

CITY OF OGLETHORPE
OGLETHORPE CITY HALL
115 CHATHAM STREET
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2025 – 6:00PM

Call to order: 6:00PM Mayor Daniels

Department Head Reports: (All should have been emailed prior to meeting)

- 1) City Clerk, Melissa Jones – report emailed to council prior to meeting.
- 2) Police Dept – Chief Breletic – gave report (attached) Touched on getting state pricing for tires.
- 3) Librarian, Glenda Rigby – report to be emailed at first of the month
- 4) Water/Sewer/Streets - HWR Jeff Harrison report was emailed
- 5) Fire Department – report emailed monthly – Chief Childs

Council/Committee Reports: (All should have been emailed prior to meeting)

- 1) Mayor Daniels – see #1 below new Business
- 2) Human Resources/Finance – CM Harrison emailed
- 3) Public Safety – CM Moore emailed – just touched on police dept building being finished.
- 4) Utilities/Streets/Cemetery – CM Harrison – emailed – Monday April 14th starts the work at the Waste Water Plant. Engineer Tim Ingram working on details for a ground breaking ceremony. Mayor advised that STOP signs needed to be put up at English St and Clifton Bradley at Senior Citizen Center. Attorney Coogle advised there was another one in the neighborhood around Baker (wasn't sure exactly where). Mr. Smith will be doing water cut on/off after hours or when HWR isn't in town. The 911 system has implemented a process also to assess leaks after hours with Jeff of HWR.
 - A) Blue Tag Tree Service – Everything is good, no complaints.
 - B) Mahone Lawn Care – emailed report.
- 5) Planning & Recreation – CM Woodard – doesn't have anything. CM Harrison – City's Week April 20 – 26 and she has a schedule ready. CM Harrison – Friday the 25th is Food Truck Friday Roundup and they need as many food trucks as possible. The vendor fee is \$50.00. CM Moore advised that Juneteenth Celebration would be held on June 14th and he is in the middle of the planning now. Looking for new vendors.
- 6) Downtown Development Authority – CM Moore – they have added the DDA to a grant trying to get \$100K for 2026 for the purpose of allowing the DDA to purchase properties to benefit the downtown. If we get this money, there is a particular property he is looking at so they have a center spot for the city. Market Days with Oglethorpe Garden Club plant sale is April 12, 2025.
- 7) Grants Committee – CM Moore/CM Harrison both council members are working really hard and completing grant applications. They've applied for \$940K in grant money. Report emailed.
- 8) Connectivity Committee - CM Beckum absent
- 9) Building Maintenance Committee – CM Mahone – Fire Exit door and restroom issue have been completed.

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- A) Gym – upgrade status – working on getting it ready for painting. Looking at color scheme - gray with red trim? Or gray trimmed with green? (most prefer red trim as local school colors). Hope to have painting completed by end of the year. (limited as they work on weekends so that CM Mahone can be there).
- B) Dedication of gym to retired CM Kenneth Hudson – CM Mahone -will discuss at a later date once the gym is complete and operating. (conversation ensued into funeral being Friday at 11AM) Mayor doesn't have a problem with it, but let's talk again once finished.
- C) CM Mahone would also like to improve the park on Clifton Bradley. CM Harrison advised they wrote a grant to make it a reading park with fence and all. Also plan to pick up paint for the speedbumps in the city. Mayor Daniels advised to go ahead and purchase and the city would reimburse.

New Business:

- 1) Parks and Recreation Budget – Mayor Daniels showed pictures of the wood being replaced at the park as well as pictures of other items that need to be fixed at the park. Would like to start building a budget by having monthly raffles and items being donated as the prizes. Going to start with cakes, bicycles, and yard cutting by the GENTS... The Mayor would like to try to raise the money by raffles or something without having to touch TIA monies unless we have to. He feels that our kids deserve nice parks and we need to give it to them if we can. We need to work on the Tennis Courts and possibly make Pickle Ball lines as well. These things need to be done and we need to get it done. There are things in our area for teenagers, but what is there to do in Oglethorpe for them. We need to move and make these things happen. The gym could be used for so much more for them. Concession stand, etc.
- 2) Mandatory Newly Elected Officials Training/ responsibility – CM Moore – CM advised to pass on for now.

Old Business:

- 1) Norman Graves from Council on Aging – Mayor Daniels asked for an update on the Senior Citizen Building before signing the new contract. He's had no complaints from employees there, but there had been a walk through by city council members and there are some concerns. Mr. Graves advised the only thing that hadn't been fixed was the roof and he had offered to split the cost of that with the city as it was caused from trees over the building. He had someone come look to see if it could be repaired and was told no, it needed to be replaced. CM Moore – Per the lease, your organization was supposed to be doing preventative maintenance and based off my second tour of the building, it hasn't seen an ounce of maintenance in a good fifteen years. We went prior to the senior event last year the amount of tree roots and vines was a lot. The interior condition is very little difference, it just smells better now. No one has ever informed the city of any issues with the building. Mr. Graves – I did fix the items on the list that you gave me. Chief Breletic toured the building as well and named off several issues that he saw. Tile needs to be replaced, water not working in bathroom sink, electrical room a mess, etc. CM Moore – That building is in bad shape and I am concerned for the safety of the senior citizens who utilize it. CM Harrison – Advised that she was told that Mr. Graves had not been there in over a year and that concerns her because we asked him to come and speak with us in the

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past. She doesn't feel that any monies for Council on Aging is not being put back in that building for senior citizens. CM Moore would like to see any records for the last 10 years in regards to maintenance of that building. Mayor Daniels asked for the records to be provided so that we could sit down and have another meeting and go over the contract as it hasn't been signed yet. We want the building to be right. CM Harrison advised that she had seen other Senior Centers in different demographics that are in a lot better condition. CM Moore agreed that there was a big difference in the other ones that he's seen. (conversation ensued) CM Moore advised he would like to see what has been done in the last 5 years. Mr. Graves said he would have it for the next meeting on April 24, 2025 work session (prior to the meeting). Chief Breletic spoke briefly of the items that he saw.

Other Business:

- 1) Jeff Sutton requested an update on an invoice he presented to Mayor Daniels on March 6th, 2025 in regards to damage to his car from hitting a pot hole on Cuyler Street in January 2023. Attorney Coogle advised that it had been sent to the insurance company and he was awaiting a response. Mr. Sutton advised that it had been two years. Mayor Daniels advised that Mr. Sutton had just given it to him last month on the day of the council meeting (March 6th, 2025). Mr. Sutton advised that he had come to city hall in January 2023 about this and got with Melissa about it. Then spoke with Melissa again in December 11, 2023... Attorney Coogle advised that this past meeting was the first time that he had been told about it. Mr. Sutton said it couldn't be the first time because he and Mr. Coogle had spoken about it outside their buildings and you told me you would go ahead and take care of it and that was in 2024. Attorney Coogle advised that was not true. (conversation ensued) The insurance company will be contacted.

Public Comments:

Adjourn: 6:56 PM Mayor Daniels

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