

A meeting of all committees of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, September 16, 2024 in the Conference Room at City Hall.

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

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

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

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

- Police Department Budget
  - Police Chief Adam Lowe requested more funds for the salary line item in his 2025 proposed budget stating that he has checked with other comparable cities and the City of Gray's pay for officers is below the average.
  - Chief Lowe stated that he feels that this is the only way that he will be able to retain officers.
  - Chief Lowe would also like to implement 5% increase in salary for the officers that are getting various certifications.
  - Mayor and council agreed to allow an increase in the Police Department salaries for the 2025 budget.

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

- Michael Gillis (Well Head Protection) made a sight visit to potential well sight.
  - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that everything went well when Mr. Gillis visited the potential well site. Mr. Morgan stated that the city should receive the permission to drill letter soon.
  - Mr. Morgan stated that once the letter is received that he should have a driller on sight within two weeks.
- Building Progress
  - Councilman Fulford asked if Mr. Morgan had heard anything about the shed/pole barn that is supposed to be built at the WWTP.
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he is waiting to hear from Bill Hall w/Haren Construction. He stated that Haren has left the work site, and they are subcontracting out the last few things that need to be completed.

#### **Main Street/DDA:**

- Main Street Director Ashley Roberson invited mayor and council to the Georgia Main Street meeting that is being held at Butler Hall @ 10:00 am on 09/17/2024.
- Ms. Roberson stated that the Downtown Fall Festival will be held 09/21/2024 2pm-6pm, and Terrace On Madison will be having music after 6:00pm.
- Ms. Roberson stated that the Touch-a-Truck event will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

**Plan Committee:**

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he was excited about the upcoming weekend events.
- Junior City Council Program
  - Main Street Director Ashley Roberson spoke on having a Junior City Council program.
  - Ms. Roberson contacted the government teacher at the high school, and he is extremely interested in the program.
  - Ms. Roberson stated that if council approved, she would like to get more information on the program and would like to have the program in place by the next school year.
- Main Street Vehicle
  - Mayor Pro Tem James Collins stated that Ms. Roberson uses her private vehicle and her gas to move things around from her office to Butler Hall, and he feels like it is a liability. Mr. Collins stated that he has spoken with Chief Lowe about getting one of the older police vehicles for Ms. Roberson to use.
  - Mr. Collins stated that along with the community branding that the city is currently working on he would like to see the vehicle be fully wrapped like he has seen in other communities.
  - Mr. Collins would like to see all of council support this idea of supplying Ms. Roberson with a city vehicle.

**Personnel Committee:**

- No report

**Streets/Sanitation Committee:**

- 2024 LMIG
  - City Superintendent Morgan stated that McLeroy had the lowest bid but was unsure if milling was included. Mr. Morgan stated that if milling is done the traffic signal loops will need to be replaced. Mr. Morgan will contact the contractor to clarify.
  - Mr. Morgan stated that there is a shortfall of 17,283 of funds to complete the LMIG and asked how council would like to proceed.
- 2025 LMIG
  - Mr. Morgan stated that he just wanted to make council aware that he has received the 2025 LMIG application and he will be submitting it before the end of the year. Mr. Morgan stated in his opinion that the city needs to concentrate on East and West Clinton St.
- Dairy Queen
  - Councilman Favor stated that stop sign at the corner of DQ and the car wash needs to be corrected.
- Signage
  - Councilman Favors stated that the signs are starting to pop up around the city again.
  - Mr. Favors asked Mr. Morgan to have public works remove the signage as they come across it.

**City Property:**

- No Report

**Public Safety Police/Fire:**

- Fire
  - Fire Chief Keith Eisele stated their ISO 5-year evaluations looked good.
  - The inspection should be completed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.
  - Chief Eisele stated the department rating on track to stay at a four but should be closer to a three.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Kinetic
  - Councilman Favors asked if Attorney Newberry could send a letter to Kinetic asking them to remove their old equipment around the city.

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

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City Clerk