CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2022 – 6:00PM

**Call to order:**

Council and Dept Heads in Attendance: Mayor Hill, CM Mahone, CM Harrison, CM Coogle, CM Daniels, City Clerk Melissa Jones, Fire Chief Owen Childs, Jon Coogle

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation: CM Harrison**

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made to approve the Agenda with the addition of Chief Finch under New Business and Mayor Hill under Other Business by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Coogle, AIF

**Approval of Minutes** from July 7, 2022 Regular Council Session and July 28, 2022 Work Session- Motion made to approve minutes by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

Recognitions of Guest(s): Gene Allen, Tim Ingram, Robert Koch (Duck), Cindy Price, Steven & Debra Harris, Leroy Mathis, and Jerry Haugabook

**New Business:**

1) Gene Allen – 2021 Audit – Financial numbers reviewed for year ending December 31, 2021. Motion made to approve the 2021 Financial Audit made by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

2) Chief Eric Finch – Gave high lights of Montezuma’s workings in the city of Oglethorpe this past month. Advised they had been patrolling in unmarked cars, but are now patrolling in marked cars. (notes attached)

3) Tim Ingram – ARPA/GEFA Waste Water Plant – Asked the council to follow through on a GEFA Loan in the amount of $1.6 million with forgiveness allowable just in case needed for the completion of the waste water

plant project. CM Harrison asked how long it would take to get approval once we applied for the GEFA loan? Tim Ingram advised 4 to 5 months. The plan is to begin the waste water project in April 2023. We were granted

$3.4 million from ARPA for this project and construction alone is quoted at $2,758,000.00. Motion made for Ingram & Associates to apply for $1.6 million GEFA note to complete waste water project made by CM Harrison,

2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

4) Robert Koch (Duck) – Public Commentary & Police Dept – spoke against 2 week lead time to be on the Agenda to speak and how some were chastised when they spoke at previous meeting and others were allowed to

speak without being called on or listed on the Agenda. Also advised that he strongly encouraged the council to fix the Oglethorpe Police Department so that it could stand alone. (notes attached)

5) Cindy Price – Police Dept – In the last meeting there were questionable charges on an invoice from the Montezuma Police Dept. Were they resolved? City Clerk Melissa Jones advised that the call at City Hall had been

addressed. Mrs. Price asked what about the call on the bridge and other calls that were questioned? CM Coogle – They’ve done more than what we’ve paid. Cindy Price –

If there are charges that should not have been, then the law has been broken. Council you are protecting Oglethorpe, right? I have a problem with paying an invoice that had questionable charges. Was the invoice paid

(directed to Council)? (no response) Question directed to the city clerk Melissa Jones. (she answered yes) Cindy Price asked who authorized it? (council did not answer). Cindy Price asked why had Oglethorpe not

advertised for a Chief of Police and ended with she was appreciative of Montezuma Police Dept’s help, but personally did not want to consolidate with Montezuma.

6) Steven & Debra Harris – Police Dept - absent

7) Leroy Mathis – Police Dept – Stated he had been here all of his life in Oglethorpe and he appreciates Montezuma, but we were OK. We only need a Chief of Police. He rides through Oglethorpe really early every single

morning and it’s just beautiful. No one’s out and it’s so peaceful and quiet. Yes, there is some crime here, but not a big issue. It’s not fair to the tax payers not to have their own police department. Tough times are coming

and everyone should carry their own weight. We do not need to merge with any other cities. Any lawsuit attained by either city will go against both. Let me just say this because y’all have more time to talk than we do…

Y’all be careful.

8) Jerry Haugabook – Police Dept – He is concerned about not having a Chief of Police. Asked what happened to our previous chief? I ride around this city all day every day and I don’t see the patrols Finch spoke about.

Warrants are being served either. (Chief Finch advised that the county had to serve them.) Mr. Haugabook asked again what happened to our previous chief? CM Coogle advised he resigned. Mayor Hill advised that was a

personnel matter and could not be discussed.

9) Motion to use ARPA funding to purchase the variable speed drive for the booster station at the prison in the amount of $9,000.00 made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

10) Motion to advertise for a Chief of Police for Oglethorpe – motion made by CM Harrison – no second so motion failed.

11) Motion to move forward with the 120-day contract agreement with Montezuma Police Dept made by CM Coogle, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

12) Motion to approve a Veteran’s Day Block Party Event to be held on Saturday November 12, 2022 made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Mahone, AIF

**Old Business:**

1) Motion to approve purchase of last 8 turn-out gears for the Fire Dept using ARPA Funding (quote for gear attached $25,495.34 plus $2,080.00 for the helmets) – Total for gear and helmets $27,575.34 made by CM Harrison, 2nd by CM Daniels, AIF

**Other Business:**

1) Unsung Hero’s Mr. Hall and Mr. Mathis for assistance in cleaning up wall on Asbury Street. – Mr. Hall present to receive.

2) Mayor requests the city to pay for him to attend the Ga Rural Association Commission Conference in St. Simons at $320.00. Motion made for the city to pay the fee by CM Coogle, 2nd Daniels, AIF

**Adjourn: 7:13PM made by CM Coogle, 2nd CM Mahone, AIF**