

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, March 6, 2023, 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 Cheyenne Morgan, Public Works Manager Chris Neal, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, City Clerk Cindy Yancey, and Assistant City Clerk Heather Brown.

Guests: Donnie & Sandra Melton, Danny Mundy, James Nobles, Leigh Goolsby, Steven Stout, John Daugherty, Bill Boyd, Dylan Heath, Justin Kelly, Rebecca Godwin, Manuel Interiano, Anndrea Lampkin, Chris Criswell, Gail Daugherty, Jim Daugherty, Chuck Asbell, Joan Childs, Sherri Rollins, Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

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

Councilman 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 March 6, 2023, agenda.

**APPROVED 4-0**

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

**APPROVED 4-0**

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

**APPROVED 4-0**

**Mayor's Report:** No Mayor's Report

**Old Business:**

1. **Second Reading:** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to adopt Chapter 6, Article VI, Section 6-166 of the Code of the City of Gray, Georgia, so as to adopt public consumption of alcoholic beverages during city sponsored events; and for other purposes.

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve **Ordinance 23-O-002**

**APPROVED 4-0**

Mayor Barbee stated that 3 individuals each speaking for and against the Ordinance may come up and speak for 2 minutes.

Council was asked for discussion:

- Councilman Favors asked Mrs. Roberson if she could explain city sponsored events.
- Mrs. Roberson stated that these would be events organized by Main Street such as Fridays on Main, and it will also include festivals and concerts.
- Councilman Favors asked if council would approve the sale of alcohol.
- Mrs. Roberson confirmed that council would approve allowing for open container at these events per event.
- Councilman Favors clarified that if council approves it and they hate it then they don't have to approve it again. Mrs. Roberson confirmed yes.

- Mrs. Roberson further stated that it does have stipulations on it as well. That a time limit will be set, it will be in a designated are, it will be only one drink at a time, it must be in a special designated cup, there will be no cans, no bottles, no glass, no coolers, no bring your own. The sale of alcohol will be specifically from locally owned businesses with a city of gray alcohol license.
- Councilman Favors confirmed that only businesses who have purchased a beer and wine license will be able to sale and that no outside vendors will be allowed to sell alcohol. Mrs. Roberson confirmed yes it will only be local merchants.
- Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked that each time will the application designate the location, the event, and the time because the time frame in the ordinance is a broad time frame.
- Mrs. Roberson stated that the time frame in the ordinance is the time frame that alcohol is allowed to be served by the restaurants, but a designated time frame will be established. Mrs. Roberson went on to give an example of the spring festival that event will start at 10 am with arts & crafts vendors and inflatables for the kids and will go until 5. Music will start at 12:00-3:00 with students from the schools and music medix performing, 3:00-6:00 will be a local artist Heath Peacock, and 6:00-9:00 will be Ethan Payne. The serving of alcohol will not start until 5:00 pm when all the kids' events are wrapped up.

Mayor Barbee asked for anyone in favor of the ordinance to come up and speak: no public comment.

Mayor Barbee asked for anyone opposed to the ordinance to come up and speak:

- James Nobles – stated that he is speaking in opposition. His first question was what good the city is seeking to accomplish by introducing alcohol to its festivals. Mr. Nobles said Gray is a family-oriented town where people can get out and do fun things with their family that Gray is not a party town. Mr. Nobles says he has lived party districts and it is no fun. Mr. Nobles stated when he first moved to the Buckhead area about the time that the Buckhead coalition lobbied to turn Buckhead into an entertainment district. One hand it was successful, on the other hand it brought on the trash and crime and made it an unlivable area.
- Donnie Melton – says he has lived here since 1981 and has seen Gray grow and that Gray is a family town. Mr. Melton feels that alcohol is not family friendly but adult friendly and is worried with the ordinance pass what it will open the door to. Mr. Melton also stated he worries what it will do for the town's growth and what type of reputation it may bring.
- Danny Mundy – stated that adding alcohol to any festival that the city has is not going to make it better, it will not do anything to improve families, it is not going to do anything to improve the quality of the festival and will not do anything to help with our community. Mr. Mundy said in his 68 years of life he has never seen anything good come out of an alcohol bottle or can. Mr. Mundy stated he doesn't understand why this is even under consideration that if you want people to come to festivals make it a good festival and to keep it clean and wholesome. Mr. Mundy also asked who would be standing monitoring the amount of consumption of people leaving the festival to drive.

2. **Second Reading:** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to adopt Chapter 6, Article V, Section 6-137 through 6-165 of the Code of the City of Gray, Georgia, so as to adopt a retail sales of malt beverages and wine for on-premises consumption in the Arts and Entertainment District; and for other purposes

**Ordinance 23-O-003** – Ordinance Fails – No action taken.

**New Business:**

1. Ratify authorization for Mayor Barbee to sign a letter to GEFA requesting a loan modification to the project schedule for the Wolf Creek WPCP Upgrade.

Councilman Tufts made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to approve the mayor to sign the GEFA letter.

**APPROVED 4-0**

**Public Comments:**

- No comments.

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

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Assistant City Clerk