

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, November 20, 2023, in the DV Child Civic Center located at 109 James Street

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Member David Tufts, Council Member Terry Favors (late), Council Member Terrell Fulford, City Attorney John Newberry, City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, Assistant City Clerk Christina Morgan, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey

Guests: Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*, James Nobles, Terry Moore, Haley Robinson – Make Jones Beautiful, Rick Childs, John Daugherty, Danny Monday, Chuck Asbell, and Chris Criswell

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

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial Update
 - 13% of 2023 Property taxes have been collected.
- CDBG - 164 Cleveland
 - Councilman Tufts asked City Attorney John Newberry if he had an update on the issue regarding the property owners' signature on the deed to secure debt/repayment agreement.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that the easiest solution would be to get the paperwork signed by the property owner.
 - Councilman Tufts stated that the property owner is not going to sign the paperwork because he does not feel that his home was repaired.
 - Councilman Tufts stated that he has had a contractor look at the property at 164 Cleveland Street and the contractor stated that he did not see where the home had been repaired.
 - Councilman Tufts stated that it seems that the money was spent, and the work was not performed and feels that the grant administrator should be held responsible.
 - City Clerk Cindy Yancey stated that Council would need to decide if the City was going to resolve the issue with the DCA. She stated that until either the paperwork was signed or the money that was spent on the property was repaid to the Department of Community Affairs that the city was not eligible for any grant funds.
 - It was the consensus of the Council to add repayment of the funds to the Department of Community Affairs to the December council meeting agenda.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Test Well Update
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated drillers did hit water at 590 feet.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that a capacity test has not been performed at this time, but the drillers are estimating between 100-150 gallons per minute.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that he is moving forward with permitting the well.
- 2024 Water/Sewer Budget
 - Mr. Morgan presented the proposed 2024 water/sewer budget to the Mayor and Council.
 - This item will be added to the December council meeting agenda.

- Autumn Ridge Drainage – Bids
 - Mr. Morgan stated that the Autumn Ridge Trail drainage project was put out for rebid.
 - The lowest bid received was \$86,260 from Jerry McMillan, LLC.
 - This item will be added to the December council meeting agenda.

Plan Committee:

- Committee Assignments
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins proposed replacing Councilman Benny Gray on the committees that he is assigned to due to his inability to attend the meetings.
 - This item will be added to the December council meeting agenda.
- Brewery Ordinance
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins requested that the brewery ordinance be moved to the end of the agenda due to Councilman Favors is running late to the meeting.

Personnel Committee:

- None

Streets/Sanitation:

- 2024 LMIG
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that the 2024 LMIG application is due in December.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that he is hoping to be able to resurface Dolly Street from Highview St. to Black Blvd with the 2024 LMIG funds.
 - This item will be added to the December council meeting agenda.
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins stated that he had spoken with Representative Ken Vance about the additional streets that the city received when the bypass was completed.
 - Mr. Collins stated that Mr. Vance is willing to meet with the city to discuss the burden that the additional streets placed on the city and review the LMIG funding that the city receives.
- Sanitation Fees
 - Council Member David Tufts discussed an increase in rates for sanitation services.
 - This item will be added to the December council meeting agenda.

City Property:

- None

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- Ordinance amendment – technology fee
 - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated that the technology fee paid per citation went from \$18.00 to \$21.00.
 - Chief Lowe stated that the fee that the city charges will need to be increased.
 - The first reading of the amended ordinance is on the called council meeting following the all-committees meeting.

- Violence reduction grant – vendors/invoices
 - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated this is regarding the Violence Reduction Grant that the Police Department received.
 - Mr. Lowe explained that the grant is on a reimbursement basis and approval of the vendors and invoices is needed from Council.
 - This item will be on the called council meeting directly after this meeting.

Main Street:

- Christmas Market
 - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson stated the Christmas Market will be held this Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 10-5PM. Following directly after, will be the Christmas tree lighting at 6PM.

Miscellaneous:

- Brewery Ordinance
 - Amendments to the current proposed Brewery Ordinance were discussed among Council and the Police Chief.
 - Council Member Terry Favors expressed his concerns about having the brewery in the city.
 - Police Chief Adam Lowe stated that the proposed ordinance needs to be updated and that there will be some zoning issues that will need to be addressed.
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins requested that first reading of the ordinance be put on the December agenda.
 - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins stated that he would like to hear from the community that wants to speak about the issue.
 - James Nobles stated that he does not feel like the city needs more alcohol and spoke against the brewery.
 - Terry Moore expressed his concerns on having a brewery in the city and feels that it should be subjected to a vote by the people.
 - Haley Robinson with Keep Jones Beautiful expressed how she feels that a brewery would benefit the city of Gray.
 - Rick Childs with Treasures by the Tracks wants to see Gray to continue with the growth path it is on. Mr. Childs stated that he receives a lot of good feedback about the city from his customers.
 - John Daughtry expressed his concerns about having the brewery and is opposed to alcohol in general.
 - Danny Monday stated that he doesn't see how having a brewery in Gray would be beneficial.
 - Chuck Asbell is interested in opening a brewery and stated that he feels it would be a huge economic benefit for the city of Gray.
 - Chris Criswell spoke in favor of the brewery.

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