

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, October 17, 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, David Tufts, and Terry Favors, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Public Works Manager Chris Neal, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, City Attorney John Newberry, and Assistant City Clerk Heather Brown.

Guests:

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

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial Update –
 - 99.34% of the 2021 property tax has been collected, leaving an unpaid balance of \$6,665.43
- Main Street Christmas Tree – Mayor Pro Tem Collins
 - Main street director Ashley Roberson updated council that a Christmas tree was purchased for roughly \$6,700.00 and will be placed in the Main Street Office Parking lot. The tree is 14' tall metal base built in 4" increments and comes with greenery and lights. It will be here in 4-6 weeks in time for the Christmas Market on November 26th.
- Workers Comp - renewal
 - Councilman Fulford went over the provided breakdown of the workers comp renewal which provided a decrease in renewal premium of roughly \$14,000. It was consensus of council to add this to the agenda for the November Council meeting.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Proposed Budget –
 - Councilman Tufts stated that everyone should have a copy of the proposed budget to look over and ask questions before adding it to the agenda.
 - Acting City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated it increased by \$200,000.00 but the bulk of that was from depreciation revenue in which he referred to last year's financial audit.
 - It was consensus of council to add this to the agenda for the November Council Meeting.
- Acting City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated the B&C line update is they will be in town with the CIPP work and start next Monday that a change order had to be made due to exposed pipe that couldn't be pipe busted.
- Mr. Morgan stated he is also waiting on a drainage quote for the Dolly Street Project and the Autumn Ridge trail project to see if it will require a sealed bid.

Plan Committee:

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that the Hometown Christmas Market will be held on November 26th. Mr. Collins also stated that the Not So Scary Grayberry Spectacular will be held on Saturday October 22, 2022. Mr. Collins stated as well that early voting started today on October 17th and will run until the Friday before November 8th. Councilman Fulford asked if there will be Saturday voting. Councilman Favors stated there will be two days of Saturday voting within the early voting period.

- Main Street Director Ashley Roberson gave an update that the Trunk or Treat event this Saturday and has approx. 90 trunks registered to set up for the event. Which will be held from 3:30-6:30 the street will be closed from Stewart Ave to the Main Street Office.

Personnel Committee:

- Remove appearance from evaluation form-
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins would like to update the department head evaluation sheet to remove appearance from the other section. It was consensus of council to add this to the agenda for the November council meeting.
- Payroll part-time – Councilman Favors –
 - Councilman Favors would like to see part time employees receive holiday pay for the days they are not able to work due to city holidays.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins suggested to increase her rate to be equal to those days off so that throughout the year she would receive the same pay.
 - Mayor Ed Barbee stated that maybe we should make a policy change to include part time employees being paid for holiday pay.
 - City Attorney explained that drafting a policy change to fit each individual situation for part time employees of the city would be difficult.
 - It was consensus of council to recommend to the department head to do a pay increase to reflect the holiday pay for the 13 paid holidays provided by the city for the part time employee.
- GMEBS Retirement (Adam) –
 - Chief Lowe stated that a survey was conducted for the retirement with GMA. Mr. Lowe stated he had them look at doing the 75-rule which is your age plus years of service meaning once you hit 75 you can retire but you will only receive 2% per year. The average person will work 25 years and would draw 50% of their salary. He looked at this mainly for public safety but spoke with City Clerk Yancey about implementing this City Wide. Mr. Lowe stated he sat down with City Clerk Yancey and knows that we have the money within the city to switch to this retirement plan and feel this is a great retention thing for all employees.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he looked over this with Chief Lowe and thinks it is a great plan that rewards employees that have been here for a long time and inspires employees to stay with the city. Mr. Collins stated he would like the challenge to be for all departments head to try and fit the \$60,000 amongst all the departments within their budgets and would like to see this done city wide.
 - Chief Lowe stated employees would be required to work to the age of 55 before they are able to draw their retirement.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked if Chief Lowe would provide council with the quote so that council can look it over because he would like to see this added to the November agenda.
 - Main Street Director asked how many years of service you must have before you can draw. Chief Lowe stated you must hit the 75-rule with your age and years of service to do the early out retirement. You must also have a minimum of 10 years of service before an employee to draw.

