CITY OF OGLETHORPE

OGLETHORPE CITY HALL

115 CHATHAM STREET

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4, 2024 – 6:00PM

**Call to order:** Mayor Daniels 6:00PM

**Council Present:** CM Harrison, CM Woodard, CM Beckum, CM Mahone, CM Moore, and City Attorney Jon Coogle

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:**

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with the additions of New Business #1 and #2 and Old Business #2 made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Woodard, AIF

**Approval of Minutes** from March 7, 2024 Regular Council Session and the March 28, 2024 Work Session: Motion to approve minutes as listed made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Beckum, AIF

**Recognitions of Guest(s)**: 1. Brenda Harvey – CDBG Update requested. Mayor Daniels – Suspension lifted April 1st. RVRC is reviewing proposals from housing consultants. Once they approve the consultant, they will meet with home owners. Expected to meet in May. Brenda Harvey – What about the clean up that we had already done? Mayor Daniels – As soon as they advise they are ready to meet; we will let you know to make sure that you get your questions answered.

**New Business:**

1) Oglethorpe Week – CM Harrison – Schedule handed out and gone over with council. (Attached). Mayor Hill – May need to create a waiver in regards to the snake petting part. Attorney Coogle said he would take care of the waiver. We will need all hands on deck from our council if possible. We had a great turn out of Sponsors and we are very thankful. Chief Finch wanted to ad the Drug Awareness Program to the Unified Piece of the week if possible. CM Harrison will meet with him to discuss. CM Harrison – Mayor did you want to have a fee for the 3 on 3 Tournament? Mayor Daniels – I think if we do it can go towards. CM Harrison – the trophies and jerseys, etc. Mayor Daniels – Might could also start a budget for parks and recreation. Maybe $20 per team and the same for Spades. CM Moore – Would it be ok if I put this on outside area radio stations? Mayor/CM Harrison – Absolutely. CM Harrison – I also told our GMA Rep Mr. Jacobs how we do our week and he said that no one else in the state does it unified like we do. He asked that we write up a narrative of how it came about and he would like to highlight Oglethorpe and Macon County and how we came together. CM Mahone – On Saturday for Movie Night, it doesn’t get dark until about 9PM. We can use the gym for the movie and just leave the back doors open. The vendors can be under the pavilion and if you want to watch the movie, you can go in the gym. This means we can start the movie earlier – maybe around 6PM. CM Harrison – What about the Spades Tournament? CM Mahone – That could be under the pavilion or in the cafeteria in the Business Center. CM Mahone – We’ve also started the pressure washing downtown.

2) Employee Health Insurance Benefits – CM Woodard – We don’t have that many full- time employees. We are looking at quotes to maybe changing quotes if comparable. Our employees pay 20% of their health coverage and the city pays 80% currently. I was thinking that the city could do 100% coverage. I’ve spoken to other cities that are small like us and they are paying 100% to try and keep people. Our current rates are about $4,028.80 per month at 80%. If we go to 100%, it would cost the city $5,036.04. Just over a little over a $1000.00 difference. Mayor Daniels – What are our current figures. We have 4 full time employees that could use it. CM Mahone – For the individuals that have family, how does this work? CM Woodard – This is just for the employee only. You start getting into the family plans, it starts getting very expensive. I also looked into if we did across the board – Medical, Dental, and Vision – for employees only, it would come out to approximately $5, 252.40 per month. It depends on your insurance and how many employees you have; you get bigger discounts. CM Moore – Is that the state’s plan? CM Woodard – This is what we currently have as of right now. CM Moore – Doesn’t the state have a like a municipal government plan? CM Harrison – GMA does and we need to call them to come in and do an entire quote. Mayor Daniels – Do ya’ll have insurance or need it? (most council already have it). I just think we need to continue looking into it, but let’s table it for now and bring up in a work session to discuss again.

