CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2024 – 6:00PM

Call to order: Mayor Daniels 6:00PM

**Department Head Reports:**

1. City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
2. Police Dept – Cindy Kleckley (regular council meeting) / Interim Chief Finch – Monthly Report given by Chief Finch. Main issues are still at Peachtree Mobile Home Park.

CM Mahone – Do you think they would be on board with getting camera’s like the Housing Authority? Chief Finch – To be honest, only about 3 trailers that the issues are coming from.

1. Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month – Mayor Daniels advised that he just wanted to acknowledge that Ms. Glenda has been doing a great job, not only in the library, but also assisting him with his new program. CM Harrison asked what might be needed from the rest of council for the Mayor’s Reading Program. The mayor advised that he would be putting $25/month from his monthly stipend to go towards this program, if you all also want to help. Other council advised they would also like to help financially or with food, etc.
2. Water/Sewer/Streets - HWR Jeff Harrison – The crew was able to get the cemetery cut before the Easter Morning services. They will get back on it next week. Anna Drive Project has started. HWR had to install a new tap for a resident in the area as the cut off process impacted his water line. Next week they will take the bush hog down Kaigler St. and get the low hanging limbs down. A massive pile has showed up on the corner of Gordon and Short streets, but they were cut into 6ft lengths. They will continue to work on weeds and pushing back on streets. Mayor Daniels asked about a big hole/drop off on Clifton Bradley by the bridge. Jeff will look at and see what they can do to fix. CM Harrison asked about completion date for Anna Drive? Jeff advised maybe a month… or at least by next work session. Mayor Daniels asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the grounds at the Senior Center? City Clerk Melissa Jones advised that the Council on Aging is responsible. CM Moore advised he called the Americus office for the Cuncil on Aging and was pretty much told that checks are going out on priority basis and that’s why the grass contractor had not been paid yet. CM Harrison would like an update on the backhoe that’s in the shop. CM Moore will also look at some of the needs for the inside of the Senior Center.
3. Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs – gave report of @ 20 calls this past month. The department finally received the last of the turn out gears. They did have some gear damaged during a fire in Montezuma and Montezuma will take care of the damage. We now have an agreement with Montezuma’s Fire Dept to help with some of the fire calls based on need and that will help with our ISO rating. Also, we train our volunteer fire fighters 3 nights per month. CM Mahone asked when were fire hydrants flushed/schedule. Chief Childs advised they were flushed yearly and all had been flushed in January of 2024. They also do a flush test every 5 years. Doing inspections, fire safety education at the school, etc. Would like to start a Fire Safety Program. Mayor Daniels said Perry has one called Perry University. We can call ours Oglethorpe University. Possibly include all of our Public Safety Departments. Chief Childs said each time they participate in something, it is documented. CM Harrison said maybe they could participate in the Career Day at the high school, also.

**Council/Committee Reports:**

1. Mayor Daniels – I’ve already let Chief Finch know about things I’ve seen. Chief Finch – Already got Captain Hill on it. Mayor Daniels - Ga Cities Week has been really great and he has really enjoyed it this year. Definitely want to thank all of our sponsors for helping to make this happen.
2. Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison/CM Woodard – CM Harrison we are in the works of looking for a chief of police. CM Woodard – We will get together on a benefits package for the city employees after GA Cities Week.
3. Public Safety – CM Mahone – Need to make some structure changes to the Police Dept building so when someone rents the rooms, they can’t have access to the Police Dept part. CM Moore – In the case of rentals, short term is better than long term. You would have to get a special insurance as well as maintenance issues. If the tenant becomes a bad tenant you may have to deal with legal costs. Short term great, long term bad idea.
4. Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison advised that she and Mayor Daniels submitted 2 applications for monies to fix roads, water mains, transite (congressional direct spending dollars) I asked for $3.5 million to fix Sumter, Macon, and all the ancillary streets that don’t qualify for CDBG funding. We had a conference call with them, also. The second one was for $2.5 million for Parks and Recreation to re-vamp all of our parks, fix the gym, and build a city pool. I didn’t get a call back on that, yet. CM Moore – I contacted Lowes, Home Depot, and another builder for that old decaying wood at the park that needs to be replaced. I submitted applications to get all the supplies needed. Once they agree to it, I will advise council and I will do all of the work along with a friend of mine. Won’t take us 2 days to finish the project. Chief Finch – The city pool…. Not a good idea from issues in the past. The city got sued for a whole lot of money. Mayor Daniels – We are going with a splash pad then. CM Moore – I also ran 2 HOA’s and those splash pads aren’t too great either. We had a child and an elderly slip and hit their heads. Mayor Daniels – Waivers? CM Moore -Yes, but you have to have someone there to make sure EVERYBODY going in signs one. If you miss one, then not good. CM Mahone – Even with a splash pad, I think funds would go in the hole because 1. The water is steadily running, and 2. The water has to be treated. CM Moore – And insurance would increase, also. CM Moore – As an add on for the cemetery, a group of ladies have requested to put up a flag pole in the middle of the cemetery and they will foot the bill. CM Harrison – Can they come present before council? CM Moore – I think so, I would have to help them. Mayor Daniels – Yes, have them come next week.
5. Planning & Recreation – Mayor Daniels would like to start working towards a budget for Planning & Recreation. City Clerk Melissa Jones suggested to have the donations state “community events” and not a specific event. CM Woodard asked about the monies from the park and building rentals. Mrs. Jones advised that those had always come in through the police department. Might could have the outside rental (park) monies go into the Parks & Recreation budget. CM Mahone advised that he had recently assisted Montezuma DDA with a movie night and they had used a system through the library contract and that it was free for streaming movies. He asked Ms. Jones if she would reach out to them and see what information we could find out to possibly get Oglethorpe signed up as well for future movie nights. They also were interested in doing a shared movie type program.

