

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, July 17, 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, Municipal Court Clerk Chandra Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, Assistant City Clerk Christina Morgan and City Clerk Cindy Yancey

Guests: Bert King and 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 \$14,811.06.
- Municipal Court Assistant Clerk-
 - Municipal Court Clerk Chandra Lowe requested that Council consider adding a full time Assistant Municipal Clerk to her department.
 - Ms. Lowe stated that she has created a job description for the Assistant Municipal Clerk position. It was the consensus of Council to add this to the August Council Meeting agenda.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Test Well
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he met with the City Attorney John Newberry and Scott Jackson to discuss the details of him allowing the city to drill a test well on property that he is in the process of acquiring for the purpose of building a cluster development.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that the development will consist of twelve lots and Mr. Jackson will allow the city to drill a test well for a free water/sewer tap fee for one lot out of the twelve.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that if the test well meets the city's criteria Mr. Jackson is wanting the tap fees for the remaining eleven lots.
 - Mr. Newberry stated that some concerns regarding the EPD requirements regarding property lines and boundaries surrounding the well will need to be addressed if it does meet the city's criteria.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that when Mr. Jackson closes on the property, he is going to have it surveyed and will know if the property lines and boundaries meet the EPD requirements at that time.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that he will be working on a contract between the city and Mr. Jackson that will need to be approved by Council.
- 121 Cedarline Drive –
 - Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he received a call from a resident at 121 Cedarline Drive about a sewer issue they were having. The customer stated that their plumber said that they were on a septic tank.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that he and Chris Neal went to the residence and confirmed that the customer was on a septic tank. The customer has paid the city \$10,640.62 in sewer fees over the span of several years.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that this has happened in the past and the city normally refunds the fees that were paid.

- Mr. Morgan stated that the customer showed some interest in tapping on to the city sewer. He also stated that the city would have to contract that project out because the sewer lines in that area are deeper than the city could safely dig.
- Councilman Tufts asked if the amount could be credited to the customer's account. Mr. Tufts also requested that Superintendent Morgan find out what the cost would be to connect them to city sewer.
- City Clerk Cindy Yancey stated that she was not sure that the customer would agree to receiving a credit to the account due to the amount.
- Councilman Fulford stated that it was up to the customer to decide if they wanted a credit or a refund if they did not want to connect to city sewer services.
- Mr. Morgan will contact the customer.

Plan Committee:

- Brewery Ordinance
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that he has drafted an ordinance almost identical to the ordinance that was presented to council at the June All Committee meeting.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked if Council wanted to review the ordinance before the next meeting.
 - Main Street Gray Director Ashley Roberson requested that the ordinance be added to the August agenda for a first reading.
 - It was the consensus of Council to add the ordinance to the August Council Meeting agenda.
- Upcoming Events
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the Farmer's Market event is Saturday July 22nd and Fridays on Main Event is on July 28th.

Personnel Committee:

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins welcomed and introduced Christina Morgan as the new Assistant City Clerk.

Streets/Sanitation:

- Dolly Street drainage project
 - Councilman Tufts stated that the pipes are in on Dolly Street.
 - Superintendent Morgan stated that other than minor landscaping the project is complete.
 - Councilman Favors asked about the drainage project in Autumn Ridge.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that Matt Smith with Carter and Sloope has the plans ready.
- Bert King – parking spaces
 - Bert King requested that he be allowed to have parking spaces in front of his business reserved 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.
 - Council asked Attorney Newberry to research this issue to make sure there are no legal restrictions.
 - This item will be added to the August Council meeting.

City Property:

- None

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- None

Miscellaneous:

- Main Street Boundaries
 - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated that in February she had the annual Main Street accreditation with the Office of Downtown Development and Georgia Main Street.
 - One of the recommendations was that Main Street revisit the district boundaries to establish a Main Street service delivery area that does not include the entire city. The boundaries had been extended to include the entire city previously.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that on a follow-up call with Georgia Main Street it was suggested that the boundaries be reduced to the same area that was used for the design guidelines.
 - The Downtown Development Authority, which is also the Main Street board voted to approve the reduced boundaries at last month's meeting.
 - Ms. Roberson requested that Council add this to the August Council meeting agenda for approval from the city.

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

City Clerk