

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, June 26, 2023, in the conference room at City Hall located at 109 James Street

Present: Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Member David Tufts, Council Member Terry Favors, Council Member Terrell Fulford, City Attorney John Newberry, City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Public Works Director Chris Neal, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey

Guests: Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*

Mayor Pro Tem Collins called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

#### **Finance/Tax Committee:**

- Financial Update –
  - 98.50% of the 2022 property tax has been collected, leaving an unpaid balance of \$15,938.13.
- Uncollectible property tax
  - City Clerk Cindy Yancey presented a list of unpaid property taxes. The City Clerk asked that Council authorize abating the property tax bills due to the Jones County Board of Commissioners had taken ownership of a few of the properties and the businesses owing the inventory and equipment tax have closed.
  - The abatement of the property taxes will be added to the July Council Meeting agenda.

#### **Water/Sewer Committee:**

- Well Site
  - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan discussed a test well site that is located in the area that Scott Jackson was proposing to have a cluster development.
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he and Mr. Jackson had discussed waiving of the tap fees if the test well produces.
  - City Attorney John Newberry stated that he had spoken with Mr. Jackson and told him that he was concerned about meeting the requirements of the location of the well versus the property lines and asked that he talk with Mr. Morgan about these concerns. Mr. Morgan said that he had spoken with Mr. Jackson and the concerns have been addressed.
  - Mr. Newberry stated that he had talked with Mr. Jackson about deeding to the city the parcel that the well will be located on if it produces.
  - Councilman Tufts asked if the details of the agreement between the City and Mr. Scott Jackson will go before Council before beginning the test well.
  - City Attorney Newberry explained how previously the city has entered into an agreement with the property owner subject to the test well meeting certain criteria.
- Lead/Copper Program
  - Superintendent Morgan stated that the city was awarded a 51% grant for the lead and copper program from the Georgia Environmental Financing Agency (GEFA).
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he is waiting for more details on the grant and what will be expected of the city.
- Georgia Rural Water
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he has contacted Georgia Rural Water Association about helping the city locate some of the inflow and infiltration problem areas.
  - Mr. Morgan stated that GRWA will help with videoing and smoke testing the sewer lines. Once scheduled Mr. Morgan will update Council on the details.

#### **Plan Committee:**

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that the city's first farmer's market had a good turnout and was well put together.

- Brewery Ordinance
  - Main Street Gray Director Ashley Roberson stated that an ordinance allowing a brewery was discussed previously, and she wanted to bring it back to Council for consideration.
  - Ms. Roberson presented a sample ordinance to Council and asked that they review it.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked if Council would like to add this item to the July All Committees Meeting to be discussed after Council has reviewed the ordinance provided by Ms. Roberson.
  - Mr. Collins stated that he wanted to point out that the ordinance that they were asked to review allows for on-premises consumption.
  - Councilman Tufts stated that Ms. Roberson and Haley Watson represented Jones County and Gray well at the Rural Development Institute that was held in Valdosta.
- Upcoming Events
  - Ms. Roberson stated that the Chamber's Independence Day Extravaganza is Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> and Fridays on Main Event is on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel Committee:**

- No Report

**Streets/Sanitation Committee:**

- Pam Jordan was not in attendance to discuss Vine Street speed breakers.
- Councilman Tufts stated that he had noticed markings on Dolly Street. City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that the contractor is scheduled to begin the drainage project the second week of July.
- Mr. Morgan also stated that he has posted the bid documents for the resurfacing of Dolly Street once the drainage project is completed.

**City Property:**

- Ms. Roberson stated that Main street has some wagon carts that are not being used and the Sincerity Lodge has approached her about purchasing them for \$500 each.
- The sale of the carts will be added to the July Council Meeting for approval.

**Public Safety Police/Fire:**

- Chief Adam Lowe stated that the Gray Motel has several miscellaneous items sitting outside in the front of the building. Mr. Lowe said that there was a group of people out front grilling when he drove by one afternoon.
- Mr. Lowe stated that he feels like the city is going to start receiving complaints and asked that the City Attorney create an ordinance to address the issue.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Councilman Fulford stated that there was a property on Stewart Ave that was becoming a nuisance because of the lack of upkeep. He also stated that it looks to have cars that do not run on the property.
- Mayor Pro Tem James Collins updated Council on Mayor Barbee's recovery.

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

---

City Clerk