

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cleveland was called to order by Mayor Josh Turner at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan Bowen, Rebecca Yardley, Kevin Stanley, and Bradley Greene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the agenda for the January 4, 2021 City Council Meeting.

Mayor Turner opened the meeting with wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas.

APPOINTMENTS – REVIEW AND APPROVAL – RESOLUTION 2021-01

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the proposed appointments to city positions and various boards/agencies.

Nan Bowen recommended Mayor Turner serve on the White County Health Department Board. The position has been held by mayors in the past, but due to the resignation of the previous mayor and the position vacant, Ms. Bowen had volunteered to serve. Mayor Turner agreed to serve. The White County Health Department will be informed of the change in representation.

Bradley Greene informed he would like the council to consider naming Major Aaron Weiland as interim Police Chief until a replacement has been named. Mr. Greene also stated he is willing to give up position on the Downtown Development Authority as he has been a board member since 1996. It was explained that Mr. Greene's position on the board is important due to being a business owner within the downtown development district. Mr. Greene will remain on the board.

Rebecca Yardley clarified that vacant positions can be filled at a later date. Exhibit "A" of the resolution can be amended throughout the year as positions are filled or changed.

Kevin Stanley and Rebecca Yardley agreed to serve on the Tree City USA board in their respective districts. Tree City USA goal is to focus on tree planting, replacement, and growth. The board will be beneficial in the development of the new park at Talon.

Ms. Yardley asked if all board members are still willing to serve and was told yes. Each board/agency will be notified of board member status.

APPOINTMENTS – REVIEW AND APPROVAL – RESOLUTION 2021-01 - continued

On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve Appointment Resolution 2021-01 for staff and board positions for the year 2021 with the following amendments to Exhibit “A”:

Major Aaron Weiland – Interim Police Chief until a replacement is named

Mayor Turner – Health Department Board

Kevin Stanley and Rebecca Yardley – Tree City Board

MAJOR AARON WEILAND – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Major Aaron Weiland, recently named interim Police Chief, presented class requests for several officers.

Interim Police Chief Weiland has been working with staff at the fire department to arrange CPR training for all officers. The CPR certification is required for first responder training and typically, police officers are the first on the scene. The class will also enhance the abilities of the officers when responding to calls. The costs is \$6.00 per participant. Interim Police Chief Weiland asked that administrative assistant Sheena Wright be included as well. Interim Police Chief Weiland informed Ms. Wright suggested that all city staff should take the course as all city employees have contact with the public.

On motion by Bradley Greene, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the class request for the police department to attend CPR training at \$6.00 per participant.

Interim Police Chief Weiland presented a class request for Officer Sarah Emery to attend a class addressing Criminal Procedures. The class covers the Constitutional standards within criminal procedures. There is no fee for the class and is held within driving distance so there is no costs for overnight stay. The class is hosted by the Barrow County Sheriff’s Office and will be held March 8-10, 2021.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the class request for Officer Sarah Emery to attend Criminal Procedures.

Interim Police Chief Weiland presented class requests for Sergeants Brandon Landress and Ronnie Wingo to attend Supervision Level I training. It is the first of a three-part course required for POST supervisory certification and is intended for first line supervisors. There is no fee for the class.

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to approve the class requests for Sergeants Brandon Landress and Ronnie Wingo to attend Supervision Level I training.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Update of Joint Comprehensive Plan

- a. The State of Georgia requires that every local government have a 10-year comprehensive plan to help guide community growth and address issues of concern. The comprehensive planning process is overseen by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and an updated comprehensive plan is required in the application of many state grants and loans. Besides being a requirement, the comprehensive plan lays out a map for the city's future and is developed through the involvement of community leaders, stakeholder and the public. The plan addresses community concerns and opportunities.
- b. The City of Cleveland has participated in a joint comprehensive plan with White County and the City of Helen for several years, most recently the county and cities updated the plan in 2016.
- c. The comprehensive plan includes; a community vision with defining narrative and future development maps; identification of community needs and opportunities; and, an implementation program, which includes a five-year short-term work program.
- d. White County is organizing a comprehensive plan advisory committee and is requesting city participation. Serving on the committee will require attending meeting to discuss plan data and information, helping to determine community issues, needs and opportunities, and assisting in the public participation process for the plan. The advisory committee will begin meeting in mid to late January. The comprehensive plan update must be completed by the end of June 2021.
- e. There needs to be council representation to serve with staff on the comprehensive plan advisory committee. Council needs to select a member to work with staff and represent the City on the plan advisory committee.

Rebecca Yardley volunteered to serve on the advisory committee if the council agreed.

On motion by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Rebecca Yardley and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the appointment of Rebecca Yardley to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

2. ISO Update – Building Code Effective Grading Schedule Program (BCEGS)

- a. In 2018-2019 the City completed the ISO update for fire protection services. The ISO is now initiating the second part of their program responsible for building code requirements.
- b. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is responsible for evaluating all jurisdictions that have building and code enforcement departments. The ISO uses the program to recognize the building codes in effect for the City and how they are enforced. The ISO provides this information to insurers, which use the evaluations when underwriting property insurance in the community.

