food Truck Friday will be Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Watson thanked Mayor and Council for all of their support over the past eight years that she has been with Main Street Gray. She stated that her last day with Main Street and Chamber of Commerce will be March 11<sup>th</sup>. Haley would like to have a meeting with Council and discuss the future of the Main Street program. Mayor Pro Tem Collins suggested meeting Wednesday at 10am.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Barbee reported that he received a letter from the MGRC that the CHIP Grant application has been filed.

#### **New Business:**

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to close the Council Meeting and go into a P&Z Hearing.

**APPROVED 4-0**

1. **P&Z Hearing:** Tacala GA Corp: Requests to rezone from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to C-2 (General Commercial), in order to allow a drive through restaurant. Property is located at 221 West Clinton St. and consists of .82+/- acres.

Planning & Zoning Director Tim Pitrowski presented the request from Tacala GA Corp. His recommendation is approve the rezoning request.

Mike Gray with Tacala GA Corp presented their request to rezone to C-2 to allow for a restaurant with a drive through.

Paul Butts of 119 Washburn Street stated that he does not feel it would be good for their residential neighborhood due to noise, traffic, and lights.

Donnie Melton of 179 Fraley Street has concerns regarding traffic safety at the stoplight at Washburn Drive.

Letter to Mayor and Council from Robert and Shirley Strother of 108 Washburn Street was read by Mayor Pro Tem James Collins. Their concerns were the restaurant being too close to their home and causing safety and security issues, the loss of privacy, they also have concerns of criminal activity and noise pollution.

TJ Heath stated that he bought the property a couple of months ago with the intention of helping to clean up some of the old properties in the City and he got a call from Taco Bell interested in the property. He stated that he understands the neighbor's concerns but no matter what is on that property there will be additional traffic with what is allowed at the current zoning. Mr. Heath said that Taco Bell has offered to plant a buffer on the neighbor's property next door to help with the noise if the neighbors would like. He also stated that Taco Bell is fine with following the City's Design Guidelines and do a monument sign.

James Collins stated that he also spoke with residents of the neighborhood, and they had similar concerns as the ones spoken regarding traffic. He reiterated what Mr. Heath said that he believes that this Taco Bell will not bring additional traffic to Gray but more so spread out the traffic a little more by adding an additional restaurant.

Mike Gray stated that after the rezoning is approved, they would approach the neighbors and help blend the neighborhood and the commercial property.

Terrell Fulford asked Mr. Gray about the buffer fence. Mr. Gray stated it would likely be 10-12 foot fence after construction was complete because they will be raising the property.

Councilman Tufts asked what the hours would be. Mr. Gray stated that was a different group who would handle that but typically 7am-12am. Councilman Fulford asked City Attorney Newberry if hours are something that the City can set a limit to their hours. City Attorney Newberry explained that would not be part of the rezoning but he would have to research that.

Danny Mundy of 125 Washburn Drive asked if a careful study of the traffic in the neighborhood could be done because there are a lot of walkers in the neighborhood.

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fulford, and unanimously voted to close the P&Z Hearing and reopen the Council Meeting.

**APPROVED 4-0**

Mayor Pro Tem Collins made a motion to approve the rezoning request, there was no second. The motion died.

Planning and Zoning Director Tim Pitrowski stated that they would need a motion to deny.

Mayor Barbee asked for a motion to deny the rezoning. No motion was made.

Councilman Fulford made a motion to table, the motion was seconded by Councilman Favors. Councilman Tufts voted in favor of the motion to table and Mayor Pro Tem Collins voted against tabling the item.

**TABLED 3-1**

2. Reschedule February's All Committees Meeting in observance of Presidents' Day.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Favors, and unanimously voted to reschedule the February All Committees Meeting for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**APPROVED 4-0**

3. TJ Heath – water/sewer

Mr. Heath presented Mayor and Council with a proposal regarding the sewer lines on the corner of the bypass and Gray Highway. Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that it should be clarified that the lines should be deeded to the City and not just the City will have an easement to the lines. Mr. Heath was in agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve Mr. Heath's proposal.

**APPROVED 4-0**

4. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to supplement the General Appropriations Resolution passed by Mayor and Council the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020, for fiscal year 2021; and for other purposes.
  - Hotel/Motel Tax Fund

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 22-R-007**.

**APPROVED 4-0**

5. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to supplement the General Appropriations Resolution passed by Mayor and Council the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, for fiscal year 2022; and for other purposes.
  - SFRF – Police Department supplement

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 22-R-008**.

**APPROVED 4-0**

6. Authorization for Mayor Barbee to sign an engagement letter from Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC regarding the services that are to be provided concerning the audit for the year ending December 31, 2021.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to authorize signing of the engagement letter.

**APPROVED 4-0**

7. Authorization for Mayor Barbee to sign a letter to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission requesting technical assistance with redistricting.

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to authorize signing of the technical assistance letter.

**APPROVED 4-0**

8. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Gray, Georgia adopting a moratorium on sewer connections.

Councilman Favors made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 22-R-009**.

**APPROVED 4-0**

9. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of Gray, Georgia to approve a quitclaim deed releasing interest in abandoned streets to the Downtown Development Authority of Gray, authorizing the Mayor to execute a quitclaim deed; and for other purposes.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 22-R-010**.

**APPROVED 4-0**

10. Approval of city services covenant for Cheryl Thomas.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve city services covenant.

**APPROVED 4-0**

11. Executive Session (real estate acquisition).

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to close the All-Committees Meeting and go into Executive Session regarding real estate acquisition.

The open meeting resumed.

**Public Comments:**

- No comments.

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

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Assistant City Clerk