- City Attorney John Newberry asked if this would be just switching the plan with our current retirement provider. Chief Lowe stated that this will still be with GMA and just be a policy change to 2% per year.
- It was consensus of council to add this to the agenda for the November council meeting.

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- Sanitation – RFP-
 - Councilman Tufts stated that we received two RFP bids and he asked that everyone look over both bids received from Waste Management & Green for Life.
 - Councilman Fulford asked if anyone has heard of Green for Life. Acting City Superintendent said they are based out of Warner Robins, and he has never heard of them until they turned in the bid.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that Mr. Steve Edwards with waste management asked him to relay a message that his recommendation was for us is to stay at the current service reflected in the bid due to feedback he has received from other counties that have decreased their services.
 - The bid from waste management shows an increase in cart rate of \$17.07. The bid from Green for Life shows a cart rate of \$24.
 - Chief Lowe asked when this will go into effect. Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated in January
 - Mr. Pro Tem Collins asked if this is a 5-year contact or a yearly contract.
 - Chief Lowe asked City Attorney John Newberry if we could lock this rate in for 5 years. City Attorney Newberry stated that it was a 5-year contract that the existing rate could change
 - It was consensus of council to go with the bid received from Waste Management. This will later be added to the council meeting agenda.
- Georgia Safe Sidewalks (Cheyenne Morgan)
 - Acting City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he had an assessment conducted of West Clinton Street on both sides and provided council with a detailed report of the repair proposal in the amount of \$16,780.00 to repair the 165 hazards found.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that he could move money around and use \$16,000 ARPA that was dedicated to water and sewer and then replace it with Splost water and sewer.
 - It was consensus of council to add this to the agenda for the November council meeting.
- Councilman Tufts stated that he would like to see what can be done to get sidewalks installed on Hwy 129 from the inside of the city to Gray Gardens.
 - Chief Lowe stated that this is a city route, and we will need to check if we have a big enough right away to have one installed.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he does see the need for this and has seen people pushing strollers in the area. He also stated that Commissioner Woods with the county has expressed interest in having this completed as well.
 - Main Street Director Roberson stated that the crossing at Martin Luther King on the Hwy 11 side is awful and full of potholes.
 - Chief Lowe asked acting city superintendent Cheyenne Morgan if they could fill in that are along Martin Luther King with some asphalt. Mr. Morgan stated he must have a railroad coordinator out there with them when they fix it but will coordinate with them to get it fixed.

- Mayor Ed Barbee stated to Chief Lowe that there will be a 80/20 grant for railroad safety to upgrade all the railroad crossings, and he should receive more information later.
- Chief Lowe stated they put in for the cops grant but was turned down due to not enough crime within the city.
- Chief Lowe stated that he hasn't sent a bill to the Jones County Board of Education but since they didn't receive the grant, he will be sending a bill of \$2500.00 a month for ten months that they will pay the city to have an officer at the school all day.

City Property:

- Councilman Favors spoke with City Attorney John Newberry about a building permit for a half-built structure on a lot within a neighborhood. City Attorney John Newberry stated he would have the neighborhood association look into what can be done.

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- No Report

Miscellaneous:

- Georgia Probation Management contract –
 - City Attorney stated this was to increase their rate by about \$5 per probationer for the fees that they collect, and this is for the January Contract renewal.
 - It was consensus of Council to add this to agenda for the November council meeting.
- Mayor Ed Barbee stated he is still receiving complaints about Gray Motels trash can out front.
 - Chief Lowe stated they will look into the complaint.

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

Assistant City Clerk