

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council for the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, September 09, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the D.V. Childs Civic Center.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Terrell Fulford, and David Tufts, City Attorney John Newberry, Police Chief Adam Lowe, Main Street Director Ashley Roberson, Public Works Manager Chris Neal, Assistant City Clerk Kayleigh Faircloth, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Donald Johnson, Frances Drummond, Julie King, Brennan Ward, Chet Harwell, Matthew Forrest, Suzanne Brooks, Kim Hawthorne, Greg Singleton, Scotty Bowman, Hope Wommack, Wesley Wommack, Tara Dixon, Susan Holton, Rusty Crawford, Mitchell Helms, Wendi Helms, Ainsley Bloodworth, Jan McKenzie, John McKenzie and 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 September 09, 2024, agenda.

**APPROVED 3-0**

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

**APPROVED 3-0**

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

**APPROVED 3-0**

**Mayor's Report:**

- Proclamation – Mayor Barbee read a proclamation proclaiming September as library card sign up month.
- Mayor Barbee presented the proclamation to Julie King and Debbie Lurie-Smith.

**Old Business:**

1. Executive Session

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to close the council meeting and go into executive session to discuss potential litigation.

**APPROVED 3-0**

The open meeting resumed.

2. Cedar Creek Land and Development, LLC: Requests to rezone from R-1 A (Single Family Residential) to R-3, for the purpose of building multi-family housing. The property is located on Allen Green Rd. and consists of 4.7 +/- acres.
  - City Attorney John Newberry stated that to make sure that the city is in compliance with O.C.G.A. 36-66-4 which limits the ability for someone to apply for rezoning within a six-month period that the city is considering the Cedar Creek application for rezoning concluded as of June 3, 2024, based on the failure to overturn the denial of rezoning. This item will not be back on the calendar unless there is further action from any of the involved parties.

**New Business:**

1. Presentation of proposed FY 2025 General Fund Budget, Police Confiscation Budget, Hotel/Motel Tax Budget, ARPA Fund Budget and the proposed FY 2024 millage rate.
  - Copies of the FY 2025 proposed General Fund Budget, Hotel/Motel Tax Budget, ARPA Fund Budget and Police Confiscation Budget are available at City Hall for public inspection.
  - The proposed tax millage rate for the calendar year 2024 is as follows:
 

14.45
<u>4.95 roll back</u>
9.50 net mills
  - A Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2025 Budget is scheduled for September 16, 2024 @ 6:00pm in the conference room at City Hall, 109 James Street.
2. Schedule adoption of the of the FY 2025 Budget and the FY 2024 millage rate for the October 7, 2024, City Council meeting

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Collins, and unanimously voted to schedule adoption of budget and millage rate for October 7, 2024.

**APPROVED 3-0**

3. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gray, Georgia to approve the lot purchase and sale agreement with Paige Batchelor and authorizing the mayor execute said agreement; and for other purposes.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve **Resolution 24-R-026**.

**APPROVED 3-0**

4. Don Johnson - Rezoning
  - Mr. Johnson stated that he has nothing to add regarding the rezoning matter.

**DRAFT**

5. Approval for Cadence Bank to add investment sweep services to the city's General Fund account ending in 6082.

Councilman Fulford made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tufts, and unanimously voted to approve adding investment sweep services to the city's General Fund account ending in 6082.

**APPROVED 3-0**

6. Approval of the public consumption of alcohol at the September 21, 2024, Downtown Fall Festival.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fulford, and unanimously voted to approve the public consumption of alcohol at the September 21, 2024, Downtown Fall Festival.

**APPROVED 3-0**

**Public Comments:**

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins – Board of Assessors
  - Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he wanted to address mayor and council regarding the ongoing issues with chief tax assessor and the board of assessors.
  - Mr. Collins stated that he would like to address the board of commissioners at their next meeting on behalf of the city to let them know that the city is on the same page regarding the issues with the board of assessors.
  - Mr. Collins mentioned several issues that took place at the last meeting held by the board of assessors and feels that what he saw was a complete failure of the board.
  - Mr. Collins stated that he feels that the county needs a new chief tax assessor and a new board of assessors.
  - Mr. Collins asked if council would agree with him speaking with the board of commissioners to inform them that the city stands with them on getting the tax assessor issues corrected.
  - It was the consensus of mayor and council to have Mayor Pro Tem Collins speak with the board of commissioners on behalf of the city.

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

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City Clerk