TOM O'BRYANT – CITY ADMINISTRATOR - continued

ISO - continued

- c. Municipalities with up-to-date codes, effective building permit/inspection programs and qualified personnel normally demonstrate better loss experience which is reflected in insurance rates. The end result is a quality-built community with reduced losses and lower insurance rates.
- d. David Lanphear, the city building official, will be beginning meeting with the ISO in January and will work with the agency over the next two months collecting and evaluating current building codes, the permitting and inspection process and the training and qualifications of personnel.
- e. The end result will be a rating residential building and commercial building in the City. The last evaluation was conducted in 2014 and resulted in a 99 rating for residential buildings and a 5 for commercial buildings.

Mayor Turner questioned the ratings issued in 2014. Mr. O'Bryant answered the rating system is different for residential and commercial. A high rating, such as 99, in residential is good for insurance purposes. A lower rating is good for commercial insurance purposes.

3. Update - Wastewater Treatment Expansion – NONSI

- a. The City has applied to Georgia DNR EPD for environmental approval to permit the expansion of the city's wastewater treatment plant from 0.75 to 1.15 MGD. The plant upgrade falls under a requirement within the city's current NPDES discharge permit to meet new environmental standards for phosphorus. The city also seeks to increase the discharge limit to address future growth.
- b. The plant expansion/upgrade requires an extensive environmental review and approval from Georgia DNR EPD. City Engineer, Rindt McDuff and Associates, administered the review on the city's behalf by providing all required studies and information to the state agency.
- c. After review, the Department has issued the Notice of No Significant Impact (Nonsi) on the environment. This completes the environmental review for the project and allows for further public comment on the proposed project. The public comment period after the issuance of the Nonsi is thirty days. At the end of the public comment period the agency will evaluate any received comments and will issue a final decision on the project. An approval will allow the city to move forward with its plant expansion project, including accessing the loan funds from GEFA for the construction of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. On motion by Nan Bowen, seconded by Rebecca Yardley, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council approved the draft minutes, as presented, for the Called Meeting of December 7, 2020, Regular Meeting December 7, 2020, December 14, 2020, Called Meeting of December 17, 2020, Called Meeting of December 18, 2020, and Called meeting of December 21, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

- Public comments – Dean Dyer, WRWH Radio, asked about the decision to hire a new police chief. Mayor Turner explained the council continues to review and discuss the qualifications of the applicants and may have a decision within the month. The top three finalist will be contacted and the bottom two will have an opportunity to withdraw their application if they want to avoid their name being published. Typically an applicant will withdraw and only the name of the applicant to be hired will be published.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Kevin Stanley, in favor – Nan Bowen and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 6:55 p.m.

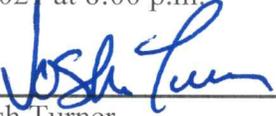
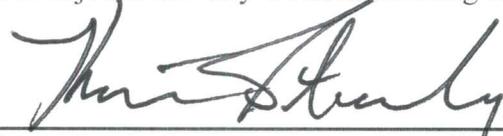
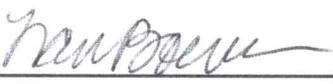
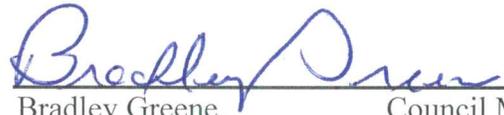
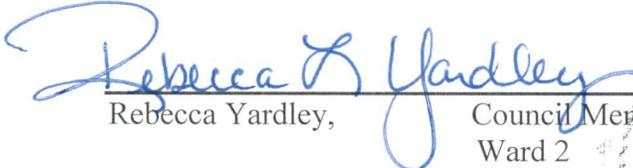
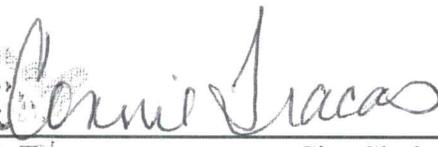
RETURN TO COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Bradley Greene, in favor – Nan Bowen and Kevin Stanley, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to return to the City Council Meeting at 7:59 p.m. No further business was discussed.

Mr. O’Bryant checked the lobby and the perimeter of the building to see if anyone waited to return to the meeting. There was no one present.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Rebecca Yardley, seconded by Nan Bowen, in favor – Kevin Stanley and Bradley Greene, and carried unanimously, the Mayor and Council voted to adjourn the City Council Meeting of January 4, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

 _____ Josh Turner, Mayor		 _____ Kevin Stanley, Council Member Ward 3	
 _____ Nan Bowen, Council Member Ward 1 Mayor Pro Tem		 _____ Bradley Greene, Council Member Ward 4	
 _____ Rebecca Yardley, Council Member Ward 2		 _____ Connie Tracas, City Clerk	