CM Moore – Maybe we could get with all the cities in the county and get something together to make it less expensive for everybody. More viable. CM Harrison – I thought about that prior to coming onto council and mentioned it, but we were in such a bad place that it kind of got put to the side. Attorney Coogle – The city does the life insurance of like $10K. Mayor Daniels – So we all agree to table for now and in the interim CM Moore you want to take on continuing research? CM Moore – Yes, I will talk to each city and get a rep to see what we can do with the numbers. CM Harrison – From what I understand the county commissioners plan is real good, if you want to start there. Mayor Daniels – I don’t think the difference of $1000 is not that big a deal, but just want to check into maybe saving some money all the way around. CM Harrison – I think that the Life Flight would also be something the city could offer as well for our employees. CM Harrison – I will have the representative come back. Motion to table the health insurance benefits package until we get more information for the next meeting made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Moore, AIF

**Old Business:**

1) Police Chief Position / Contract with Montezuma - Mayor Daniels – Chief, when do you guys meet again? Chief – The second Tuesday, April the 9th. Mayor Daniels – So the motion would have to pertain to after the Montezuma meeting there will be a call in to discuss. Attorney Coogle – Yes you can also vote at a work session now. Motion that once we hear back from the City of Montezuma after their April 9th meeting, that we will at that point schedule a called meeting to discuss and resolve the contract to move forward for 2024 made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Woodard, AIF

CM Gerald asked about the current contract stating we pay for 4 full time officers? Are we currently paying for 4? Chief Finch – no. CM Harrison – We budgeted for 4, but currently only have 2. Chief Finch – My recommendation is that on April 9th – all negotiations should have taken place by then and then you all can vote at your next meeting. Mayor Daniels – I know that the contract states the 30th and we have a work session on the 25th. Chief Finch – You can also do a phone call if you can’t be here. Mayor Daniels – Ok, we will get it taken care of.

2) Public Works – CM Harrison – The proposal from HWR for public works would need to be increased as everything has gone up since he made this proposal in 2020- 2021. He has asked for an additional $30K, and the bulk goes to the cemetery and grass cutting portion. We have already had robust discussion of brining in city employees, who would supervise them, etc. It doesn’t matter to me as long as the work gets done, but I don’t think two part-time people could fulfill what HWR does under their contract. My recommendation is that we just increase his contract by $30K. They are continuing to do the work, but we do need to make a decision. CM Moore – He’s pretty much not making any profits. With that additional $30K, Jeff said that would be about $1200.00 profit. CM Woodard – What’s the deadline for making this decision? CM Mahone – His contract ends October 1, 2024. Mayor Daniels – It’s spring time and grass and all is growing. It comes down to people wanting to work or not. I suggest if we give it to him, he could hire extra. I get complaints, but the thing is some of the complaints are for things that aren’t our responsibility. For instance, you got limbs 12ft on the side of the road, but the policy states they can’t be longer than 6ft. So; you can complain, but the complaint isn’t logical. We put the information out there of the schedule, but they still need to be educated. That would lower the complaints. CM Harrison – And get code enforcement going. CM Woodard – With the issue of the limbs on Randolph St.; is there anything that can be done from a law enforcement standpoint? To me it’s borderline littering. It’s impeding the flow of traffic with it being so in the roadway. Chief Finch – We will get it addressed. CM Harrison – It’s been picked up now, but going forward we need to be able to do something about it. Chief Finch – Basically we did the same thing in another neighborhood. We made contact with the property owner and gave them 10 days to get it picked up. Then we can cite and see what the judge has to say about it. We can try that. CM Mahone – Before we do anything, we need to review the details of the contract for Public Works. (conversation ensued). Motion to Table Public Works Contract discussion made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Beckum, AIF

\* Mayor Daniels had some discussion in regards to the Senior Center. Building belongs to the city. Ceiling tiles, paint, etc. need some improvements. Tree laid over from the storm and we cleaned up with some help from Montezuma’s boom truck. When available, council should stop by and say hello.

\* CM Mahone – We don’t want to wait until the last minute to clean up the gym and cafeteria. CM Moore – I have a group of ladies that want to help do some stuff, so I will reach out to them and let you know by Saturday if there is a day they could out and help.

**Public Comments:**

1) Post meeting hearing from Citizens for Concern, Suggestion and Information 2 Minutes

\* Steven Harris – you guys pretty much covered what I wanted to talk about as far as the trash and public works.

\* Possibly remove the trash cans from in front of the post office. People abusing it. Maybe put two regular cans out there.

**Adjourn:** 7:11PM motion made by CM Harrison, 2nd CM Moore, AIF