**New Business:**

1) Public Works contract – CM Harrison recommends giving HWR additional raise to

continue with the Public Works. He has not asked for a raise for the public works side

since he took it on in 2021. Mayor Daniels asked if the new contract could be updated to

give more detail on the specific jobs and who is responsible for what. Jeff – To be honest,

you know deep down I would rather the city hire their own public works employees.

Mayor Daniels asked when the contract was up? Jeff – October. I can make it

work if you want me to continue with the public works. (more discussion) It’s at least a 4

man job. Mayor Daniels – We will think about it and push the vote to next week.

2) Recording/Live Streaming Meetings – CM Harrison – I think it would be great if we live

streamed our meetings on Facebook and maybe even YouTube. People can see what we

are doing and what they are voting on. Might spark them to get engaged. We could buy a

cheap phone through the city, just my suggestion. CM Moore – I don’t mind leading this

up. I used to do this for our HOA. It does have some benefits. It allows people in the

community to connect. I will put together a program for next week.

3) Adoption of “City of Civility” – CM Harrison – When we go to the GMA conferences,

cities are recognized because GMA wants us to embrace civility. This really matters

because it’s about disagreeing without disrespect, kindness, etc. This teaches others. It’s

hard work. There are 9 pillars: considerate of others opinions, manage your emotions, a

silent voice isn’t always weak, be kind, actively listen, think about the impact, ask

questions to learn, remember the acronym QTIP (Quit Taking It Personal), and have

empathy. There is a pledge and ordinance. We can adopt it and be recognized for it. I can

complete the ordinance and bring it in next week.

4) Review of quote for the outdoor lighting at City Hall – CM Harrison – Quote from VOLT

for outdoor underground lighting circuit and dig a trench and install new raceway and

conductors. Terminate wiring into panel in the mechanical room for $1500.00. This would

be for the lighting outside of city hall. CM Mahone – I have a solution for that, just

change out the light fixture hanging in the front. Ms. Jones – What about the walkway that

goes out to the parking lot? CM Mahone – It would shine there, too. Just brighter lighting.

Mayor Daniels – Ok, let’s try what council has suggested first and if that doesn’t work, we

can come back to the quote. CM Harrison - While we are talking about it, the rep from Ga

Power was here when we were discussing this earlier and she said that Ga Power could

install the lights for us. So that’s another option if this doesn’t work.

5) LRA (Local Road Assistance) Grant - $29,508.95 for Oglethorpe if approved. This would

be great for May Road – CM Harrison – Ms. Melissa was made aware of some funds that

we could apply for. Discussion and decided to do Railroad as May Rd is for TIA Project.

\*Motion to complete LRA application for Railroad St. Resurfacing Project made by CM

Harrison, 2nd CM Woodard, AIF

**Old Business:**

1)Police Dept Contract / Chief **– \***Move to accept the contract extension with the City of

Montezuma mutual agreement for one year made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Woodard,

AIF

2) Employee Insurance Update – CM Woodard requested to table until next week.

**Other Business:**

**Public Comments:** 1) Thanked Chief Finch and staff for the job they had done. Asked what happened to equipment we used to pick up stuff. Jeff advised there was a break issue and that it was in the shop. 2) Wanted to know if the grants they applied for included all of Macon St? She said yes. He asked if the railroad had been contacted for the pavement at the crossing? Mayor Daniels advised not yet. 3) Asked when her fire hydrant would be flushed? Chief Childs advised that all hydrants were flushed in January of 2024.

**Adjourn: 7:56PM CM Mahone**