

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

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

Guests: John Trussell, Billie Trussell, Justin Kelly and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

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

Finance/Tax Committee:

- Financial update
 - Council member Fulford stated that 43.19% of the 2024 property taxes have been collected.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Hwy 18 E Property
 - City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan stated that he would like the Council to consider purchasing the property consisting of 5.61 acres.
 - Mr. Morgan stated that the first test well did not produce as much as he would have liked, but he feels that the size of the property would allow him to drill multiple test wells.
 - Council Member Tufts stated that this could save the city money in the future and would like this item to be added to the January agenda.
- GEFA Loan Payment
 - City Clerk Cindy Yancey stated that the WWTP GEFA loan has been closed out and the payments are a little more than the estimated amount and she wanted to make Mayor and Council aware that she would be transferring \$36,000 instead of the current amount of \$33,000.

Main Street/DDA:

- Branding Meeting
 - Ms. Roberson announced that there will be a branding meeting on December 18, 2024 @ 11:45 am at the Chamber office.
 - Ms. Roberson said that the county has narrowed their choice of logos down to two options and would be choosing one at the meeting. They would then start working on the city logo. Ms. Roberson said that she would love the Mayor and Council to attend to give feedback.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the goal was to have the city logo done by January 17, 2025.
- 102 E Clinton Street
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the Public Works Department has done a lot of preliminary work on the inside of the building.
 - Ms. Roberson stated that the building would be the Main Street office along with the Chamber office and the County Development Authority office.
 - Ms. Roberson said that they would like to consider another person that would serve as an administrative assistant for all three entities.
 - The Chamber has allocated funds for this position.

- Ms. Roberson proposed that the Hotel/Motel tax that has been previously split 60/40 between the Chamber and the City be distributed 100% to the Chamber and have 60% allocated to the salary of the administrative assistant position.

Plan Committee:

- HB581
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins spoke about the required notices to opt out of HB581 (statewide homestead tax exemption) and suggested that the city work closely with the county.

Personnel Committee:

- Mayor Pro Tem Collins thanked everyone for a great year.

Streets/Sanitation Committee:

- Downtown Street Lights
 - Council Member Tufts stated that they have started working on the new streetlights and he is excited to see them.
 - Mr. Collins stated that he has received many compliments on the lights that were put up at Hwy 18 and Bill Conn Pkwy.

City Property:

- No Report

Public Safety Police/Fire:

- Chief Eisele stated that the Fire Department banquet is Thursday, December 19, 2024.

Miscellaneous:

- John Trussell
 - Mr. Trussell w/ The Georgia Committee American Friends of Lafayette handed out a brochure to Mayor and Council that highlighted Lafayette's 11 days in Georgia.
 - Mr. Trussell stated that it was the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's visit to Jones County in 1825.
 - Mr. Trussell stated that he would like to have a short parade on March 27, 2025, with a Lafayette actor and his horse carriage around the Jones County Courthouse. There would also be brief entertainment and a reception after the parade.
 - Mr. Trussell asked Mayor and Council for permission to hold the event and stated that it would not require local funding. Mr. Trussell requested that the fees for the Butler Hall be waived so the reception could be held there.
 - Council Member Fulford stated that Mr. Trussell would need to speak with the Police Chief about the closing of roads for the parade.
 - Ashley Roberson stated that she would speak with DDA about the waiving of the fees at Butler Hall.

- Justin Kelly
 - Justin Kelly stated that the Gray Dairy Queen has been #1 in performance for the past two years.
 - Mr. Kelly would like to be able to put a sign in the right-of-way that says “Welcome to Gray, Georgia home of the busiest Dairy Queen” as you enter the city limits of Gray.
 - Mr. Kelly feels that having the busiest Dairy Queen in the world is something that Gray should be proud of and would like it to be celebrated.
 - The mayor and Council agreed to Mr. Kelly putting up a sign but suggested that he speak with the City Attorney about the location of the sign due to some of the right-of -way being state property.

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

City Clerk