

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, August 15, 2022, in the conference room at City Hall located at 109 James Street

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terrell Fulford and Terry Favors, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Public Works Manager Chris Neal, City of Gray Police Chief Adam Lowe, Municipal Court Clerk Chandra Lowe, Interim Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, City Attorney John Newberry, City Clerk Cindy Yancey, and Assistant City Clerk Heather Brown.

Guests: Dean Nelson, *Middle Georgia Regional Commission*, Cliff Harpe, *Tax Specialists of Georgia*, Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*,

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

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Tax Specialist of Georgia, Southeast LLC – Cliff Harpe spoke briefly with council about their methods to recover Georgia sales and use tax.
 - Cliff stated they work fully contingent in this process and will not be paid unless a refund is received.
 - Their standard Fee is 25% of the recovery of any sales tax recovered.
 - Mr. Harpe stated that Tax Specialists will work closely with the senior accounting executive to review all invoices and contracts of large projects such as the Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion to recover any nonexempt GA sales and use tax.
- Chandra Lowe updated council that in June the Public Defender's office will no longer be using our court due to staffing and the overload of higher court cases and stated that they will have to hire a private attorney.
 - Mrs. Lowe is working with City Attorney John Newberry to obtain a contract with a local attorney.
 - City Attorney John Newberry stated he has spoken with the local attorney that has verbally agreed to do it for a higher cost than the Public Defender's office and would only be able to come once a month.
 - City Attorney and Municipal Court Clerk Mrs. Lowe are confident they can work to move all cases to the day he will be there.
 - Councilman Favors asked if this will be reflected in her budget as a change.
 - Mrs. Lowe stated that it will reflect in her budget as a change.
- 2023 Budget –
 - Councilman Fulford stated that the budget is just for information purposes right now, and everyone should look over it to call a meeting if necessary.
 - City Clerk Yancey stated that the budget must be officially presented at the first meeting in September so if a meeting needs to be called it must be before then.
 - Mrs. Yancey also stated that even though our milage rate is not going up due to the reassessments we are considered as having a tax rate increase and this will need to be advertised in the newspaper.
- ARPA Budget amendment – City Clerk Yancey stated that this will be on the next agenda because the crosswalk is getting lighted signs that were paid for out of the ARPA Funds because it is an eligible expense.
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated they will be LED solar powered lights to make the crosswalk more visible.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he sent an email update out about where they are at on the sewer rehab project.
- WWTP expansion has had the temporary influent and temporary bar screen and they are getting near the bottom of the excavation for the actual plant itself.
- Mr. Morgan updated that 500 water meters have been installed and there are 540 more meters on hand which will be installed after this month's water reading leaving 880 water meters left to be installed.

Plan Committee:

- Main Street –
 - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson gave an update that Main Street will begin doing Fridays on Main which will be the last Friday of every month between 5-8. A few local businesses and food trucks will be setting up in the Main Street parking lot and Music Medix will be hosting the music. The first event will be held on August 26th.
- Design Review Amendment-
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins updated council that they are in the process of making a large-scale change to the rulebook for downtown and corridor.
 - Mr. Collins stated downtown review committee would like to see an amendment of two things.
 - To permit the use of metal siding being it doesn't exceed 20% per side of the structure.
 - The type and location of the metal would be subject to review and approval by the downtown review committee. It will be required they bring a sample of the metal and sample of the drawing they are proposing for review.
 - He would like to see this added to the agenda for the next council meeting to be amended in the rule book.
 - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated this is not a tin metal but a new type of faux wood grain metal.
- DDA Appointments –
 - Mrs. Roberson stated there are five members of DDA that fall off this year, 3 in October and 2 in December. Mrs. Roberson stated that three of them have agreed to stay on and they are waiting on answer from other two.
 - She stated this will need to be on the September council meeting for re appointments.

Personnel Committee:**Streets/Sanitation Committee:**

- Councilman Terry Favors stated the small yard signs placed around the city should be removed when the public works gentleman cut the grass.
- Mayor Pro Tem James Collins asked Acting City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan to pass along to the guys they are doing a great job

City Property:

- City Attorney John Newberry made council there may need to be a called council meeting regarding the James Roberts Property the city is looking to obtain.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

Miscellaneous:

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

Assistant City Clerk